

Otford Evangelical Free Church Report of Activities 2023/24

Church life was somewhat different to previous years in that the pastor and his wife were given a three month Sabbatical from all church activities commencing 1st September. However, the church continued to be active in ministry throughout the year for the benefit of its members, its regular worshippers and the wider village community.

Sundays were given over to the worship of God and the nurturing of Christian faith through the systematic preaching of the Bible and the fostering of Christian fellowship. Provision for the children attending the church was made through twice monthly Bible times before the morning service. Wednesday church nights were given over to prayer, the sharing of news and discussion on Bible passages.

The church was also pleased to record in June its first believers' baptisms since 2007.

The church continued to be active in the community opening its doors the first Tuesday afternoon of every month to those in the village for a time of company, conversation, cake and coffee.

Every Friday morning during term time – the church offered a play group for mothers and carers of pre-school age children the popularity of which meant a booking system had to be introduced.

The church was also present at community events with stalls at the Coronation Celebration on the village green on 8th May and at the Otford Village Fete on 29th May providing activities for young children.

The church also continued to pursue its interest in Christian mission a highlight of which was the visit of the pastor and his wife to the Island of Madeira in October where the church is sponsoring the ministry of a church planting family in Funchal.



OTFORD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

End of Year Accounts

2023 - 24

Elaine Bracken

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2024

Receipts	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Donations	37,201	3,649	40,850	43,600
Gift Aid	8,129	947	9,076	17,877
Interest	1,756	0	1,756	539
Total receipts	47,086	4,596	51,682	62,015
Payments	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Ministry	40,174	0	40,174	36,465
Chapel	26,364	0	26,364	12,432
Adminstration	3,266	0	3,266	2,443
Donations	11,739	4,039	15,778	25,440
Church Life	1,226	0	1,226	2,114
Total payments	82,770	4,039	86,808	78,892
Net receipts over payments	(35,683)	557	(35,126)	(16,877)
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
Cash funds last year end	148,711	6	148,717	165,594
Cash funds this year end	113,027	563	113,590	148,717

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Cash & bank balances				
Bank current account	1	0	1	1
Bank interest account	112,619	542	113,161	148,486
Cash in hand	407	21	428	230
Totals	113,027	563	113,590	148,717
Other monetary assets	0	0	0	0
Investment assets	0	0	0	0
Assets retained for the charity's own use	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	0	0	0	0

Gifts to missionaries / individuals

	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Barnabas Fund - General	1,155	58	1,213	2,275
Barnabas Fund - Morocco	0	2,325	2,325	0
Barnabas Fund - Pakistan Flooding	0	0	0	1,453
Barnabas Fund - Ukraine	0	0	0	2,681
Children Alone	0	0	0	0
Compassion UK	390	0	390	462
CRIBS	578	0	578	1,050
Falconer Trust	462	0	462	840
GBM re Jason & Andrea Murfitt	2,310	0	2,310	4,300
Hospice of Hope	0	0	0	213
Individuals	489	0	489	475
International Mission to Jewish People	0	0	0	200
Kent Gospel Partnership	250	0	250	0
London City Mission	1,155	0	1,155	2,200
Open Air Mission	882	0	882	840
Retired Missionaries	0	0	0	250
Samaritans Purse	0	0	0	145
Samaritans Purse - Biosand Water Filter	0	0	0	966
Samaritans Purse - Earthquake	0	544	544	2,056
Samaritans Purse - Shoeboxes	0	0	0	340
SIM International UK	2,310	0	2,310	2,300
Tear Fund - Drought Appeal	0	0	0	43
Tear Fund - Earthquake	0	0	0	775
Tear Fund - Middle East Emergency Fund	0	875	875	0
Tear Fund - Ukraine	0	0	0	13
Toilet Twinning	180	0	180	0
UFM re Andrew & Jenny Love	578	0	578	1,050
World in Need - Marima	0	137	137	464
Benevolent	1,000	100	1,100	50
Totals	11,739	4,039	15,778	25,440

the Charity Commissioners (No 1202466) and constituted as Unincorporated Trust

The Church is affiliated to The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.

These accounts have been prepared on the "Receipts and Payments" basis and accord with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

Fixed Assets

The freehold land and Church building at 81 Pilgrims Way West, Otford, Kent TN14 5JH are vested in the names of the Church Trustees and insured in the sum of £747,006, contents are insured in the sum of £73,081. Other assets held by the Church for its use comprise seating, tables, storage units, catering equipment, piano, laptop, ipad and sound system, general furnishings, Bibles and hymn books together with sundry items of equipment for use in the maintenance of the Church building and grounds.

Ministry

Kevin Bracken's PAYE is administered by Stewardship Services.

Gift Aid

The Gift Aid and Gift Aid Small Donations amounts for gifts in the 2022/23 financial year were both claimed and received in the 2023/24 financial year. The Gift aid amounts for the previous year were higher due to Gift aid claimed for both 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Donations paid

The annual unrestricted donations for the 2023/24 financial year were increased for inflation. The donations for the previous year were higher due to late payment of the 2021/22 financial year unrestricted gifts.

Restricted Funds

The table below summarises the balances, receipts and payments for the restricted funds. The negative balances at the end of the previous year were anticipated Gift Aid which has now been received.

	Bal 2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfer from/ (to) Unrestricted	Bal 2024
Barnabas Fund - General	58	29	58		29
Barnabas Fund - Morocco	0	2,325	2,325		0
Barnabas Fund - Pakistan Flooding	(291)	291	0		0
Barnabas Fund - Ukraine	(24)	24	0		0
Benevolent	125	250	100		275
Samaritans Purse - Biosand Water Filter	(173)	173	0		0
Samaritans Purse - Earthquake	274	270	544		0
Samaritans Purse - Shoeboxes	0	59	0		59
Tear Fund - Drought Appeal	(9)	9	0		0
Tear Fund - Earthquake	(5)	5	0		0
Tear Fund - Middle East Emergency Fund	0	875	875		0
World in Need - Marima	51	287	137		201
Total	6	4,596	4,039	0	563

Payments to Trustees

There was no trustees' remuneration or other trustee benefits for the 12 months ending 31 March 2024 or for the previous financial year.

Expense Payments to Officers of the Church and their relations

Expense payments to officers of the church and their relations in the year 2023-24 amounted to £1012.08

Contingent Liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities for the current year.

**Signed on behalf of the Church
Trustees**

Trustee 1:

Date

Trustee 2:

Date

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Otford Evangelical Free Church

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on page 1 - 3.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

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



Name: Abigail Gardner

Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Accountant of the Chartered Institute of England and Wales

Address: 60 Magpie Hall, Bromley, Kent, BR2 8ER

Date: 14 July 2024