

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 25th August 2023. This is the first annual report from Whitehouse Church since the Church was officially registered as a charity on 26th August 2022. This report and the financial statements comply with the Church's governing document, applicable law and the requirements of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Constitution and Objectives

Whitehouse Church is registered with the Charities Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO") registration number 1200199, operating as a place of worship. The primary function of our 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". The activities of Whitehouse Church, overseen by the Trustees, focus on three principal values: 'Faith' - promoting and living out the Christian faith; 'Community' - a church rooted in and seeking to build the community of Whitehouse and 'Generosity' - sharing God's unconditional love through giving and service to the Whitehouse community.

Formation and organisation

In November 2019 Whitehouse Church was 'planted out' from the long-established Loughton Baptist church into Whitehouse on the western edge of Milton Keynes, a new housing estate growing eventually to over 4,300 homes. At that point the Church comprised 12 adult church members including the newly graduated Minister, Tony McGinley who was funded by Loughton Baptist Church on a part-time basis while studying. During 2022 the Church applied to become a CIO aligned with the Baptist Union of GB, registering in August with 3 founding Trustees including the Minister. At a special church meeting in September 2022 the members (known as the Core Team) voted to take on full responsibility for the Minister's salary (stipend) as a full-time Church employee on an open-ended contract. In July 2023 Whitehouse Church was formally welcomed into the Central Baptist Association at their AGM. Whitehouse Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and like most British Baptist churches is an independent charity.

Whitehouse Church does not own or lease land or property and meets weekly at Whitehouse Primary school, hiring the school hall for services every Sunday morning and since early 2023 has been hiring an additional room for our Youth group to meet on Sundays.

During the reporting period a further 12 adults were voted into membership by the 'Core Team' bringing the total number of members to 24. The ultimate control of the Church is vested in the Church members (known as 'Core Team members'). The members meet at least four times a year to discharge their business responsibilities. Day to day management of the Church's affairs is performed by the Minister, Elders and Trustees. The number of Trustees and Elders is determined by the Church

Members' Meeting from time to time; the Minister and 2 members were elected as founding Trustees and two Elders (also Trustees) were elected in March 2023.

The following served as Trustees during this reporting period

Tony William McGinley (appointed 7th August 2022)

Albertus Mynhardt Kitshoff (appointed 7th August 2022, resigned 2nd July 2023)

Andrew James Ware (Chair of Trustees - appointed 7th August 2022)

Charles Park (appointed 5th March 2023)

Clare Elizabeth Ware (appointed 5th March 2023)

The registered address of the Church, where the trustees may be contacted, is through the Church Secretary at 9 Farinton, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, MK8 8ES.

Church activities and achievements

Whitehouse Church is open to all members of the public of all ages and backgrounds, as advertised regularly on our website and social media channels. We enjoy being a welcoming and energetic church family of great diversity with members from many varied cultural and geographical backgrounds. Regular Church attendance has grown considerably from around 30 – 40 per Sunday in late 2022 to around 60 adults and children in late 2023. In June 2023 we were delighted to celebrate 5 baptisms (2 adults and 3 young people) at Loughton Baptist Church. Our age-appropriate Children's and Youth work on Sundays has also grown in line with overall church growth, with the youth work growing from 6 to 16 young people.

During this period the Minister has led the church through an accessible and stimulating bible-based teaching programme. Services have been greatly enhanced by the formation of a 'live' worship group who lead singing of contemporary worship songs twice a month - on other Sunday's downloaded songs are used. Further innovations have included two hugely popular 'Messy Church' services for Christmas and Easter when we welcomed families of primary and pre-school aged children (over 120 people) to join in with accessible, fun services that have included themed crafts, activities, songs, a talk and a free lunch. Other new initiatives have included an occasional 'Bible reading together' course for participants to increase their bible knowledge and monthly Men's Prayer Breakfasts and Women's Prayer group. We have introduced a sensory play area for the babies and toddlers accessed by up to 10 families to ensure that they feel part of the service and to ease the strain on parents.

We have occasionally adjusted our Sunday programme to also celebrate Christmas day in 2022 (with guests from the Whitehouse Turkish Muslim community) and met at school on Good Friday for a reflective service. Our church ministry has extended further into the community through weekly bible study and prayer in our home-based 'Connect Group' and regular Prayer walks through Whitehouse estate from Oct 2022 onwards.

Underpinning all church ministries and activities is a small, dedicated team of five Trustees comprising the Minister, two Elders, Church Treasurer and Secretary who between them have responsibility for governance matters and meet regularly to oversee church objectives. These include complying with Charity Commission and Baptist Union requirements and developing policies and processes to deliver them including new safeguarding and health and safety policies. Further policies will be developed and adopted in the coming year. Safeguarding has rightly been a key focus this year with a designated Safeguarding Trustee, Lead person and deputy being appointed and 2 trustees and 10 volunteers who work with children/youth have been DBS checked and participated in the BU

‘Excellence in Safeguarding’ training during this period. The Minister is the only paid staff member, so all Core Team members are encouraged to contribute gifts of time (and money) and we rely on many volunteers to deliver our objectives and activities; we are constantly grateful for their support. All trustees are in employment so their availability is limited and the Church Treasurer (finance trustee) resigned due to work pressures during the reporting year. The trustees appreciated the Treasurer’s contributions, particularly in setting up the CIO and were only able to replace him with a new treasurer in November 2023. This situation has inevitably limited the capacity of trustees to make further progress on developing policies, but we have ensured that rigorous and transparent financial systems and procedures have been put in place. In our second year we aim to prioritise developing other essential policies and setting up systems for more regular activity and budget planning and monitoring.

Community charitable activities

We have enjoyed a close relationship with the Whitehouse Primary school including the Minister providing occasional assemblies. As a joint initiative in early 2023, funded and organised by Whitehouse Church, we started a monthly ‘Pop-up Larder’ at the Primary School (term times) where any parents in need can select up to 3 household food or hygiene items for free with no obligation. Once a term we provided quality doughnuts to the teachers at Whitehouse Primary and Secondary schools as a gift to appreciate and encourage them.

In 2021 and again in December 2022, we organised the estate wide ‘Living Advent Calendar’ trail with 24 householders volunteering to decorate their homes with several turning the ‘switch on’ into a social occasion. We have established, subsidised and organised an extremely popular weekly Monday night football session on the Watling Street Academy astroturf pitches with over 100 Whatsapp group members, in part to support the physical and mental health of players (mostly local young men). During August as an alternative to weekly services we hosted community picnics in a local park every Sunday. We joined the Whitehouse Community Council organised Coronation picnic as a church group in May 2023 and booked a pitch to provide free games and competitions for the late Summer Fete in September 2023.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Ware', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signature:

Full name: Andrew James Ware

Position: Chair

Date: 15/06/2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 26/08/2022 TO 25/08/2023

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

	Note	Total at 25/08/2023
Receipts		
Weekly offerings		£49,644.48
Donations and other income	2	£9,465.00
Income tax recovered on gifts		N/A
Investment income	3	N/A
Rents and contributions for use of premises		N/A
Raised for other causes	4	N/A
Home Mission grant		N/A
Total Receipts		£59,109.48
Payments		
Ministry	5	£32,760.00
Mission	6	£12,509.28
Upkeep of church premises	7	N/A
Administration	8	£3,885.64
Amounts passed on to other causes		N/A
Total Payments		£49,154.92
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		£9,954.56
Cash balance at current year end		£69,031.68

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Note	Total at 25/08/2023
Assets		
Bank and other cash balances		
Bank Account 2		36,907.42
Bank Account 1		32,124.26
Other monetary assets:		
Debtors		N/A
Loans made		N/A
Gift aid claimed but not received		N/A
Investment Assets	9	N/A
Assets Held for Church's own use	10	N/A
Total Assets		69,031.68
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	11	N/A
Long Term Loans	12	N/A
Pension Scheme liability	13	N/A
Other liabilities	14	N/A
Total Liabilities		N/A

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages [1 & 2] relating to Whitehouse Church's reporting year ending 25/08/2023 are as approved by the Trustees.



Signed on behalf of all of the Trustees: Andrew David Wall (Church Treasurer)

27/04/2024

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. Donations and other income

	Total at 25/08/2023
Monday Night Football	4,557.50
Other Donations	4,897.50
Other Income	£10.00
Total Donations and Other Income	9,465.00

3. Investment income

N/A

4. Raised for Other causes

N/A

5. Ministry

	Total at 25/08/2023
Minister's stipend	£32,760.00
Employer National insurance	N/A
Minister's travel	N/A
Pulpit supplies	N/A
Manse costs	N/A
Other ministry [<i>detail if material</i>]	N/A
Total Ministry	£32,760.00

6. Mission

	Total at 25/08/2023
Donuts for Schools	£751.44
Pop up Larder	£514.58
Giving Other	£325.02
Monday Night Football Pitch Hire	£4,320.00
Monday Night Football Expenses	£600.00
Messy Church	£442.10
Bible reading together	£129.81
Church Core Meetings	£271.00
Refreshments	£88.73
Sunday School	£116.60
School Hall Hire	£4,320.00
Baptism	£450.00
Safeguarding	£180.00
Total Mission	£12,509.28

7. Upkeep of church premises

N/A

8. Administration

	Total at 25/08/2023
Insurances	£304.20
Legal Fees	£900.00
Operating Expenses	£598.49
Church Assets - iPad	£1842.95
Other general admin expenses	£240.00
Total Administration	£3,885.64

9. Investment Assets

N/A

10. Assets Held for the Church's own use

N/A

11. Current Liabilities

N/A

12. Long-Term Liabilities

N/A

13. Pension Scheme Liabilities

N/A

14. Other Liabilities [if applicable]

N/A

NOTES:

1. The financial statements of Whitehouse Church have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011. Therefore any depreciation of any assets has been excluded from the calculations.
2. Given this is the first year as a CIO, and previous months prior to this the church had an annual income of less than £100,000 this is the first annual report being created by the church.
3. The 'Fabric Fund' is an example of a 'designated' account and is used by many churches as a means of equalising repairs and maintenance costs over the years. Mission or Outreach accounts are further examples of 'designated' accounts. – This is not relevant to Whitehouse Church so has been removed.
4. The 'New Church Building Fund' is an example of a 'capital' (restricted) fund which is available only for a defined capital purpose. – This is not relevant to Whitehouse Church so has been removed.
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6. No other funds were raised for other causes therefore this section is blank.
7. Whitehouse church owns no buildings therefore the upkeep for church buildings has been left blank.
8. Whitehouse church has no investment assets therefore this section has been left blank.
9. Whitehouse Church has no current nor long term liabilities therefore these sections are also blank
10. The Independent Examiner's Report and Terms of Appointment document are attached as Appendices



Independent



Terms of

Examiners Report.pdf Appointment - Indepe

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Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Signature:

Full name: Andrew James Ware

Position: Chair

Date: 15/06/2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 26/08/2022 TO 25/08/2023

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

	Note	Total at 25/08/2023
Receipts		
Weekly offerings		£49,644.48
Donations and other income	2	£9,465.00
Income tax recovered on gifts		N/A
Investment income	3	N/A
Rents and contributions for use of premises		N/A
Raised for other causes	4	N/A
Home Mission grant		N/A
Total Receipts		£59,109.48
Payments		
Ministry	5	£32,760.00
Mission	6	£12,509.28
Upkeep of church premises	7	N/A
Administration	8	£3,885.64
Amounts passed on to other causes		N/A
Total Payments		£49,154.92
Net receipts / (payments) for the year		£9,954.56
Cash balance at current year end		£69,031.68

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	Note	Total at 25/08/2023
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Current Liabilities	11	N/A
Long Term Loans	12	N/A
Pension Scheme liability	13	N/A
Other liabilities	14	N/A
Total Liabilities		N/A

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Signed on behalf of all of the Trustees: Andrew David Wall (Church Treasurer)

27/04/2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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Other Income	£10.00
Total Donations and Other Income	9,465.00

3. Investment income

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Safeguarding	£180.00
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13. Pension Scheme Liabilities

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14. Other Liabilities [if applicable]

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Independent



Terms of

Examiners Report.pdf Appointment - Indepe

Template for Independent Examiners report (where independent examiner does not wish to highlight any issues)

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of WHITEHOUSE CHURCH

On the accounts for the year ended 25/08/2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church 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 the 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

Since the Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of [insert named of applicable listed body], which is one of the listed bodies. (Delete if income is less than £250,000)

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. (if accounts prepared on accruals basis)

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply*

Signed by or on behalf of the Examiner  Date 4/5/24

Name KEVIN SWEETMAN

Relevant Professional Qualification(s) or body (if any) N/A

Address 42 LONGMEAD GARDENS, HAVANT PO9 1RR