

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, GRIFFITHSTOWN

England & Wales · Charity number 1197909

Details

Other names GRIFFITHSTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2022-02-14

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Griffithstown Baptist Church
Commercial Street
Griffithstown
Pontypool
NP4 5JF

Phone 07769 352297

Email secretary@griffithstownbaptistchurch.org

Activities

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.

Activities: Regular public worshipPrayerBible studyPreaching and teachingEducation and training for Christian and community service.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Torfaen

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£66,875	£65,481	-	-
2023-12-31	£63,199	£48,413	-	-
2022-12-31	£64,607	£62,345	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BARBARA JEAN HARRIS		2021-11-09
Fay Louise Perry		2024-01-01
Karen Dorling		2025-01-01
Keith Harris		2022-11-15
Michelle Jones		2022-12-15
Nigel Brett Snook		2021-11-09

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, GRIFFITHSTOWN

England & Wales - Charity number 1197909

Accounts

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Griffithstown Baptist Church building. The building is constructed of light-colored stone or brick and features a prominent gabled roof with a central circular window. Below the gable, there are two large, arched windows. The entrance is visible at the bottom, with a set of stairs leading up to a doorway. The overall tone of the image is slightly muted, with a dark blue overlay at the top and bottom.

GRIFFITHSTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Reports &
Accounts for 2024

COMMERCIAL STREET
GRIFFITHSTOWN
NP4 5JF

Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts

for the year ending 31st December 2024

Moderator

Rev Harry Place

Officers & Deacons:

Mrs M Jones (Secretary)

Mr N Snook (Treasurer)

Mrs J Cocks

Mrs B Harris

Mrs S Jones

Mr K Harris

Mrs F Perry

Independent Examiners

Mrs W Hassel

Mrs G Parry

Secretary's Report

Another year has passed since I sat down at my keyboard to write my annual report. 2024 saw another year of pastoral vacancy come and go. We are extremely grateful that each week our pulpit has been filled and the word of God is being preached. I would like to extend my thanks to Howard Jones for continuing the role of pulpit secretary and ensuring we have a preacher each week. This role is vital to the running of the Church during pastoral vacancy and can be very time consuming. He has also stepped in last minute when preachers have been ill. So thank you to Howard for the continued work filling our pulpit.

The start of 2024 saw the introduction of our new membership document. Our moderator, Rev Harry Place, worked with the deacons to create a document detailing the rights and responsibilities of being a member of a Baptist Church. This was in addition to our constitution. Harry held 2 sessions where he talked through the document and what it means to be a follower of Christ and a member specifically of a Baptist Church. Following these two informative sessions the document was taken to the Church meeting and formally accepted. During a time of pastoral vacancy it is especially important that we take the role of being a member seriously and that we all use the gifts God has given us to support the life of the Church.

Being part of the Baptist Union of Great Britain is part of what makes our Baptist traditions unique but being part of the union also comes with lots of responsibilities. We are required to have policies in place and ensure these are adhered to. The deacons have spent countless hours looking at and writing policies. In February we adopted our new health and safety policy and appointed our health and safety officer: Wendy Hassell and Barbara Harris. We will have more health and safety updates during 2025. Safeguarding is also the responsibility of the whole Church. In March Keith and I spent a morning at the Church and invited everybody who needs it to come and have their DBS checks completed. We now have a rolling programme to keep all DBS checks up to date.

We have continued to work closely with Richmond Road for Messy Church and Holiday Club. Messy Church is hosted at Richmond Road and supported by our members. Thank you to everybody who volunteered to support Messy Church. The numbers for attending Messy Church were sporadic throughout the year but I believe this reflects the 'busyness' of society and life. There are so many demands on everybody and we are grateful for those who did attend and support. Holiday Club as always was held at our Church and supported by a few members from Richmond Road. A huge thank you to Keith especially for his tireless enthusiasm and countless hours that he puts into the preparation and running of Holiday Club. Again last year it was a huge success and we are grateful for the support from the Church, whether that be in giving financially, donations or giving your time to help during the actual week.

We have continued to have a few social events during the year as well. Quiz nights run during the Spring and Summer months and continue to test the grey cells of those who attend. Thank you to Howard Powell for organising the evenings and writing the questions. On Palm Sunday we held a soup lunch after the service and our usual Harvest Lunch in September. It is always lovely to have a time of fellowship together over food. Thank you to Anne Coulstock for organising and making the food at these events. The Christmas Fayre was another success and continues on the theme of food! We are grateful to all the people involved in the running and setting up of the Christmas Fayre.

As well as the fun and fellowship through out the year we have had more sombre occasions such as Remeberance Sunday. This was a beautiful, reflective service led by our moderator where we

came together to show respect for our service men and women in the past and currently serving. We also mourned the passing of Adrienne Martin and a close friend of the Church Julie Morse.

2024 was also a turbulent time for the deacons. We are very keen to look to the future and begin a search for a new Pastor. However, there have been long standing issues within the Church which were preventing us from growing and moving forward. We felt we could not appoint a new minister until these issues were resolved. We made a commitment when Jon left that we would face these issues head on and not minimise them or ignore them as had been done previously. We sought the support of our moderator, Harry Place, but also our Regional Minister, Rob May. Their support, guidance, love and encouragement has been invaluable to the deacons. On a personal note I would like to thank both of them for the support they have given to me, as secretary, during the whole process. I am now pleased to say that the issues have been resolved and we stand at a cross roads for Griffithstown Baptist Church. Our future can be bright and hopeful and in 2025 we can start in earnest the process of seeking a new Pastor. However, we need members to take their commitment to being a member seriously. We all have God-given gifts and talents and we need to use these to support the Church in growing and doing something new. We need financial as well as practical support from the members. I strongly believe that we can do great things in furthering God's Kingdom in our village of Griffithstown but if we are not prepared to change and try something new, we will become a declining Church and face permanent closure in the not too distant future. Please continue to pray for the deacons but also pray and ask God how you can support our Church during the exciting times ahead.

Blessings

Michelle

RENEW@GBC & Craft Group Report

Our attendance numbers continued to remain constant, which in one sense is good but could be considered disappointing if an increase in numbers were the sole object. We continue to be, and appreciate continuing to be a place for shared conversations and activity, together with the opportunity for a quiet, meditative encounter with God during times of prayer and reflection on a set verse from the Psalms. In all this, the objectives of the Renew Wellbeing ethos of Being Present, Being Prayerful, Being in Partnership, continue to be met.

In comparison to last year, our busyness knitting doesn't seem to have produced the same extent of items, although a more than reasonable number of knitted children's garments were made, some of which were donated by a lady in the community who has peripheral links with us as a church. Added to which, knitted squares for blankets were sent to The Gift of Warmth. In appreciation of this, they placed a photo on their Facebook page crediting us for our contribution to their cause.



As provider of a safe place and space within the community in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), representatives from Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA), of which we are also a part, visited us with details about what services are available within the Borough to make known what may not necessarily be common knowledge. This was especially helpful in the light of various changes to procedures and protocol within the Health Authority. Leaflets and cards summarising the information and providing useful contact details for the various aspects of help or assistance were made available that we could use or pass on. They followed this up by telling us about these things, giving us the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. The ladies from TVA were pleased and impressed in the way we engaged, complimenting us that we were more vocal than most groups that they visit!

As ever, conversation centres around the table where teas, coffees, biscuits and cakes are shared, and on when their or significant birthdays, it's fast becoming a tradition that a birthday card and cake and celebration tea so that it is reaching the stage of becoming compulsory! This can also be said of our Christmas Meal when we again went to The Star at Ponthir, who made their Christmas Menu especially available to us a week or so before their planned launch date.

We look forward to the new year, continuing to not only maintain our numbers and deepen and broaden our own friendship, but also to welcome more from the locality to add to those who have discovered our group as a safe place, perhaps even a refuge where they have found a genuine welcome, friendship and ready conversation.

The same open invitation with which we closed last year's report is repeated, namely to join with us on a Tuesday afternoon between 1.30 and 3.30 and to encourage you to make us known amongst your family and friends who may be lonely, in need of some company and a lift.

Sylvia Powell and Howard Jones

Children's Work Report

Sunday School

It has been wonderful to see our Sunday School numbers growing over the past year. Currently there are around seven families represented, which means there are 9 children and young people. They don't all attend every week, but we usually have three to six children in Sunday School and Creche. This is very encouraging and we thank God that he has blessed us in this way.

Another encouraging development is the offer from Howard Jones to sometimes work with the older children in the Sunday School – those who have now started secondary school – to look with them at scripture in a bit more depth.

Sparks

This is a primary age Bible based youth club that meet every Thursday during term time. We present the word of God through stories, games, drama and craft. The numbers in the group have sadly dwindled at the start of this year. Before Christmas we could have up to 6 children, but with some of them now starting secondary school, and others being involved in other clubs and activities, we are down to just two! There is hope, however, that another child may be starting soon. Please continue to pray that we can grow in numbers and reach more children with the word of God.

Themes

We continue to follow the same themes in both Sunday School and Sparks as we tend to have different children attending each. Towards the beginning of 2024 we did a topic on the Armour of God. Over the weeks we looked at different aspects of the Armour of God and the children made their very own cardboard soldiers. At Easter, last year, we had a joint Sunday School and Sparks party, where the children did a presentation for their families on the Armour of God. The Sunday School enjoyed presenting what they had been learning during the church service on Fathers' Day, giving all the men in the church their very own Armour of God bookmark.

In the Autumn Term we began a topic on the "I AM ..." statements of Jesus as recorded in John's Gospel. We have made a display of these on notice boards in the Sunday School room and downstairs in the carpeted hall, so please take a look.

Finally at Christmas we had a joint Christmas Party which was very well attended by the families from both Sunday School and Sparks. The children were all given presents of Christian books.

We now are looking forward to starting a new topic in 2025, looking at the life of Jesus whilst he was on earth.

Please continue to pray for the work with the children and young people in the church.

Prayer Group Report

We meet as a group every Wednesday morning (10-10:30am), we are roughly 10 in number. Prayer is our lifeline to God as a Church, praying as a group of believers bring unity with the Church that Jesus prayed for. We as a Church spend an hour per week together. I would encourage each of us to give time to prayer as the opportunity arises, without any pressure to contribute (out loud).

Every Blessing

Sue Jones & Babs Humphry

Christmas Fayre Report

A big thank you to those who helped make this year's Fayre another success, with Father Christmas adding that extra good feel factor.

From the money taken at the Fayre, donations were given to the charities normally supported by the workshop team, also with gifts of biscuits to the housebound.

We collect items throughout the year, bric a brac no longer needed or any unwanted gifts would be very welcome.

Over the years the money raised has been used for many projects in the church, such as a dishwasher for the kitchen, blinds for the Sanctuary and Manse, also a boiler for the upstairs class rooms, to mention a few.

The support of the Church is vital to the success of the Fayre and look forward to your continued encouragement.

Janet Day

Link to Hope shoe box appeal

A big thank you to those who supported the Shoe Box Appeal Again this year. We were able to deliver 33 boxes to a central point in Chepstow. We hope to support the appeal again this year and I am optimistic the Church will again give this worthwhile cause their full support.

Janet Day

Bible Connect Report

We continue to meet every two weeks on a Monday at 10:30am via zoom and average about 8-10 people.

Bible study is examining God's word in order for us to understand it and be changed by it. At present we are studying David and his life beginning as a shepherd boy right through to when he became King of Israel.

David had many weaknesses, doubts and struggled with sin, yet he was considered "as a man after God's own heart". He learnt to trust in God and find strength in Him when he faced difficulties.

David is considered a role model for us all, so that we look beyond our failures and weaknesses and put our trust in God.

If you would like to join us you would be most welcome. Please contact me and I will give you all the details.

Blessings

Sue Jones

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, GRIFFITHSTOWN

Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2024

Main Account Income & Expenditure

INCOME:

<i>Offering</i>		£	£
	Closed	11,369.00	
	Open	5,510.58	
	Standing Order / Bank Transfer	<u>22,668.92</u>	39,548.50
 <i>Donations / Miscellaneous</i>			
	Holiday Club	873.27	
	Coffee Morning	580.48	
	Manse Rent	14,400.00	
	Weddings and Funerals	210.00	
	World Vision	1,275.00	
	Probus Donations	330.00	
	Funeral Adriene Martin - Holiday Club	111.00	
	Shoe Box Appeal	93.00	
	Harvest Donations - Food Bank	105.00	
	Torfaen Borough Council-Holiday Club	200.00	
	Torfaen Voluntary - Renew	1,000.00	
	Quiz Night	586.00	
	Craft - Donation for Selection Boxes	150.00	
	Bank Transfer from Santander	1.00	
	Christmas Fayre Workshop	50.00	
	Renew/Craft Donation	200.00	
	Christmas Card Donations	35.00	
	Miscellaneous Donations	20.00	
	On Line / Card Reader Donations	<u>24.56</u>	20,244.31
 <i>Income Tax Recovered</i>			
	Gift Aid Declaration	<u>7,081.93</u>	<u>7,081.93</u>
			<u>66,874.74</u>

EXPENDITURE:**NOTES:**

		£	£
Ministry	1	2,314.98	
Upkeep of Church	2	16,081.53	
Upkeep of Manse	3	3,825.36	
Home Mission		1,500.00	
BMS		1,500.00	
Donations	4	2,578.00	
Holiday Club		1,415.21	
Nic's Cleaning		757.50	
Flowers		57.00	
Sunday School		217.81	
Coffee Morning		172.95	
Miscellaneous Expenses	5	2,912.32	
Renew / Craft		456.24	
Sundries	6	<u>4,673.55</u>	38,462.45
<i>Administration Costs</i>			
Printing / Stationery / Postage		<u>1,661.24</u>	1,661.24
Bank Transfer to Santander		25,001.00	25,001.00
<i>Other Payments</i>			
Church Kitchen / Meals / Refreshments		<u>355.86</u>	<u>355.86</u>
			<u>65,480.55</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the year			1,394.19
Balance Brought forward from Previous Year			<u>21,543.78</u>
Balance Carried forward at End of Year			<u>22,937.97</u>
December Bank Statement Balance			23,052.97
Uncleared/Uncashed Items			<u>115.00</u>
			<u>22,937.97</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. MINISTRY	£
Pastor's Stipend	0.00
NIC.	0.00
Pension	0.00
Baptist Pension Shortfall	10.00
Tax	0.00
Minister/Moderator Expenses	217.98
Pulpit Supply	<u>2,087.00</u>
	<u>2,314.98</u>
2. UPKEEP OF CHURCH	
Utilities	6,968.45
Insurance	3,769.07
Broadband	407.65
Maintenance	<u>4,936.36</u>
	<u>16,081.53</u>
3. UPKEEP OF MANSE	
Utilities	2,564.36
Insurance	521.00
Council Tax	0.00
Maintenance	<u>740.00</u>
	<u>3,825.36</u>
4. DONATIONS	
World Vision	1,194.00
Cariad Kenya	600.00
Quiz Night - Water Aid	586.00
Harvest Donations - Food Bank	105.00
Link to Hope - Shoebox Appeal	<u>93.00</u>
	<u>2,578.00</u>
5. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	£
SWBA Subscriptions	280.00
BU Subscriptions	385.00
CCLI	809.37
Messy Church	118.51
Sparks	0.00
Waveley Fire & Security Ltd - Annual Check	216.00
Bank Charges	203.17
Zoom License 2024	155.88
Proclaim License 2024	313.83
Blackwood Fire Annual Check	<u>430.56</u>
	<u>2,912.32</u>

6. SUNDRIES

Christmas Items 2023	113.59
Safeguarding + Health & Safety	403.39
Waveley Fire & Security Ltd - Additional Detectors	2,107.10
Hi Viz Vests	14.49
Golden Wedding Gift & Card	16.50
Ubiquity - Web Services	204.00
Computer Anti-Virus Software	39.99
Notice Boards & Posters	476.91
Cloud Storage Solution	636.37
Christmas Items 2024	638.22
Remembrance Display Items	22.99
	<u>4,673.55</u>

Santander Account Income & Expenditure

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
		B/F	45,279.37
Total Transfers from Current Account	25,001.00		
Interest 4th Sep 2023 to 2nd Sep 2024	478.59		
Transfer to Current Account			1
		C/F	<u>70,757.96</u>

Report of the Independent Examiners to the Members of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Griffithstown

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, we have examined the Receipts, Payments & Accounts of Ebenezer Baptist Church set out on Pages 1-5 relating to the Year ended 31st December 2024. We confirm that the Accounts and Statement accord with the Accounting Records of the Church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. We are not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Signed 

Name: Mrs Gillian Parry

Address:

207 Adventurers Quay
Cardiff
CF10 4NS

Date: 5th February 2025

Signed 

Name: Mrs Wendy Hassell

Address:

6 Victoria Street
Pontypool
NP4 5HH

Date: 5th February 2025

Expenses Budget 2025

£			
280.00	Ministry	Stipend/Nic/Tax/Pension	£34,933.20
385.00		Pension Shortfall	£0.00
809.37		Minister's Expenses	£217.98
118.51		Pulpit Cover	£2,087.00
0.00	Church Building	Utilities	£7,247.19
216.00		Maintenance	£5,133.81
203.17		Insurance	£3,919.83
155.88		Broadband	£423.96
313.83	Manse		£3,978.37
<u>430.56</u>	Children's Work	Sunday School	£217.81
		Messy Church	£200.00
<u>2,912.32</u>		Sparks	£100.00
113.59	Flowers		£57.00
403.39	Donations		£2,578.00
2,107.10	Home Mission		£1,500.00
14.49	BMS		£1,500.00
16.50	SWBA & BU Subs		£691.60
204.00	CCLI		£841.74
39.99	Miscellaneous		£1,500.00
476.91	Cleaning		£757.50
636.37	Kitchen		£64.42
638.22	Refreshments		£291.44
<u>22.99</u>	Holiday Club		£1,415.21
<u>4,673.55</u>	Emergency Reserve		£1,000.00
	Technical		£742.25
	Printing/stationery		£1,727.69
	Sundries		£2000.00
	Renew / Craft		£456.24
		Total	<u>£75,582.25</u>

Average Required Income per Week = **£1,453.50**

Average Required per Month = **£6,298.52**

Home Mission

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/24	77.68	Home Mission	100.00
Boxes	86.41		
Workshop	100.00		
		Balance @ 31/12/24	164.09
	<u>264.09</u>		<u>264.09</u>

Baptist Missionary Society

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/24	25.35	BMS	100.00
Workshop	100		
		Balance @ 31/12/24	25.35
	<u>125.35</u>		<u>125.35</u>

BMS Birthday Scheme

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/24	158.50	BMS	400.00
Donations	388.00		
		Balance @ 31/12/24	146.50
	<u>546.50</u>		<u>546.50</u>

Christmas Fayre/Workshop

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/24	1583.45	Goods	43.24
Cash in hand @ 18/11/24	20.85	Home Mission	100.00
Christmas Fayre	836.86	BMS	100.00
Cash in hand @ 2/12/24	37.75	World Vision	50.00
Donation	20.00	World Vision	50.00
		Goods	40.52
		Balance @ 31/12/24	2115.15
	<u>2498.91</u>		<u>2498.91</u>

Craft

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/24	187.37	Flowers	15.00
Donations	10.00	Rose	14.45
Donations	116.50	Postage	7.99
Donations	122.00	Postage	3.45
Donations	118.00	Deposit for Christmas Meal	150.00
Donations	14.50	Selection box donation	150.00
Donations	335.10	Meal	463.75
		Cash in hand	98.83
	<hr/>	Balance @ 31/12/24	<hr/>
	903.47		903.47

Membership Numbers

Membership 1st January 2024	65
<hr/>	
Dismissals:	
By Resignation	1
Called Home	1
<hr/>	
Membership 31st December 2024	63

Members called home:

Adrienne Martin

Dates for your diary

Friday 18 th April	Good Friday	10:30am
Sunday 20 th April	Easter Sunday	11am
Sunday 27 th April	149 th Church Anniversary	11am
Sunday 8 th June	Pentecost	11am
Sunday 27 th July	Holiday Club Service	11am
Sunday 28 th September	Harvest	11am
Sunday 9 th November	Remembrance Sunday	11am
Sunday 21 st December	Carols by Candlelight	5:30pm
Wednesday 24 th December	Carols Around the Tree	5:30pm
Thursday 25 th December	Christmas Day Celebration	10:30am

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, GRIFFITHSTOWN

England & Wales - Charity number 1197909

Accounts

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GRIFFITHSTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Reports &
Accounts for 2023

COMMERCIAL STREET
GRIFFITHSTOWN
NP4 5JF

Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts

for the year ending 31st December 2023

Minister:

Rev Jon Dickerson (until May)

Moderator

Rev Harry Place

Officers & Deacons:

Mrs M Jones (Secretary)

Mr N Snook (Treasurer)

Mrs J Cocks

Mrs B Harris

Mrs B Humphry

Mrs S Jones

Mr K Harris

Independent Examiners

Mr A Loose

Mrs S Pitten

Secretary's Report

It's hard to believe it has been a year since I wrote my first report as secretary. 2023 has been a mixed year for our Church. January saw the announcement of Jon and Naomi leaving us to go to Richmond Road as their new minister. Although this was initially met with much sadness the move has strengthened the friendship between us and Richmond Road. This has led to many more joint ventures between the Churches allowing us to reach out to both the communities of Pontnewydd and Griffithstown. Richmond Road now hosts Messy Church supported by volunteers from Griffithstown, whilst we host Holiday Club supported by Richmond Road volunteers.

During the early part of the year we enjoyed the last few months of Jon's ministry and began to prepare for his departure. May saw celebrations across the country with the Coronation of King Charles III. This weekend was a joyous celebration within the life of our Church. We held our own Coronation celebrations with Afternoon Tea, fun and games. This culminated on the Sunday with Jon and Naomi's last service followed by a farewell lunch. There were many people involved in the organisation of this and I would like to personally thank all of those people for their hard work and a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. July saw the return of our annual holiday club, supported for the first time by Richmond Road. This year's club was called Pyramid Rock set in Egypt and the theme was based around the story of Joseph. Once again we saw very good attendance and everyone had a great time. It's been lovely to see two of the children and members of their families joining us regularly at Sunday services ever since. In October, we celebrated our Harvest service, followed by a Harvest lunch. This was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with another big thank you to all those who organised it.

As a time of pastoral vacancy approached the deacons reached out to our Regional Minister Rev Mark Fairweather-Tall for his guidance to start the process of an interregnum. He met with the deacons and chaired our Church Meetings until we found a suitable moderator. His wisdom and guidance were invaluable as we navigated the tricky waters of starting a Pastoral Vacancy. He also guided us towards our moderator Rev Harry Place. The deacons and myself would like to thank him for his help and guidance. Rev Harry Place joined us as moderator in October and we have been grateful for the experience and wisdom he brings to the role. I like to encourage all Church Members to pray for the Deacons and our Moderator as we seek God's guidance for the future of our Church.

Our pastoral vacancy has given us the opportunity to hear different preachers every week. Filling the pulpit each week is not an easy job and I would like to thank Howard Jones and Andrew Loose for their willingness to take on this role. We have been blessed to hear different perspectives and messages throughout our pastoral vacancy. I pray that we will continue to be blessed as we listen each week to what God has prepared for us.

Changes in BU rules and regulations have meant that 2023 saw an increase in paperwork and policies that were necessary to run the Church within the guidance of the law. The trustees and a number of people working with our young people attended Safeguarding Training. This is the beginning of an ongoing process to ensure we are following all current guidelines to protect our children and vulnerable adults. Our November Church meeting agreed to our new Safeguarding Policy. The policy will see a change in the way some of our Church groups, activities and procedures will function. Initially it appears like a lot of change, and we are aware that change can be challenging. However, safeguarding is the responsibility of all Church Members, it is a legal requirement and ensures the safety of everybody who enters our building. It is in place to protect the most vulnerable within our society as well as those working with them. It will be a new way of

working, but once the policies and paperwork are all in place it won't have a huge impact on the day to day running of groups. We ask that you continue to uphold all those involved in the implementing and maintaining of the policies in your prayers.

Despite the pastoral vacancy, the groups of the Church have continued to go from strength to strength. Each of the groups will have written their own reports and I don't want to repeat them. The Renew group that Naomi talked to us about last year has started alongside craft and has been a good outreach to the community. Through the links with Opening Doors Torfaen we have had a new handrail fitted down the side of the Church. This has also made other links with groups in the community. We hope that Craft & Renew will continue to meet the needs of our community and that new people will join them. Quiz nights have continued to test our general knowledge, with Howard Powell providing challenging questions. We look forward to their return during the lighter nights.

Prayer groups continue to uphold the Church in prayer during the uncertain time of pastoral vacancy. They take place on Sunday morning at 10:30am in the backroom of the Church and Wednesday at 10am via zoom. Prayer is a vital part of Church life and Church membership. You are always welcome to join a prayer meeting. There is no pressure to pray out loud, just your presence would be appreciated and valuable. So if you are able please consider supporting our Church in this vital ministry.

The work with our children and young people continues to be led by Rose, who works tirelessly each week to plan and resource both Sunday School and Sparks. The numbers on a Sunday are sporadic which makes it harder to plan for. This vital work plants seeds to maintain the future of the Church.

As we look forward to 2024 and what God has planned for us I pray that as a Church we would seek God's will and leading. We are blessed to have the guidance of a moderator who has much experience within Baptist Churches. We need to work together to be able to financially support a new minister as well as further God's Kingdom within our community.

Blessings

Michelle

RENEW@GBC & Craft Group Report

We are now in our second year as a reconstituted group. Our attendance numbers are constant, often in the low twenties, as we continue to be a place for shared conversation and activity, and the quiet, meditative encounter with God during times of prayer and reflection. In this way, the objectives of the Renew Wellbeing ethos of Being Present, Being Prayerful, Being in Partnership, is being fulfilled.

This year has been a good year. Our crafting skills have produced knitted baby hats for The Grange Hospital Neonatal Unit; bags to hold drip bags for cancer patients at The Royal Gwent Hospital; a knitting project for Growing Spaces, the community group based at Nant Bran in Upper Cwmbran. Other weekly activities have included card making, craft for the Christmas Fayre, 1000-piece jigsaws, while some have been introduced to the techniques for learning the skills of crochet.

Meals form an integral part of our group; in December, we again went to The Star in Ponthir for our Christmas meal and also had two afternoon teas. The first on the final Tuesday before we stopped for the summer, and the second was a surprise celebration for Anne Withey to celebrate her significant birthday. This was complemented by a poem read by Marj Powell, written by her especially for Anne's birthday afternoon tea and to celebrate their many years of friendship.

Being in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council as providers of a safe place and space within the community, has resulted in a new handrail down the side of the church, and a generous grant for community support use, from which resources have and will be used to aid the group benefiting the community and fulfilling its ethos. Consequently, the temporary screens around the Prayer Space, two halves of a table-tennis table covered with duvets have been replaced with collapsible wicker screens. The Prayer Space itself was re-located to the opposite corner of the room following a decluttering of redundant games equipment.

We look forward to the new year, continuing to not only maintain our numbers and deepen and broaden our own friendship, but also to welcome more from the locality to add to those who have discovered our group as a safe place, perhaps even a refuge where they have found a genuine welcome, friendship and ready conversation.

The same open invitation with which we closed last year's report is repeated, namely to join with us on a Tuesday afternoon between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and to encourage you to make us known amongst your family and friends who may be lonely, in need of some company and a lift.

Sylvia Powell and Howard Jones

Children's Work Report

Junior Church

The numbers on a Sunday morning are sporadic, mainly due to the fact that some of our families are shift workers. We have two groups, the Creche and the Primary sections, which includes a couple of year 7/8 comp children as well. Older teenagers who attend like to stay in the service. Many thanks to Karen Dorling who faithfully helps out each week.

Sparks

The Sparks session takes place on Thursday evenings during term time and has been running since September 2022. Our regular leaders have been Rose Martin, Denise Colcombe, Karen Dorling, Ruth Osman and Marilyn Jones. We have around 10 children on the register, though numbers vary from week to week. We do not charge for the club, but have a donation box.

We play games related to the theme for the week and have Bible based stories or teaching presented using various mediums, including story books, video clips, drama, puppets, practical demonstrations etc. This is followed by a craft activity, prayer time and refreshments.

Topics 2023/2024

We follow the same topics in both Sunday School and Sparks.

We began 2023 by exploring the theme of creation. Over two terms we enjoyed learning about how God made our wonderful world. In Sparks, at the beginning of the summer term, we had a family session where we shared what the children had been learning about, played games based on different aspects of creation and enjoyed party food together.

Before the summer holidays in Sparks, we had another family session where the children performed the story of The Very Selfish Elephant, which was enjoyed by everyone.

In September, we began a topic on The Fruit of the Spirit. We used a sock puppet, Squirmy the Worm, and his various puppet friends, including Clarence the Caterpillar, Milly the Monkey, Aurora the Puppy and Billy Bear, to introduce each of the nine fruit of the Spirit over the autumn term. Each of the spiritual fruit was accompanied with opportunities to enjoy edible fruit, so this went down very well! During the first few weeks, Clarence disappeared into a cocoon which was displayed each week. In October, both Sunday School and Sparks enjoyed a visit from Patch the Pumpkin and his friends, emphasising the fruit of kindness. (Pumpkin heroes is an alternative to Halloween produced by World Vision.)

Our year ended with a family Christmas Party where Sparks and Sunday School joined together. The children performed a wonderful Christmas sketch entitled 'Trimming the Tree', which Denise had put together. There was also great excitement as Clarence the caterpillar emerged from his cocoon having undergone a very dramatic change. We talked about how we too become a new creation when we accept Jesus into our lives.

The first session back in 2024 finished off the Fruit of the Spirit topic with painting butterflies to go on our display boards. Please take the time to enjoy these, one in the Sunday School room and one in the hall downstairs. For the rest of this term, we are going to be exploring The Armour of God.

Rose Martin

Prayer Group Report

Dear Deacons, Members and Friends,

We have been blessed with our prayer time on a Wednesday morning. We are about 10-12 in number. We have had the privilege of praying for many people who have personally asked for prayer. It would be such a blessing if others would like to join us on a Wednesday morning from 10-10:30.

Every Blessing

Babs & Sue

Christmas Fayre Report

The Christmas Fayre went well, with a constant flow of customers. The final total was £1003.03. From this we made donations to Home Mission, B.M.S, World Vision, Link to Hope, also gifts of biscuits to the housebound. Our usual Father Christmas was unable to don the suit this year, due to work commitments. A thank you to Trevor Coulstock for kindly stepping into this important role.

A big thank you for all the hard work of the workshop team, also those who helped on the morning. It takes a lot of work setting up and taking down the stalls, also the moving of large boxes, so a big thank you has to go to the men who took on this task.

Thank you to all who came to support us on the morning, next year the workshop team would appreciate seeing a few more of our church family at the Fayre, showing their support for all the hard work, such a project entails.

Janet Day

Bible Connect Report

Since February 2023, Bible Connect now meets every two weeks on a Monday via Zoom. We continue to meet at 10.30 am and the study lasts about an hour.

Bible study is important for all of us. It instructs, corrects and encourages us. It deepens our understanding of God and develops our relationship with Him.

If you would like to join us, please contact me and I will give you the dates of our meetings. It would be lovely to see you.

Every Blessing

Sue

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, GRIFFITHSTOWN

Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2023

Main Account Income & Expenditure

INCOME:

<i>Offering</i>	£	£
Closed	12,244.70	
Open	5,710.07	
Standing Order / Bank Transfer	<u>25,630.00</u>	43,584.77

Donations / Miscellaneous

Holiday Club	709.10	
Coffee Morning	632.25	
Leaving Present Rev J. Dickerson	320.00	
Weddings and Funerals	570.00	
Donation for Renew WellBeing	200.00	
World Vision	1,194.00	
Manse Rent	3,600.00	
Messy Church	39.00	
Quiz Night - Water Aid	462.20	
Torfaen Borough Council-Holiday Club	200.00	
Torfaen Voluntary for Renew	3,000.00	
Coronation Tea - Donation	30.00	
Donation - Elaine Meredith in memory	300.00	
Food Bank - Harvest	45.00	
Manse Council Tax Refund	463.40	
Manse Insurance Refund	143.01	
Probus Donations	150.00	
On Line / Card Reader Donations	<u>158.79</u>	12,216.75

Income Tax Recovered

Gift Aid Declaration	<u>7,397.68</u>	<u>7,397.68</u>
		<u>63,199.20</u>

EXPENDITURE:**NOTES:**

		£	£
Ministry	1	16,841.34	
Upkeep of Church	2	10,037.55	
Upkeep of Manse	3	7,951.25	
Home Mission		1,500.00	
BMS		1,500.00	
Donations	4	2,373.00	
Holiday Club		1,014.47	
Nic's Cleaning		763.23	
Flowers		37.75	
Sunday School		0.00	
Coffee Morning		146.69	
Messy Church		82.27	
Renew / Craft		402.80	
Miscellaneous Expenses	5	<u>4,062.75</u>	46,713.10
<i>Administration Costs</i>			
Printing / Stationery / Postage		<u>1,521.01</u>	1,521.01
<i>Other Payments</i>			
Church Kitchen / Meals / Refreshments		<u>178.94</u>	178.94
			<u>48,413.05</u>
Surplus/Deficit for the year			14,786.15
Balance Brought forward from Previous Year			<u>6,757.63</u>
Balance Carried forward at End of Year			<u>21,543.78</u>
December Bank Statement Balance			21,200.01
Uncleared/Uncashed Items			<u>-343.77</u>
			<u>21,543.78</u>

Notes to the Accounts

	£
1. MINISTRY	
Pastor's Stipend	8,616.65
NIC.	1,538.70
Pension	4,490.72
Baptist Pension Shortfall	12.00
Tax	1,189.20
Moderator / Minister Expenses	50.00
Pulpit Supply	944.07
	<u>16,841.34</u>
2. UPKEEP OF CHURCH	
Utilities	5,809.67
Insurance	3,614.40
Broadband	395.82
Maintenance	217.66
	<u>10,037.55</u>
3. UPKEEP OF MANSE	
Utilities	1,755.69
Insurance	750.76
Council Tax	2,138.31
Maintenance	3,306.49
	<u>7,951.25</u>
4. DONATIONS	
World Vision	1,265.80
Cariad Kenya	600.00
Quiz Night - Water Aid	462.20
Food Bank - Harvest	45.00
	<u>2,373.00</u>

Notes to the Accounts (contd.)

5. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	£
SWBA Subscriptions	245.00
BU Subscriptions	360.50
CCLI	770.28
Offering Envelopes	0.00
Waveley Fire & Security Ltd - Annual Check	175.00
Bank Charges	198.99
Church Cleaning Materials	14.65
Zoom License 2023	143.88
Proclaim License 2023	248.84
Leaving Present Rev J. Dickerson	545.70
Coronation Party & Jon's Leaving Lunch	446.41
Ubiquity - Church Website	204.00
Safeguarding Courses	180.00
Christmas Selecton Boxes / Decorations / Candles	512.51
90th B'day Card & Gift	16.99
	<hr/>
	4,062.75

Santander Account Income & Expenditure

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
		B/F	45,020.95
Interest Sep 2022 to Sep 2023	258.42		45,279.37
		C/F	<u>45,279.37</u>

Report of the Independent Examiners to the Members
of
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Griffithstown

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, we have examined the Receipts, Payments & Accounts of Ebenezer Baptist Church set out on Pages 1-5 relating to the Year ended 31st December 2023. We confirm that the Accounts and Statement accord with the Accounting Records of the Church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. We are not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Signed 

Name: Mrs Sandra Pitten

Address:
 6 East View
 Pontypool
 NP4 5DW

Date: 6th February 2024

Signed 

Name: Mr Andrew Loose

Address: The Cedars
 65 Sunnybank Road
 Pontypool
 NP4 5LN

Date: 6th February 2024

Home Mission

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/23	11.64	Home Mission	100.00
Donations	5.89		
Boxes	60.15		<u>100.00</u>
Workshop	100.00	Balance @ 31/12/22	77.68
	<u>177.68</u>		<u>177.68</u>

Baptist Missionary Society

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/23	9.70	BMS	100.00
Boxes	5.65		
Donations	10.00		<u>100.00</u>
Workshop	100.00		
	<u>125.35</u>	Balance @ 31/12/23	25.35
			<u>125.35</u>

BMS Birthday Scheme

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/23	123.50	Cheque to BMS	300.00
Donations	335.00		
			<u>300.00</u>
	<u>458.50</u>	Balance @ 31/12/23	158.50
			<u>458.50</u>

Christmas Fayre/Workshop

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/23	902.33	Home Mission	100.00
Cash in hand @ 1/1/23	54.73	BMS	100.00
Christmas Fayre	1003.03	World Vision	36.00
		Goods	57.42
		Goods	83.22
			<u>376.64</u>
	<u>1960.09</u>	Balance @ 31/12/23	1583.45
			<u>1960.09</u>

Craft

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 1/1/23	88.60	Postage	33.83
Money for meal	718.60	Christmas meal deposit	165.00
		Christmas meal	421.00
			<hr/> 619.83
	<hr/> 807.20	Balance @ 31/12/23	<hr/> 187.37
			<hr/> 807.20

Membership Numbers

Membership 1st January 2023	87
Admissions	1
	<hr/>
	88
Dismissals:	
To Association List	17
By Transfer	4
Called Home	2
	<hr/>
Membership 31st December 2023	65

Members called home:

Joan Horton
Vi Wallace

Dates for your diary

Friday 29 th March	Good Friday	10:30am
Sunday 31 st March	Easter Sunday	11am
Sunday 28 th April	148 th Church Anniversary	11am
Tuesday 14 th May	Church Meeting	11am
Sunday 19 th May	Pentecost	11am
Sunday 28 th July	Holiday Club	11am
Tuesday 30 th July	Church Meeting	7pm
Tuesday 17 th September	Church Meeting	7pm
Sunday 29 th September	Harvest	11am
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Sunday	11am
Tuesday 19 th November	Church Meeting	7pm
Sunday 22 nd December	Carols by Candlelight	5:30pm
Tuesday 24 th December	Carols Around the Tree	5:30pm
Wednesday 25 th December	Christmas Day Celebration	10:30am

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, GRIFFITHSTOWN

England & Wales - Charity number 1197909

Accounts

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Griffithstown Baptist Church. The building is constructed from light-colored stone with a prominent gabled roof. The central entrance is arched and features a decorative pediment. On either side of the entrance are tall, narrow arched windows. A metal fence with decorative finials runs across the foreground in front of the church steps.

GRIFFITHSTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Reports &
Accounts for 2022

COMMERCIAL STREET
GRIFFITHSTOWN
NP4 5JF

Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts

for the year ending 31st December 2022

Minister:

Rev Jon Dickerson

Officer & Deacons:

Mrs M Jones (secretary)

Mr N Snook (treasurer)

Mrs J Cocks

Mrs B Harris

Mrs B Humphry

Mrs S Jones

Independent Examiners

Mr A Loose

Mrs S Pitten

Minister's Report

2022, was a strange year, both for me and in the life of the church. A little broken up and disjoined if we are honest. Mainly because it marked the 7th year of my ministry here at Griffithstown, and so after the stresses of lockdown it was time for my first sabbatical. Three months away from the everyday ministry of the church. But which also meant a selection of other ministers and preachers to lead our services for 13 weeks from August to November. It was also, unknowingly, a year of 'lasts'.

2022 started off badly, with lockdown upon us once more, but only for a few weeks, hopefully this will be the last time that will happen. But by February we were back in church on a Sunday morning, remaining on Zoom on a Sunday evening.

Our permanent return to the building in the mornings was greeted with much joy among most, being able to worship together unrestricted by social distancing was a great delight. Even morning refreshments were once again indulged in after the service.

Having begun Messy Church, the previous Christmas we decided to hold another to coincide with the weekend of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. We welcomed families to share how Jesus was King, not just of a nation or a commonwealth, but the King of Kings, the king of everything. Great fun was had with games and craft.

Everyone then joined together in the church for an afternoon tea to celebrate. A huge thank you to all those who baked, donated jam and cream, helped decorate and also serve the food, it was a great time had by all.

Keith and I decided during lockdown that we would write our own Holiday club, and 2022 was the year it came to life. 'Starship Command' was born, journeying each day to a distant planet to recover a Bible story that had been lost in space. The church was duly transformed into our spaceship and despite a few niggles from wire chewing Aliens that Keith and I managed to dispose of with water pistols, everything went well. Nearly 70 children from the local area joined us each day.

Can I say again, a huge thank you to Keith and Clare, to Nigel for running Proclaim, and to all the helpers who gave up their time to help.

Three months of sabbatical followed, an opportunity to step back and consider parts of ministry that I hadn't before. As I shared upon return I looked at Digital Ministry and how this is a vital area for the church to grow into.

Upon returning Christmas was nearly upon us. Again, the first time we would have normal services over Christmas for a number of years.

It is always busy at Christmas, made more so as at the last minute Griffithstown Primary asked if I could take their School Carol Services after being let down elsewhere. I was also asked to lead the Christmas Assembly at Ysgol Panteg, where I serve as a governor. And we even added a Christmas messy Church in to the mix as well. So after many renditions of the Nativity story, some sensible, some silly, it was time for our Carol Services.

Both were a great success, as we were determined to make Carols Around the Tree on Christmas Eve the messiest that we'd ever done. And I think we can safely say, we certainly succeeded in that aim. It was wonderful to welcome so many non-church people from the community to share the joy of Christmas.

This year we also added a new idea, Jon's Wheel of Carols made it's debut. A fun morning of carols, games, thoughts and stories followed. I am pleased to say that this is an idea that has already been asked for by churches around the country, I have been told that even Churches Together in Barrow-In-Furness will be running one this year!

As I won't get to write a report next year, I will finish with January 2023 as well.

It came as a surprise to some to hear that Naomi and I will be moving on from Griffithstown this year. This meant that those successes from last year would prove to be the last ones we would share with you as a church.

We both feel that we have journeyed as far as we can with the church and were being called on to a new challenge, to use the gifts God has given us in a new setting. My belief is that as well as calling us on, He will also have the right person to enable you t

o grow in your calling and mission, both as individuals and as a church.

Every Blessing

Jon

Secretary's Report

The start of 2022 saw the Church, and country, in temporary lockdown and therefore the Church meeting again via zoom. It also saw Janat's last months as secretary before I took on the mantle following February's Church meeting. Janat worked hard as secretary for many years and I would like to thank her for her commitment and dedication to the Church over her many years of service.

Following the temporary lockdown, we were once again able to meet in person and throughout the year return to more 'normality' with the re-introduction of refreshments after the service. Quiz nights have resumed and are generally well attended with donations going to their chosen charities. Thank you to Howard Powell for planning the quizzes and testing the grey cells.

A new venture for the Church this year was to set up a RENEW wellbeing café. Naomi shared with the Church meeting, the work of the RENEW charity and their aim to set up a safe space where 'it's okay to not be okay'. With a growing mental health crisis in our country it is heartening to know that we as a Church have a small way of helping people in their time of need, as well as encouraging people into the Church in a 'non-threatening' environment.

Nationally, the year was one of highs and lows, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee then sadly, mourning her passing. As a church we were able to combine Messy Church with the jubilee to celebrate. We enjoyed fun and games at Messy Church followed by a delicious afternoon tea. Thank you to everybody who organised the event and made the food. It was so lovely to be together again, celebrating after such a long period of being unable to be together, let alone eating together. We mourned Her Majesty's passing as a Church by laying the communion table with a black cloth and a portrait of HRH Queen Elizabeth. We also chose sombre hymns for two weeks as a mark of respect. Thank you to Keith for his help in organising this.

Jon had been with us seven years and the intensity of lockdown left Jon needing physical, spiritual and emotional refreshing. This was the perfect time for him to take his sabbatical. We had 3 months where we were able to listen to different preachers share God's word with us. I personally would like to thank Naomi for the support she offered to myself and the deacons during Jon's sabbatical. Jon came back and shared with us the reading he had done around what it means to be a 'Digital Church'. Jon was keen to emphasise that this is not a replacement for a physical church but it is the way forward for the future. We live in a digital society and to find out any information, the vast majority of people will reach for their phones and 'Google it'. Unless we have an online presence, we will be passed by and our Church may not see new members.

Harvest was a quieter celebration than normal but still enjoyable. We shared a picnic lunch after the morning service with plenty of tea and coffee. We hope to organise a bigger Harvest celebration this year.

Christmas saw the return of our usual in-person services. Carols by candlelight, although not as well attended as pre-COVID, was still popular and a fitting celebration of the birth of Jesus. Carols around the tree on Christmas Eve saw Keith and Jon turn the Church into a kitchen and the two of them creating a 'Christmas Cake'. Fun was had by all who attended, but most importantly the message of Christmas was spread in a fun, accessible way to all. Christmas morning attendance was small but again another celebration of the birth of our Lord.

Technically this report is supposed to end in December 2022 but I cannot end without mentioning the news of January 2023. Jon and Naomi have decided that it is time for them to move on and use their gifts and talents in a new way. Jon has formally resigned and will be leaving us in early May. I would like to wish Jon and Naomi every blessing as they step forward into their next adventure and thank them for all their hard work and support they have given to the church. They will be sorely missed and their ministries will leave lasting memories.

As a Church we face an uncertain future at the moment and there will be many searching questions that we need to ask of ourselves as we move forward. We are called to work to further God's Kingdom and make disciples. This needs to be at the heart of everything we do as a Church. We cannot sit back and think 'someone else will do it'. Everybody has a part to play and if we are not a growing church then we are a dying church. I pray God's guidance on the deacons and Church as we navigate a path to the future.

Michelle

RENEW@GBC & Craft Group Report

Following the return from the enforced layoff due to Covid, the resumption of the Craft Group meeting has taken a significant change to now be part of the national Renew church-based organization, of which Revd Naomi Dickerson is the South Wales Area Co-ordinator. The concept of Renew is to provide a safe place for anyone, whether from the church or the community who are lonely and/or feeling the pressures of life, where they can know that's ok not to be ok. Significantly, some Renew groups in other parts of the country have had unchurched community members begin to attend church as a result of the relationship of trust and friendship they'd formed there.

Renew@GBC is a new venture for the church, complementing the object of the Craft Group but with the addition of a short time of led reflective prayer in a quiet space. We continue to meet on a Tuesday when the bringing and sharing crafts continues to be encouraged, and of course accompanied by the obligatory sharing of conversation, tea and biscuits. Our existence has been made known on social medial and the local doctors surgery plus we have made initial contact with Torfaen's Growing Space project based at Nant Bran in Upper Cwmbran. Regrettably, as yet no one from the Community has turned up but we live in hope that that will change.

Just before Christmas, we enjoyed a very good Christmas meal at a venue new for us, The Star at Ponthir. After such a long time not being able to meet together as had been the practice pre-covid, it came as a welcome relief.

We extend an invitation to any from the church who would like to join with us on Tuesday afternoon 1.30–3.30, and would encourage you make us known amongst your family and friends who may be lonely and/or in need of a lift and some company.

Sylvia Powell and Howard Jones

Children's Work Report

Junior Church

The numbers on a Sunday morning are sporadic, mainly due to the fact that some of our families are shift workers. The older comprehensive age young people like to stay in the service when they are there, rather than come out to Sunday School. Many thanks to Karen Dorling who faithfully helps out when there are children. We follow the same topic theme as Sparks, thus reinforcing the teaching of God's word.

Sparks

The Sparks session takes place on Thursday evenings during term time and has been running since September 2022. Our regular leaders are Rose Martin, Denise Colcombe, Ruth Osman and Karen Dorling. Our numbers have been gradually increasing and we currently see up to 10 children attending, though numbers vary from week to week. We do not charge for the club, but have a donation box. Parents/guardians and church members have been generous with donations of money and refreshments, for which we give thanks.

We begin the session with a game related to the theme for the week. We then have a Bible based story or teaching, presented using various mediums, including story books, video clips, drama, puppets, practical demonstrations etc. This is followed by a craft activity, prayer time and refreshments.

From September to November, we were focusing on the Parables of Jesus. This was followed by some sessions focusing on Christmas. Once a term we have a family session, where parents, grandparents and older/younger siblings can join us for games, stories, crafts and party food. Just before October half term this family session was based on World Vision's Pumpkin Heroes (a Christian alternative to Halloween), then at the beginning of this year we had a New Year party with a Christmas story themed treasure hunt. For the rest of this term, we will be focusing on 'Our Wonderful World', by looking at different aspects of God's creation.

Please let me know if you are willing to go on the list of on-call helpers, just in case our regular leaders are unable to make it.

Thank you and God Bless,

Rose

Prayer Group Report

A real blessing is had by those who regularly attend for prayer on a Tuesday morning at 10am. We urge others to join with us (you can be silent if you so wish)

We spend as a church about ONE hour a week in prayer. Therefore, how can we seek God's Will and purpose as a church with such little time spent in His presence?

It is said "a NON PRAYING church is a DYING church"

Prayer is also held in the lounge on a Sunday morning between 10-30 & 10-55. This time replaces 10am on Zoom

Blessings

Babs & Sue

Christmas Fayre Report

The Christmas Fayre went well even though attendance was down, which seems to be a theme of many things since lockdown.

The total taken at the fayre was £931.13. Again this year we gave gifts to the housebound, also donation to Home Mission, BMS, World Vision and Link to Hope.

A big thank you to all who helped with the success of the Fayre and all who came on the morning to show their support.

This year due to ill health, we were without Mrs Beryl Wood, one of our key workers. We give Beryl our best wishes and our thanks for all the dedication she has given, to not only workshop projects, but every aspect of Church life.

Janet Day

Bible Connect Report

Bible Connect continues to meet on Monday mornings at 10.30am via zoom.

We have 15 members, with an average of about 10 at each session.

Over the past year we have looked at Psalm 23, a study on Lent, the Beatitudes, Philippians and are presently studying Angels.

Our aim is to increase our knowledge of Scripture and to become more aware of what God wants for us in our journey with Him.

If anyone would like to join us please let me know. You will be more than welcome.

Every Blessing

Sue

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, GRIFFITHSTOWN

Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2022

Main Account Income & Expenditure

INCOME:

<i>Offering</i>		£	£
	Closed	12,867.68	
	Open	5,371.03	
	Standing Order / Bank Transfer	26,893.50	45,132.21
<i>Donations / Miscellaneous</i>			
	Holiday Club	682.50	
	Coffee Morning	508.92	
	BNP Paribas Rebate	167.96	
	Weddings and Funerals	170.00	
	Donation Memory Joan Haymond	250.00	
	World Vision	1,263.00	
	Probus	810.00	
	Messy Church	170.00	
	Anonymous Donation	500.00	
	Torfaen Borough Council-Holiday Club	200.00	
	BMS Ukraine Appeal	475.00	
	Quiz Night - Red Cross Ukraine Appeal	173	
	Christmas Fayre Workshop	1,000.00	
	Donation for Battery Replacement Lift	170.00	
	Quiz Night - Mercy Ships	128.00	
	Poppy Appeal	17.73	
	Connect - Donation for Photocopying	18.05	
	Anonymous Donation - Microphones	300.00	
	On Line / Card Reader Donations	93.29	7,097.45
<i>Income Tax Recovered</i>			
	Gift Aid Declaration	12,376.95	12,376.95
			64,606.61

EXPENDITURE:**NOTES:**

		£	£
Ministry	1	37,703.60	
Upkeep of Church	2	8,686.98	
Upkeep of Manse	3	3,405.44	
Home Mission		1,500.00	
BMS		1,500.00	
Donations	4	2,721.80	
Holiday Club		818.23	
Nic's Cleaning		712.75	
Flowers		10.00	
Sunday School		0.00	
Coffee Morning		399.61	
Sundry Expenses	5	<u>3,378.35</u>	60,836.76

Administration Costs

Printing / Stationery / Postage		<u>1,351.48</u>	1,351.48
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Other Payments

Church Kitchen / Meals / Refreshments		<u>156.26</u>	<u>156.26</u>
			<u>62,344.50</u>

Surplus/Deficit for the year			2,262.11
Balance Brought forward from Previous Year			<u>4,495.52</u>
Balance Carried forward at End of Year			<u>6,757.63</u>

December Bank Statement Balance			6,835.63
Uncleared/Uncashed Items			<u>78.00</u>
			<u>6,757.63</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. MINISTRY	£
Pastor's Stipend	19,386.80
NIC.	3,641.85
Pension	8,431.59
Baptist Pension Shortfall	3,192.36
Tax	2,447.00
Minister Expenses	0.00
Pulpit Supply	604.00
	<u>37,703.60</u>
2. UPKEEP OF CHURCH	
Utilities	4,044.60
Insurance	3,158.65
Broadband	370.41
Maintenance	1,113.32
	<u>8,686.98</u>
3. UPKEEP OF MANSE	
Utilities	376.00
Insurance	424.88
Council Tax	2,604.56
Maintenance	0.00
	<u>3,405.44</u>
4. DONATIONS	
World Vision	1,300.80
Cariad Kenya	600.00
BMS Ukraine Appeal	500.00
Red Cross Ukraine Appeal	173.00
Mercy Ships	128.00
Poppy Appeal	20.00
	<u>2,721.80</u>

Notes to the Accounts (contd.)

5. SUNDRY EXPENSES	£
SWBA Subscriptions	255.00
BU Subscriptions	416.50
CCLI	715.17
Offering Envelopes	132.81
Waveley Fire & Security Ltd – Annual Check	216.00
Bank Charges	223.24
Present for Janat Cocks	35.19
Square Card Reader	142.80
Web Site	204.00
Advent Candles	15.10
Christmas Items	70.65
PC for Church	414.00
Microphones	279.00
Christmas Selection Boxes	248.00
Christmas Wrapping Paper	10.89
	<hr/>
	3,378.35

Abbey 5 Star Account Income & Expenditure

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
		B/F	45,000.00
Interest Sep 2021 to Sep 2022	20.95		45,020.95
			45,020.95
		C/F	45,020.95

Report of the Independent Examiners to the Members
of
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Griffithstown


In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, we have examined the Receipts, Payments & Accounts of Ebenezer Baptist Church set out on Pages 1-5 relating to the Year ended 31st December 2022. We confirm that the Accounts and Statement accord with the Accounting Records of the Church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. We are not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Accounts.

Signed 

Name: Mrs Sandra Pitten

Address:
 6 East View
 Pontypool
 NP4 5DW

Date: 8th Feb 2023

Signed 

Name: Mr Andrew Loose

Address: The Cedars
 65 Sunnybank Road
 Pontypool
 NP4 5LN

Date: 8th Feb 2023

Expenses Budget 2023

Ministry	Stipend/Nic/Tax/Pension	£36,281
	Pension Shortfall	£12
	Minister's Expenses	£100
	Pulpit Cover	£600
Church Building	Utilities	£4,328
	Maintenance	£1,191
	Insurance	£3,380
	Broadband	£396
Manse		£3,644
Children's Work	Sunday School	£400
	Messy Church	£100
	Sparks	£100
	Flowers	£50
	Donations	£2,912
	Home Mission	£1,500
	BMS	£1,500
	SWBA & BU Subs	£719
	CCLI	£765
	Sundries	£3,615
	Cleaning	£713
	Kitchen	£700
	Refreshments Sunday	£250
	Holiday Club	£1,000
	Emergency Reserve	£1,000
	Technical	£500
	Printing/stationery	£1,446
	Total	<u>£67,201</u>

Average Required Income per Week =	£1,292
Average Monthly Income =	£5,600

N.B. Budget was drawn up prior to the Pastoral Vacancy, hence full stipend inclusion and limited Pulpit cover.

Home Mission

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 31/12/21	16.17	Home Mission	240
Donations	47.24		
Boxes	88.23		<u>240</u>
Workshop	100	Balance @ 31/12/22	11.64
	<u>251.64</u>		<u>251.61</u>

Baptist Missionary Society

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 31/12/21	62.10	24/5/22 BMS	140
Boxes	137.60	7/12/22 BMS	<u>150</u>
Workshop	100		290
	<u>299.70</u>	Balance @ 31/12/22	9.70
			<u>299.70</u>

BMS Birthday Scheme

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 31/12/21	136.50	Cheque to BMS	300
Donations	477	Cheque to BMS	<u>190</u>
	<u>613.50</u>		490
		Balance @ 31/12/22	<u>123.50</u>
			<u>613.50</u>

Craft/RENEW @ GBC

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance @ 31/12/21	147.75	Postage	15.80
Donations	10	Deposit for meal	100
Weekly payments	<u>279.40</u>	Meal @ Star	267.70
	<u>437.15</u>	Cash in hand	88.60
Miscellaneous	<u>34.95</u>		
	<u>472.10</u>		<u>472.10</u>

Membership 2022

Membership January 2022	86
Admissions	<u>2</u>
	<u>88</u>
Dismissals	
By Death	1
	<u>87</u>
Membership @ December 2022	
Member called home Nancy Knight	