

Leominster Baptist Church

**Etnam Street
Leominster
HR6 8AJ**

Phone: 07480 065135

ANNUAL REPORT, YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Leominster Baptist Church, registered number 237434

1 Trustees and Church Officers at 31st December 2023

Historically, the Trustees have been responsible for the property and those funds relating to it; Church Officers are appointed at the Annual Church Members' Meeting with new Trustees recruited from among those appointed to be Deacons in accordance with the membership rules of the Church. Church officers (with the exception of the Pastor) are appointed from within the congregation. Deacons, Trustees and Pastor must be in full agreement with the aims and objectives and statement of faith and their spiritual life must meet the standards set out in the Church's constitution.

Trustees

Mr. Jeremy Clark (Secretary to Trustees)

Mr. Dean Burgis (Pastor)

Mrs Jackie Kosciecha (Treasurer)

Mrs Chris Rice

Mrs Sheila Wilson

Mr David Margetts

Mr Trevor Dickerson

Mr Jim Scott

Mr Josh Marvel

Mr Andrew Dale

Mrs Marie Gittoes

Deacons

Mr. Dean Burgis (Pastor)

Mr. Jeremy Clark (Church Secretary)

Mrs Chris Rice

Mrs. Sheila Wilson

Mr. Trevor Dickerson

Mr David Margetts

Mr Jim Scott

Mr Josh Marvel

Mr Andrew Dale

Mrs Marie Gittoes

Main Charity Contact

Mr. Jeremy Clark

Pastor and other paid employees.

Dean Burgis continued as pastor and, during his holidays and Sundays off, the services have been led by church members or invited guest speakers from other churches. Marie Gittoes continued as Pastoral Care Worker and Hannah Harris as Children and Families' Worker.

2 Governing Document

Leominster Baptist Church is governed by a Charity Commission Scheme signed on 31st October 1879, which amalgamated a number of earlier deeds originating from the founding of the Church in 1656. An amended Constitution was introduced in January 2016 and ratified a year later.

The affairs of the Church are ordered under the Church's Members' Handbook, last amended in April 2022.

3 Aims and Objectives

Maintenance of a Protestant Meeting House in Etnam Street, Leominster;

Support for the Minister and for the poor of the congregation;

Endowment of a Minister for the above Meeting House;

Provision of a Manse for the Minister;

Maintenance of a Burial Ground;

Provision of alms-house accommodation for the poor of the congregation.

4a Fulfilment of Aims and Objectives: Property

The Trustees have met twice during the year. The Chapel, Manse, Alms-house and Graveyards have all been regularly inspected; any essential maintenance work has been undertaken.

The premises are loaned to other community groups and charities for which a charge is either made or waived at the discretion of the Deacons.

The tenancy of Marlow Cottage (formerly known as the Alms-house) is continuing satisfactorily.

The Trustees consider that they have fulfilled their duty in their care of the premises.

4b Fulfilment of Aims and Objectives: Church Activities

The four regular meetings of Church Members, including the Annual Church Meeting at which Church Officers are appointed, were held and records kept of all decisions. Deacons' meetings were held at least once each month to implement Church Meeting decisions, to consider all matters relating to the well-being of the Church and individuals connected with it, and to provide leadership and direction for the Church.

The Church services and other meetings continue to be well-attended by a wide range of people of all ages and the Church functioned well in all departments throughout the year. The Church continues to engage with the community in a number of ways, including making its premises available to other voluntary organisations in the community.

The Church is strongly committed to supporting organisations that promote the Christian faith in this country and around the world and to humanitarian relief. Regular financial support is given to a number of such organisations and the Church is informed of their activities by visiting speakers and the supply of information.

Persons attending the Church offered themselves to a number of voluntary projects and short-term mission trips with the active support of the Church.

5 Funds and Reserves

The Trustees and Church Officers have administered all the funds of the Church and are satisfied that they have been handled responsibly in accordance with the Charity's aims and objectives.

The church accounts show that the balances held remain reasonably steady.

Except for gifts for specific purposes, which are held as restricted funds until disbursed, the Church has fulfilled its policy of donating approximately 20% of its income to other evangelical organisations whose aims and objectives are consistent with its own.

The regular income of the Church is sufficient to cover expected expenditure and there are adequate reserves for any foreseeable contingency. Income was £142,084.04 this year, well up from last year. Income is expected to remain around this level in future years and reserves should cover nearly 3 years of a major fall-off in income. Rental income from Marlow Cottage will be used to maintain the building with any excess being applied charitably in accordance with the Trust Deed.

6 Conclusion

The Trustees consider that they and the Church Officers have carried out their responsibilities in a satisfactory manner and that the Church is in a position to continue to actively pursue its aims and objectives in the future.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees: Jeremy Clark (secretary)

ASSETS OF THE CHARITY, 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Property in Etnam Street

(valuation is insurance re-build cost, 2023)

Chapel and associated buildings,	£3,601,508
Manse	£798,546
Cottage	£368,560
Associated Gardens & Graveyard	

Assets located in property in Etnam Street

Antique Clock (insurance valuation 2009)	£16,611
Organ (purchase price in 2006)	£12,080
Computer and electronic equipment (insurance valuation 2023)	£5,000
Machinery plant and all other contents (insurance valuation 2023)	£61,889

Ford Transit 115 Minibus (15-seater, regd. 2010)

Purchase price in 2017	£9,500
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Graveyard in Newlands Drive, Leominster

£2,500

Particular Baptist Chapel and Trust Property in Etnam Street, Leominster					
Receipts and Payments Accounts year ended 31st Dec 2023					
Receipts	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2022
Gifts/Offerings (inc Gift Aid Receipts	£118,873.18			£118,873.18	£104,854.10
Special Missionary Collections		£7,805.81		£7,805.81	£7,399.75
Rent Received			£2,540.00	£2,540.00	£2,400.00
Rent of Rooms	£1,270.00			£1,270.00	£1,550.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	£3,391.75			£3,391.75	£457.42
Legacies				£0.00	
Sundry Youth Income		£7,446.30		£7,446.30	£6,313.89
Job Club				£0.00	£0.00
TRAC		£757.00		£757.00	£700.00
	£123,534.93	£16,009.11	£2,540.00	£142,084.04	£123,675.16
Payments					
Wages, National Insurance & Pension	£66,111.43			£66,111.43	£62,455.77
Ministry	£8,342.84		£1,600.00	£9,942.84	£10,925.44
Gifts to Missionary & aid Organisations	£24,694.12			£24,694.12	£14,909.57
Special Missionary Giving		£6,670.10		£6,670.10	£7,059.75
Minibus (running costs)	£1,744.14			£1,744.14	£1,807.84
Telephone	£217.15			£217.15	£251.50
Printing, Postage & Stationery	£693.98			£693.98	£603.83
Equipment	£1,765.99			£1,765.99	£4,688.13
Sundries	£1,818.75			£1,818.75	£1,941.59
Maintenance of Church Premises & Manse	£2,398.25			£2,398.25	£1,423.58
Maint. - Marlow Cottage			£250.00	£250.00	£0.00
Heat & Light	£2,591.88			£2,591.88	£2,445.00
Council Tax & Water	£3,796.24			£3,796.24	£3,307.81
Insurance	£3,083.60			£3,083.60	£2,426.97
Fees	£1,333.10			£1,333.10	£1,092.28
Youthwork Costs		£7,113.93		£7,113.93	£6,559.10

Job Club	£595.88			£595.88	£657.27
TRAC		£939.20		£939.20	£778.00
	£119,187.35	£14,723.23	£1,850.00	£135,760.58	£123,333.43
Net Incoming Resources	£4,347.58	£1,285.88	£690.00	£6,323.46	£341.73
Fund balances at 1 st Jan 2023	£36,183.21	-£323.21	£14,050.66	£49,910.66	£49,568.93
Balances Carried Forward at 31 st Dec 2023	£40,530.79	£962.67	£14,740.66	£56,234.12	£49,910.65
Fund Balances as at 31st December 2023	2023	2022	2021		
Santander UK plc					
Church A/c	£18,919.97	£13,037.10	£12,431.35		
Church Reserve A/c	£36,070.72	£35,976.24	£35,972.64		
Church Youth A/c	£1,203.79	<u>£871.42</u>	<u>£1,116.63</u>		
	£56,194.48	£49,884.76	£49,520.62		
Cash in Hand					
Church Cash in Hand	£39.64	£25.90	£48.31		
	£56,234.12	£49,910.66	£49,568.93		
Accumulated Fund					
Unrestricted Funds	£41,213.62	£35,860.00	£38,181.65		
Restricted Funds					
Special Missionary	£1,135.71	£340.00	£0.00		
Job Club	£1,972.51	£2,488.38	£0.00		
Deposit held re tenancy	£238.33	£238.33	£238.33		
Marlow Cottage	<u>£11,673.95</u>	<u>£10,983.95</u>	<u>£11,148.95</u>		
	£15,020.50	£14,050.66	£11,387.28		
	£56,234.12	£49,910.66	£49,568.93		

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Leominster Baptist Chapel and Trust
Property in Etnam Street, Leominster, Herefordshire.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- *examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- *follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- *state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

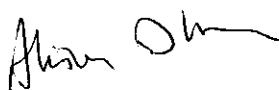
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts provide a 'true and fair view', and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects the requirements:
 - *to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - *to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the account to be reached.


ALISON D HARRINGTON (MRS)
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26 MARCH 2024