



**CIO Report to the Charity
Commissioners for the
year 2023**

Lymm Baptist Church

Charity Registration Number: 1203190

Registered 22 May 2023

Registered Address: Higher Lane, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0AZ

Charity Trustees:

Rev Jonathan Bramwell (Appointed 14 May 2023, Resigned 14 January 2024)

Rev Dr Chris Goswami (Appointed 14 May 2023)

Mr Peter Brandon (Appointed 14 May 2023, Resigned 24 March 2024)

Mr John Hall (Appointed Church Treasurer 23 July 2023)

Mr Scott McPhail (Appointed 2 November 2023)

Mrs Carol Best (Appointed Church Secretary 23 July 2023)

Mr Stephen R Evans (Appointed 24 March 2024)

Mrs Sarah Rotchell (Appointed 24 March 2024)

Mr Kevin Wisdell (Appointed 24 March 2024)

Mr George Green (Appointed 24 March 2024)

Mrs Jaskiran McPhail (Appointed 24 March 2024)

Trustees for the charity (property):

The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd

Baptist House

129, Broadway

Didcot

Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT

Bankers:

Co-operative Bank PLC

P O Box 101

1 Balloon Street

Manchester

M60 4EP

Independent examiners:

Mr J Aldersley

Mr N Harrison

Lymm Baptist Church: Annual Report to Charity Commissioners

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023

Financial Review

The 2023 accounts reflect the setting up of the new CIO. Between its inception in May 2023 and December 2023 the CIO was operational solely to ensure the set up and transfer of all assets, liabilities, roles and responsibilities from the existing Lymm Baptist Church charitable trust to the new CIO legal entity. The full transfer took place on 1st February 2024.

Financial detail is available from the accompanying accounts.

The following detail reflects the ongoing structure and activity of the church.

Structure, Governance and management:

Having made the decision to change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation this new charity was registered with the commission in May 2023. On 1 February 2024 all assets and liabilities of Lymm Baptist Church (previous charity number 1130935 now removed from the register) transferred to the new charity number 1203190.

Lymm Baptist Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a constitution. The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the principal purpose of the Church. The charity is set up with purposes which are exclusively charitable for the public benefit.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution. Also, in accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Trustees, comprising Ministers and leaders, who are collectively known as the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team is responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the Charity.

This report sets out how the charities purposes have been carried out for the public benefit. The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The Members' Meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by members in a Church Meeting for further consideration. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Objectives and Activities

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.

In order to achieve the principal purpose, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the wider community. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed, and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as Living Lord. Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 10.30am and once a month at 6.30pm. Communion of the Lord's Supper is observed once a

month at a morning and evening service. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community where everybody is welcome to attend any of the services.

There are also events, activities and services at other times which are advertised in the newsletters, by email, on the notice board in the church foyer, on the website at www.lyymbaptistchurch.com and on the church's Facebook page.

A full children's and youth programme is included in the morning services providing teaching together with arts and crafts relating to biblical stories and Christian experiences. The aim is to provide relevant activities and discussions that are fun, engaging and transforming - encouraging children to develop a relationship with God. There are also children's and youth activity groups taking place during the week.

The Church runs a number of small study groups for the nurture and growth of faith and discipleship, usually in the homes of church members. Regular church prayer meetings take place each week.

The Church has an effective pastoral ministry team, committed to love and care for those in the fellowship.

The Church engages in evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, supports & promotes charitable social action in the United Kingdom & abroad. It also encourages relationships with other Christians and supports the Baptist Union & the North Western Baptist Association.

The Church runs the following community-based activities.

At Lymm Baptist Church:

- weekly Toddler Groups, to provide a warm, safe, caring environment and share God's love, for pre-school children & their carers;
- a regular social evening for women, called 'Friends and Neighbours', to introduce them to church and the Christian message;
- a quarterly event called 'Holiday at Home', to provide older folk with a place to meet new friends along with a lunch, an afternoon tea, entertainment and opportunity to take part in a variety of activities;
- weekly 'Watercolour Workshops', to enable and inspire anyone interested either to learn to paint or to improve their painting in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere;
- weekly coffee morning, open to all, for relaxed socialisation.

In other local venues:

- a follow on from an Alpha Course running in High Legh Village Hall;
- a 'Beacon Group' meeting in Thelwall.

The church is actively involved, in partnership with other local churches, with:

- a monthly activity called 'Messy Church', for primary school children, with craft, singing and a story time as well as providing a meal;
- delivering lessons at Lymm High School on a range of topics, including working with the Gideons to deliver lessons on the Bible;
- 'Open the book' and taking assemblies in local primary schools;
- 'Chat'n'chill', an opportunity for young people to discuss faith related topics, held weekly in the local High School;

The Church also continues to provide a venue for Voice Junior Choir and Bible Study Fellowship. In addition, the church building is available for use by community groups, such as WI and Probus, and there are regular bookings throughout the year. The Church also links with Lymm Festival, providing a venue for some of its activities and events.

Note: The Church operates systems to ensure that all working with children, young people and adults at risk have appropriate DBS certificates and safeguarding training. These requirements are being constantly monitored.

Achievements and performance

The employment of a full-time youth worker fulfilled our desire to support and encourage the youth of both our fellowship and the wider community after an anxious few years. Good relationships have been established both within the church and local high school along with participation in community events.

Our trained volunteer chaplain further supports our desire to encourage spiritual growth and well-being for all.

The church was able to respond quickly and was pivotal in establishing a network of support for refugees following the outbreak of war in Ukraine. Practical and language support was provided in a weekly gathering held in the building, offering assistance to adults and children. This came to a natural end during 2023 as individuals settled into the community and work. There are continuing links with the Ukrainian community with some having integrated into the church's regular activities.

At their request we baptised four adults.

Regular groups are reestablished. Service attendance numbers are significant, though slightly below pre covid levels. The streamed Sunday morning service continues to be popular.

The use of the premises by outside organisations continues.

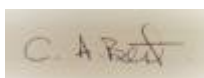
Our church family is involved in a number of initiatives. Individuals and groups have undertaken travel overseas to provide practical and spiritual encouragement. Many also work with local charities and organisations. We provide regular practical and financial help to a number of organisations.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees

Signed:



Name: Carol Ann Best

Position: Church Secretary

18/10/2024



LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH

CIO ACCOUNTS 2023

Church Treasurer – Report to the CIO AGM

John Hall was appointed to the position of Church Treasurer of Lymm Baptist Church CIO at its registration with the Charities Commission in May 2024. He is supported by a finance team of David Barrell and John Williams.

This AGM report covers the period May 2023 to December 2023, during which the CIO was operational solely to ensure a timely and orderly set up and transfer of assets, liabilities, roles and responsibilities from the existing Lymm Baptist Church charitable trust to the new CIO legal entity.

Preparation activities during this time involved the setting up of a new bank account with the Co-operative Bank, and agreement of contract novation principles with all suppliers and contractors who were expected to transfer across. We also carried out the required TUPE transfer consultations with all staff members.

In October 2023, with trustee approval, a sum of £10,000 was transferred from “Old LBC” to the CIO to cover transition costs that might be incurred by CIO. It was possible to minimise the costs of establishing the CIO, and in reality, the majority of costs were incurred by the “Old LBC” trust and are therefore shown within its financial reporting. However, for transparency, the costs were:

- £1000 fee for fully discharging our liabilities to the BU pension scheme. This was a liability that was also triggered by the resignation of Jonathan Bramwell and so would have been incurred anyway.
- £170.80 for Trustee indemnity run-off cover for the time when both “old LBC” and the CIO entity are in parallel operation.
- £173.50 for a professional rebuild cost assessment of the church buildings for insurance purposes. This was a cost that would have been incurred anyway within the next 12 months as part of our financial due diligence.
- £150 charge for the novation of our photocopier contract (this was completed after the formal transfer of assets and liabilities).

There were a small number of donors who began to pay into the CIO bank account in advance of the formal transfer date of 1st February. This money was held in the relevant fund pending the transfer of the remaining LBC assets and the subsequent commencement of CIO operations.

We give thanks to God that we have been able to manage the transition to CIO in an effective and orderly way, and we trust him for all that He will do through Lymm Baptist Church in the future.

LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2023

LEGAL INFORMATION

The Church is a Registered Charity, No. 1203190, registered on 22nd May 2023,
and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
The accounts have been produced in line with the Baptist Union of Great Britain
(Guidelines F6 (09/2009), to meet the requirements of S42(3) Charities Act 1993.

CHURCH ADDRESS

Higher Lane
Lymm
Cheshire
WA13 0AZ

TRUSTEES

Rev C Goswami, Associate Minister (Appointed 14th May 2023)
Mr J Hall, Treasurer (Appointed 23rd July 2023)
Mr S McPhail (Appointed 2nd November 2023)
Mrs C Best, Secretary (Appointed 23rd July 2023)
Mr P S Brandon (Appointed 14th May 2023, Resigned 24th February 2024)
Mr S R Evans (Appointed 24th March 2024)
Mrs S E Rotchell (Appointed 24th March 2024)
Mr K Wisdell (Appointed 24th March 2024)
Mr G A Green (Appointed 24th March 2024)
Mrs J McPhail (Appointed 24th March 2024)

BANKERS

Co-operative Bank p.l.c.
P O Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS 2023 ACCOUNTS

Mr J Aldersley
Mr N Harrison

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

ASSETS 2023

Co-operative Current Account 10,995.01

REPRESENTING BALANCES ON THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS

Church General Fund	10,880.01
Bramwell Leaving Fund	105.00
Lymm House	10.00
	10,995.01

Other Assets

Gift Aid refunds due on donations	206.25
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LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

CHURCH GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2023
Receipts	
Transfer from Lymm Baptist Church (Charity reference: 1130935)	10,000.00
Donations	815.01
Ministry/Other (Youth Trip)	65.00
	<u>10,880.01</u>
Payments	0
Surplus/Deficit for the period	10,880.01
Balance brought forward	0.00
Balance carried forward	<u>10,880.01</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS

BRAMWELL LEAVING FUND

Donations and Balance 31/12/2023	105.00
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LYMM HOUSE

Donations and Balance 31/12/2023	10.00
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LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Accounting policies

- a. Basis of preparation: The accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and accord with S42(3) Charities act 1993 as advised by Baptist Union
 - b. Donations: Donations are accounted for gross when received.
 - c. Legacies: Any legacies are accounted for when they are received
 - d. Investment income: Investment income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is received
 - e. Fund raising and publicity costs: The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on these items is therefore not material
 - f. Grants payable: The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objectives complement its work
 - g. Governance costs: This represents direct expenditure on the governance of the church
- Most of the management is carried out without charge by volunteers

Management Costs

The cost of managing Lymm Baptist Church as a charity in its technical and legal sense is considered negligible. It is believed that there are currently no significant measurable costs incurred as a direct result of complying with charity legislation.

Related charities

The custodian trustee of the church is the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd (Charity No. 249635) and is controlled by the Baptist Union Council.
The church is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Northwestern Baptist Association.

Trustee Approval

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1 to 3 relating to the period ending 31st December 2023 are as approved by the church leadership and trustees.

Signed

C. A. Best.

Dated

12/9/24.

Return to minutes

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Trustees / Members of: LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH (CIO) Charity Ref: 1203190

On accounts for the year ended: 31/12/23 set out on pages F1 to F5

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 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,
- 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.

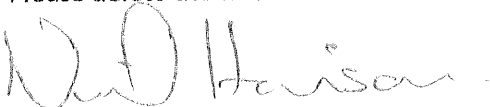
Basis of independent examiner's statement: My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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: In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than disclosed below *)

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 Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

*Please delete the words in brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:



Date: June 2024

Print Name:

NEIL HARRISON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

9 THE FARTHINGES
LYMM
~~WAT4~~ 5GD
WA13

Section B Disclosure

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Trustees / Members of: LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH (CIO) Charity Ref: 1203190

On accounts for the year ended: 31/12/23 set out on pages F1 to F5

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- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

*Please delete the words in brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:



Date: 19 June 2024

Print Name:

Jonathan Avery

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

103 Groppehead Road, Stockton Heath
Warrington WA4 2AU.

Section B**Disclosure**

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.