CHARITY REGISTERED NUMBER : 1192810

BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Tove Accountancy Ltd
Office 6, Town Hall, 86 Watling Street East, Towcester, Northants NN12 6BS

BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH

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BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Charity No.	1192810
Trustees	Lee Hillyard Brian Ash Ruth Brown Diane Atkinson (retired March 2023) Anthony Maycock Raymond Payne (re-appointed April 2023) Michael White Anne Puffett (re-appointed April 2023)
Principal Address	Blisworth Baptist Church Chapel Lane Blisworth Northampton NN7 3BU
Independent Examiner	Angela Parry-Stone Tove Accountancy Ltd Office 6, Town Hall 86 Watling Street East Towcester Northants NN12 BS
Area of Benefit	Northamptonshire

BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Governance

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation association, registered by the charity commissioners for England and Wales, registration number 1192810, registered 16th December 2020 amended on 29th July 2021

Constitution

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees

The Charity is governed by the Trustees' board currently made up of:

Mr L Hillyard (Pastor)
Mr B Ash (Elder)
Mrs R Brown (Elder)
Mr A Maycock (Deacon)
Mr M White (Deacon)
Mr R Payne (Secretary)
Mrs A Puffett (Treasurer)

Objects

The principal purposes of the church are:
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

The Church is governed by a Constitution, which is an approved governing document by both the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission. Membership is open to all who profess repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and whose lives bear evidence of this Christian profession. Such persons should also assent to the church's Basis of Faith and Obligations of Membership, in accordance with the relevant sections of the Constitution.

Structure, Governance and Management (continued)

The Church is governed by a Constitution, which is an approved governing document by both the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission. Membership is open to all who profess repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and whose lives bear evidence of this Christian profession. Such persons should also assent to the church's Basis of Faith and Obligations of Membership, in accordance with the relevant sections of the Constitution.

Church Member Meetings normally take place four times per year, and the members have overall responsibility for the decision making and policies of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint, from within their numbers, people to act as the Leaders of the Church (in roles labelled as Elders and Deacons) to work with the Pastor, Secretary and Treasurer (who are also all appointed by the Members) to be responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All of these leaders are the Trustees. 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 members' consideration and approval; and matters may equally be raised by members for the Trustees' consideration. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work towards consensus wherever possible.

Governance and management of the Church during 2023 returned to a more normal style of working, following the impact of Covid infections, lockdowns, extended closures and new regulations that had impacted on proceedings for nearly two years. The Trustees have continued to use technology (Zoom) in order to hold regular virtual meetings with each other and with members, with church meetings now offering the option to attend via the internet; and consequently important church matters have continued to be

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 parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

In order to achieve the principal objective, 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 10.30 am in the Chapel, with a quarterly Cafe Church, which has a more informal approach, and takes place in the Leisure Hall. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

Objectives and Activities (continued)

The Church has established 'Home Groups', whereby small, localised groups meet in the homes of members, during the week, in order for fellowship, bible study, prayer and spiritual growth to take place. There are three groups, based in Blisworth, Northampton and Towcester, and they meet twice a month.

The Church opens on a Tuesday morning for a Community Cafe, within the Coffee House, to enable all members of the community to visit the church and share in social activity, and enjoy a delicious slice of home-made cake; and on a Friday morning for a Toddlers' Group called 'Tea & Tots'. During the colder months of the year, working with the Parish Council, the opening hours have been extended into the afternoon to provide a warm environment for members of the public to use, as part of the National "Warm Space" and "Welcoming Space" initiatives.

The Church organises a cooked English breakfast for Men of the community on the last Saturday of each month (with ladies invited to attend on a couple of occasions); and a range of other activities and social events were all scheduled to take place. During the week, the church premises were used by a range of local community groups, who hired different rooms for activities (these included a Pottery Group and a Pilates Group).

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.

Public Benefit

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 recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2023 was a very positive year in the life of the church.

In April, after nearly a decade of dedicated service, Diane Atkinson stood down from her post as a Deacon, which included six years as the Church Secretary. Her wonderful service was duly acknowledged.

However, the church felt truly blessed, as Lee Hillyard completed his first year as the new Pastor, bringing new energy, new ideas and creativity to the church. A pleasing level of continuity and stability was also retained, as Anne Puffett and Ray Payne were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, at the A.G.M. in April.

Achievements and Performance (continued)

There were no new members to the church during the year, but there were several new people who became regular attendees at Sunday Services. Sadly, several members of the church fellowship have experienced ill health, which has resulted in their attendance being restricted or prevented altogether. The value of prayer and the pastoral support, provided by leaders and many of the members, has been greatly used during the year and provided much needed spiritual reassurance, practical help and healing. During the year three members resigned and one sadly passed. At the end of the year the official number of Church Members is thirty-four.

The church has continued to demonstrate a strong feeling of togetherness and mutual support, adaptability and great technical advancement. The life of the church has continued in abundance! The use of technology, and in particular Zoom, has continued to be used for Sunday morning services and for a variety of different meetings. The use of the Coffee House, the Toddlers' Group and the use of the facilities by different community groups have all resulted in interaction and benefits for all those involved. However, the Trustees are fully aware of the age profile of the vast majority of its attendees and the need, as well as the challenges, as they seek engagement with the younger generations, for the future of the church.

The church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers, in all aspects of the its activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives. The Trustees wish to record their gratitude to the Pastor and all the volunteers for their hard work and commitment to the work of our church; and especially to everyone for the manner in which they have adapted, supported each other and remained both 'strong and together' during challenging times!

Financial Review

The church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. The increased generosity of the Church Fellowship has seen an increase in the amount of voluntary offerings and the level of Gift Aid that has been claimed. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The church has benefitted greatly, during the year, from the successful application for a number of grants. A total of £6,522 has been received, and these restricted funds have all been spent improving the facilities and the experience for all those who attend the buildings, and helping towards the achievement of the church objectives.

The most significant expenses relate to remuneration payments made to the Pastor, payments to the cleaner, payments for maintenance and necessary repair work carried out on the building and in the two graveyards, and energy costs. New energy deals were secured during the year, which are nearly double the price that the church has been paying for the past four years!

The church has continued to express its commitment to the wider church by making donations to local, national and international organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with our own charitable purpose. Over ten per cent of our income was made on Mission Payments to the Baptist Missionary Society, Home Mission, 'Open Doors' and charities such as Macmillan Cancer Care.

Despite changes and fresh challenges being faced in 2023, the church finds itself in a stable financial position. Prudent financial management has seen a very healthy reserve maintained.

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

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy to enable the church to function effectively and meet its obligations in the event of a decline in our income or a major cost. Having considered the relevant risks of changes in income and expenditure, the Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves is in the range of £13,000 to £15,000. As at 31st December 2023, the church held total reserves of £31,197 of which £1,523 was restricted funds for Property Repair and the Pastoral Support Fund; and £1,700 was designated funds for the Pastoral Support Fund.

The Trustees believe that the funds, surplus to our reserves figure, will be necessary in the coming months to support the known major increase in energy costs, further property repair and maintenance costs, and a potential increase in staff remuneration costs.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees



..... 22/3/24 .....

L Hillyard
Trustee

Date:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st 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 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 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did 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 in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

..... Dated 22/03/24

Angela Parry
Tove Accountancy Ltd, Office 6 Town Hall, 86 Watling Street East, Towcester, Northants, NN12 6BS

BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total **31/12/2023** £	Total **31/12/2022** £
RECEIPTS					
Offerings		5,361.34		5,361.34	8,414.18
Offerings (gift aided)		15,251.00		15,251.00	10,935.00
Specified Collections		0.00	1,283.90	1,283.90	711.00
Room Hire		1,703.34		1,703.34	3,395.90
Men's Breakfast		991.56		991.56	474.26
Miscellaneous		175.49		175.49	802.99
Gift Aid		4,384.91	250.00	4,634.91	4,103.22
Bank Interest		968.09		968.09	62.29
Grants		0.00	6,522.89	6,522.89	1,166.78
Coffee House		2,658.46		2,658.46	2,090.79
Donations		3,130.00		3,130.00	100.00
Friday Tea & Tots		0.00		0.00	2.00
Total incoming resources		**34,624.19**	**8,056.79**	**42,680.98**	**32,258.41**
PAYMENTS					
Pastors Remuneration		12,812.52		12,812.52	11,531.25
Pastor and Pulpit Expenses		582.72		582.72	588.01
Repairs, Maintenance & Projects		1,479.87	5,944.94	7,424.81	5,886.85
Miscellaneous		167.28		167.28	292.99
Organ & Music		679.85		679.85	491.45
Premises Costs		4,518.11	919.39	5,437.50	4,363.90
Catering & Cleaning		3,556.38	219.36	3,775.74	3,250.83
Administration		3,322.14	60.49	3,382.63	3,670.85
Missions		2,302.00	282.00	2,584.00	2,174.00
Pastoral Support Fund		0.00	791.20	791.20	0.00
Total resources expended		**29,420.87**	**8,217.38**	**37,638.25**	**32,250.13**
Net movement in funds		**5,203.32**	**(160.59)**	**5,042.73**	**8.28**
Total Funds Brought Forward		24,469.92	1,684.50	26,154.42	26,146.14
Total funds carried forward		**29,673.24**	**1,523.91**	**31,197.15**	**26,154.42**

There are no endowment funds during this year or the prior year

BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 Total	2022 Total
CASH FUNDS			
Coffee house float		50.00	75.00
Cash		(0.00)	(0.00)
Old current account		0.00	0.00
Old savings account		0.00	0.00
New current account		9,816.02	6,905.15
New savings account		17,793.98	3,500.33
Baptist Union savings account		3,537.15	15,673.94
TOTALS		**31,197.15**	**26,154.42**
REPRESENTED BY:			
General Funds		29,673.24	24,469.92
Restricted Funds		1,523.91	1,684.50
		31,197.15	**26,154.42**
ASSETS FOR CHURCH PURPOSES			
Organs		231,113.00	231,113.00
Contents		65,236.00	65,236.00

The Church and connected buildings are owned by the Baptist Union and form no part of the assets of the church and are insured for £2,484,489

LIABILITIES

As at 31st December 2023 there were no liabilities.

BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis

2 ANALYSIS OF FUND MOVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS may be used by the Church for any of its ordinary purposes

DESIGNATED FUNDS represent sums set aside, out of ordinary unrestricted funds, for specific designated purposes, which can be transferred back into the general fund at any time.

We previously allocated 50 per month into a Pastoral Support Fund (a Benevolent Fund) which may be used to support individuals, or families, at times of great difficulty. 0 was allocated in 2023. We currently have a total of £1,700 of Designated Funds for this purpose.

RESTRICTED FUNDS represent either income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund and cannot be absorbed into general funds.

Fund name and purpose	Bal Jan 1st	Receipts	Payments	Bal Dec 31st
Pastoral Support Fund	1,000.00	0.00	791.20	208.80
Property	584.50	1,351.90	621.29	1,315.11
Grants		6,522.89	6,522.89	0.00
Mcmillan	0.00	182.00	182.00	0.00
Community Fridge	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
TOTALS	**1,684.50**	**8,056.79**	**8,217.38**	**1,523.91**

ENDOWMENT FUNDS are funds whose capital must be maintained: only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.
There are no endowment funds during this year or in the prior year

FUNDS	Balance 01/01/2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance 31/12/2023
	£	£	£		£
General Fund	23,270	34,624	(29,421)	(600)	27,873
Restricted Funds	1,685	8,057	(8,217)		1,524
Designated funds:					
Pastoral Support Fund	1,200			600	1,800
	26,154	42,681	(37,638)	0	31,197

BLISWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

3 ASSETS FOR CHURCH USE

The church and connected buildings and land are owned by The Baptist Union Corporation and form no part of the assets of the Church. They are insured for £2,484,489.00
The organ installed in the church is insured for £231,113.00
The contents of the buildings are insured against damage by fire for £65,236.00

4 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ANALYSES AND DETAILS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
RECEIPTS			
Grants received	0.00	6,522.89	6,522.89
Donations	3,130.00	0.00	3,130.00
TOTALS	**3,130.00**	**6,522.89**	**9,652.89**
PAYMENTS			
BMS World Mission	804.00		804.00
Home Mission	1,200.00		1,200.00
Open Doors	250.00		250.00
Other	48.00	282.00	330.00
TOTALS	**2,302.00**	**282.00**	**2,584.00**

5 GIFT AID

Gift Aid received during the year is £4,634.91

6 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

£2,149.94 was spent on new electric heaters for the Chapel and Leisure Hall.
£1,471.68 was spent on items for the Leisure Hall.
£332.56 was spent on a water boiler for the Leisure Hall.
£1,034.99 was spent on decorating materials for the whole building.

7 PAYMENTS TO TRUSTEES AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

The Pastor, Mr L Hillyard, received a remuneration of £12,812.52 (2022 11531.25)
No payments were made to any of the other Trustees (other than acceptable out of pocket expenses which were claimed for)