



Annual Report 2023

Pastor's Report

David encourages us to *"Praise the Lord and forget not all his benefits"* (Ps. 103:2), and there are many things to give thanks for over this past year.

- We saw the launch of our new Life Groups (11 in total) meeting during the week, in evenings and online. These seem to have been well received and have encouraged a renewed sense of teaching, fellowship and pastoral care amongst us.
- Our sung worship on Sunday has seen a change of leadership and with this some new approaches, including a singing group and a Taizé service. These have been well received and have brought great participation from amongst the fellowship,
- On Sundays we have journeyed through Ephesians as we reminded ourselves of the essentials of our faith; we've ridden the rollercoaster ride that is the Psalms as we considered how God is with us and for us in all of life's ups and downs; we've spent time reflecting on the word made flesh in Advent and the post-resurrection stories of Jesus after Easter and how the first church came into being and how Jesus commissions all of us to "go" and make disciples on our "frontlines," wherever they may be.
- We have continued to see new people joining us on Sundays and becoming part of the family.
- We have continued to see community engagement through events during Remembrance Sunday, Christmas (including the Pudding event), Easter (including the egg treasure hunt), the Eco Festival and the H&I Feast week.
- We saw the launch of the Warm Welcome Café which was attended by many people from our community, from young families, to the elderly, all of whom benefited from free hot food and drink and a listening ear.
- Continued unity and outreach amongst the churches through the Light Party, Carols on the Green, Good Friday family event and Holiday Club.
- We have officially become an "Eco Church" gaining our Bronze Award from A Rocha, and hosting an Eco Festival, drawing in many from our villages and further afield.
- The list could go on!

We also acknowledge, that along with the highs, there have been some difficult times to navigate for many in our church family. We've seen several deaths this year, as well as health issues and life-challenges. We've also had to say farewell to Rilla after seven fruitful years of youth ministry, for which we are very grateful. I would encourage you to pray for us as we seek to find her replacement and for the youth team as they continue to disciple and nurture our young people. Pray also for us as we explore ways in which we might better support and expand our children's work too.

Within all that is shared in the reports given here, I continue to sense the work of the Holy Spirit, drawing us closer to God and to one another, both as a fellowship and with the wider community, and making us fruitful.

As we move forward into another year (with whatever it brings) let us continue to keep 'our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.' (Heb. 12:2)

Rev Chris Farmer

Elders' Report

As Elders we aim to meet with Pastor Chris every three weeks or so to: pray for God's wisdom in all matters; review the spiritual health of the church; consider the future direction of the church; help Chris discern relevant sermon series and courses; review Life Groups; discuss members and non-members struggling with physical, spiritual, or other life issues and how we can support and encourage them. We also pray for one another and encourage each other.

We meet with the Life Group Leaders each term to encourage and support them, as well as conduct annual appraisals for the HBC staff team and agree goals for the coming year.

Recently, we set aside a day to pray and seek God's direction for our church. We thanked God for the many blessings we have received as a church body, and how God is using our gifts and talents within the life of the church to share His love in the community. We then discussed possible ways that we could be more effective for God's glory and purposes.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Chris, as well as the Elders and Deacons as we seek to faithfully serve God.

Jane Magowan, George Voyias, Bart Goncalves

Administrator's Report

It has been another busy year in the Admin Office, with much time spent on church bookings and invoicing, as well as the ongoing enquiries, phone calls, etc., the management of Office 365, and the continuing work on Data Protection.

A lot of my time is spent on the church laptop, therefore I often work from home these days, but I can usually be found at church on Thursday mornings. I am part of the UK Church Administrators Network (UCAN), and recently met up for a meeting with other administrators from the local area. It was good to share and to hear what others are doing. We are hoping to meet regularly.

Church Membership

We currently have 130 Church Members at Histon Baptist Church. There were two new members in the year, and one member has died.

We also have a number of new church associates who have joined our email mailing list.

Communication

The screen in the coffee area continues to work well for advertising what is happening at church on a weekly basis, and for special events which occur. If you would like something added to the screen it can be e mailed to me at admin@histonbaptist.org.uk

Bookings

Our extensive premises continue to be used regularly by the local community and various other groups from further afield, as well as by many church groups.

The following is a list of groups that use our buildings regularly alongside our church activities.

Church-based groups - Ark, Ten Sing, Youth Groups, Motivators, Explorers

External Children's groups - Rainbows, Brownies, Monkey Music

External Adult groups - Day Centre, Pilates, Choir 2000, Slimming World, Country Market, Quartet Club of Cambridge, Moonlight Mandolins, Spurgeon's ETM Course, SIM UK, Liberal Democrats, HI Friends

Data Protection

This year I have compiled a full list of what HBC data is held on personal computers, mobile devices, etc. and the next step is to get some of the critical data moved to the church's SharePoint files on Office 365, which is a secure location with an automatic backup.

Keith Willingham

HISTON BAPTIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5th APRIL 2023

Charitable status: The accounts presented refer to the financial activities of Histon Baptist Church, a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), charity no. 1195343. The assets of this charity were transferred on 5th April 2022 from a charitable unincorporated associated, charity no. 1130726, with the same name of Histon Baptist Church.

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

Receipts	Note	2023	2022
Sunday offerings		£ 9,151.58	£ 6,397.60
Standing Orders		£ 112,050.56	£ 115,513.50
Gift Aid Refunds		£ 26,181.02	£ 21,721.97
Donations for use of premises		£ 24,886.17	£ 13,863.50
Sundry Income		£ 357.91	£ 6,796.24
Solar Panel Income		£ 1,166.84	£ 418.71
Fund raising Christian Aid (Sock Sunday)		£ -	£ 782.45
Fund raising (Ukrainian refugees)		£ -	£ 12,388.71
Other fundraising (appeals)		£ 1,386.93	£ -
Total Receipts		£ 175,181.01	£ 177,882.68
Payments			
Ministry	2	£ 86,961.50	£ 76,652.97
Mission	3	£ 43,790.57	£ 43,221.94
Administration	4	£ 8,852.32	£ 6,958.41
Premises	5	£ 104,308.16	£ 39,350.28
Total Payments		£ 243,912.55	£ 166,183.60
Net receipts for the year		£ -68,731.54	£ 11,699.08
Transfers to General Account		£ 42,815.68	£ 3,112.13
Transfers from General Account		£ 607.61	£ -
Cash balance at previous year end		£ 43,856.11	£ 29,827.29
Cash balance at current year end		£ 17,332.64	£ 43,856.11

Histon Baptist Church Specific Purpose Account - Summary
6th April 2022 to 5th April 2023


	Carried Forward (last yr)	TRANSACTIONS £				
		Income	Incoming transfer from General fund or transfer within this account	Outgoing transfer to General Fund or transfer within this account	Expenditure	Balance
General Reserve						
Available (U)	£26,056.15	£6,584.89	£21,947.04	£36,000.00	£6,084.89	£12,503.19
Interest/charges (U)	£0.00	£1,971.03			£121.84	£1,849.19
Essential (D)	£65,000.00					£65,000.00
Allocated Funds						
Organ Fund (R)	£785.66					£785.66
Motivators / Sock Sunday (U)	-£180.55	£1,774.71			£1,999.49	-£405.33
Albania specific gifts (R)		£10.00				£10.00
Flower fund (U)		£64.90			£64.90	
The Ark (R)	£306.34	£1,837.78			£1,761.96	£382.16
HBC Youth Worker (U)	£1,744.74	£800.00			£2,078.31	£466.43
Church Weekend Away (R)	£504.60					£504.60
Boiler Fund (D)	£30,000.00			£29,262.72		£737.28
Dads and Kids (R)	£381.79					£381.79
TOTAL =	£124,598.73	£13,043.31	£21,947.04	£65,262.72	£12,111.39	£82,214.97

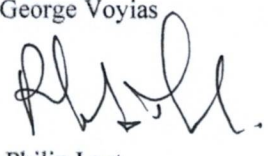
Reserves and allocated funds: (D), designated; (R), restricted; (U), unrestricted.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 5TH APRIL 2023

Assets	Note	2023	2022
Banks and other cash balances			
Barclays – General Account		£ 17,332.64	£ 43,856.11
Barclays – Specific Purposes		£ 3,435.11	£ 19,306.19
Barclays – Savings Account		£ 399.46	£ 3,874.59
BU Deposit Account	6	£ 78,380.40	£ 101,417.95
Assets Held for Church's own use	7	£1,830,000.00	£1,730,000.00
Total Assets		£1,929,547.61	£1,898,621.96
Liabilities			
Pension Scheme Liability	8	£ 15,500.00	£ 25,200.00
Donations not passed on to other causes (support for Ukrainian refugees)		£ -	£ 7,744.00
Other Current Liabilities		£ -	£ -
Total Liabilities		£ 15,500.00	£ 32,944.00

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year ending 5th April 2023 are as approved on behalf of the Trustees.

Signed:  George Voyias 3rd June 2023 Date

Signed:  Philip Leat 3rd June 2023 Date

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts

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

2. Ministry

	2023	2022
Salaries/PAYE	£ 61,482.92	£ 47,055.83
Employer Pension Contributions	£ 5,199.81	£ 3,566.43
National Insurance	£ 5,135.97	£ 3,354.50
BU Pension Deficit Plan	£ 1,497.52	£ 4,420.05
Minister Travel and Expenses	£ 3,444.80	£ 2,128.83
Visiting Speakers	£ 489.50	£ 1,769.65
Manse Upkeep	£ 9,710.98	£ 14,357.68
Total Ministry	£ 86,961.50	£ 76,652.97

The Minister acts as one of the church's trustees and receives remuneration and other benefits in respect of his services as Minister, including the provision of manse accommodation.

3. Mission (General Account)

	2023	2022
Fellowship	£ 1,146.49	£ 217.99
Youth	£ 1,925.99	£ 1,355.17
Motivators	£ 4.99	£ -
Home Mission (UK-wide)	£ 6,607.00	£ 6,335.00
BMS (International Mission & Humanitarian Support)	£ 6,607.00	£ 6,375.00
Albanian Church	£ 6,424.00	£ 8,586.00
Ukraine refugee support	£ 7,769.00	£ 7,744.00
GenR8, John Hardwick & Andy Henman Support	£ 7,200.00	£ 7,200.00
Baptist Union, Cambridge Youth for Christ, Evangelical Alliance and Other	£ 4,966.80	£ 3,774.45
Subscriptions & Donations		
Christmas Pudding event & Sundries	£ 1,139.30	£ 1,634.33
Total Mission	£ 43,790.57	£ 43,221.94

4. Administration

	2023	2022
Printing, Photocopying, Stationery and Postage	£ 1,006.22	£ 558.93
Accounting Services	£ 414.00	£ 692.64
Music Licenses	£ 1,822.07	£ 1,106.21
AV equipment & maintenance	£ 515.80	£ 1,150.98
Solicitor's fees for CIO transition	£ 404.80	£ 1,007.00
Defibrillator Maintenance	£ 162.00	£ 162.00
Covid Compliance Supplies, Bank Charges and Sundries	£ 4,527.43	£ 2,280.65
Total Administration	£ 8,852.32	£ 6,958.41

5. Premises

	2023	2022
Lighting and Heating	£ 18,147.15	£ 10,549.60
Water	£ 238.68	£ 721.75
Insurance	£ 4,820.99	£ 4,309.66
Main boiler replacement	£ 29,262.72	£ -
Floor replacements	£ 6,886.58	£ -
Repairs & Renewals	£ 27,745.78	£ 3,460.27
Cleaning, Catering, Gardening & Sundries	£ 17,206.26	£ 20,309.00
Total Premises	£104,308.16	£ 39,350.28

6. Reserves Policy Statement

The reserves in all accounts amounts to £99,547.61. The reserves policy of Histon Baptist Church is to hold six months of all expenditure in reserve.

7. Assets Held for the Church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts dated 1902 and 1948) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee [the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd]:

- Church premises at Station Road, Histon, Cambridge, CB24 9LN valued in the accounts at £1,000,000 based on our own estimates
- Church manse at 2 Poplar Road, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9LN valued in the accounts at £800,000 based on our own estimates of resale values of similar properties in the locality
- The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of approximately £30,000

8. Pension Scheme Liability

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

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit 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. 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.

The Baptist Pension Scheme Trustees issued a report dated 3 July 2020 following the outcome of the Actuarial Valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019. The estimated deficit in the Actuarial Valuation as at 31 December 2019 was £18 million. The Church and the other employers supporting the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. Allowing for the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on financial markets and other factors, the Baptist Pension Scheme Trustees have allowed a £10 million deterioration in the deficit and made a forecast that deficit contributions would need to continue until June 2026.

Under the 'Family Solution' to reduce the deficit in the Baptist Pension Scheme, the Baptist Union contributed £33m to the Baptist Pension Scheme in December 2018. (More background at

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/305491/Family_Solution.aspx)

The church made payments in respect of the DB scheme deficit each month until July 2022 as set out in a Schedule of Contributions. Following sale of the debt, the church's contributions fell to £1.00 per month from August 2022, at which point its deficit stood at £15,500.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Histon Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 5th April 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity'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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 accounting requirements of 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.



Tom Swan

3rd June 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Histon Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 5th April 2023.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity'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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave 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.

Tom Swan

2nd June 2023