

TRUST FUNDS AND PROPERTY HELD IN CONNEXION WITH BLUNHAM OLD MEETING BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 237680

Details

Other names	BLUNHAM BAPTIST, BLUNHAM OLD MEETING BAPTIST CHURCH TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1968-08-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	8 Dove Road Bedford MK41 7AA
Phone	07827 398379
Email	roydonloveley@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: SEE INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENTS

Activities: Maintains the Old Baptist Chapel in Blunham and associated property, on behalf of the worshipping congregation. Also provides a small annual sum for distribution to the poor of the parish in accordance with the trust deeds.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** PARISH OF BLUNHAM
- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£14,240	£20,978	-	-
2023-12-31	£167,500	£39,266	-	-
2022-12-31	£7,274	£15,443	-	-
2021-12-31	£27,604	£22,835	-	-
2020-12-31	£7,459	£21,214	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Roydon Loveley	Chair	2021-10-14
Colin Stephen Syfret		2024-06-25
Helen Wolstenholme		2025-07-10
Matthew Tipper		2023-12-05
Peter John Humphrey		2021-10-14
Stacey John		2015-06-01

Linked charities

- TRUST PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR (237680-1)
- PROCEEDS OF SALE OF LAND AT BLUNHAM (237680-2)
- MANSE (237680-3)
- TRUST FUND FOR MINISTER (237680-4)
- TRUST PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHURCH (237680-5)

Accounts

Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts

For the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Charity Commission Number: 237680

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Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust
Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts
For the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Report of the Trustees

1. Legal and Administrative Information

The Charity is known as Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust

The Charity Commission Number is 237680

The Charity's principal address is:-

c/o Roydon Loveley, 8 Dove Road, Bedford, MK41 7AA

The principal governing document is an Indenture dated 5th December 1747 signed by John Hubbard, Richard Emery, Francis Atwood and John Grant.

The objects of the Charity are to apply rent and profits:

- in repairing and upholding the premises for religious worship and
- for such other uses which shall be for the good and benefit of the congregation

2. Trustees

The Trustees acting during this period were:

Mr. M. Button (resigned 19/3/24)

Mrs. B.M. Murray (resigned 10/8/23)

Mr. S. John

Mr. R. Loveley

Mr. P. Humphrey

Mr M. Tipper (appointed 5/12/23)

Mr. S. Syfret (appointed 25/6/24)

3. Activities and Achievements

The Charity seeks to provide and maintain a meeting place for religious worship.

The Charity makes financial assistance available at its discretion to members of the community deemed to be poor and in need of help. No payments were made by the Trust for this purpose in 2023.

Blunham Baptist Church ceased using the building during 2010 and the Family Life Church (formerly known as Word of Life Church) worshipped in the building until 2020 when Covid and declining numbers brought a cessation of Services.

In 2021, the Trustees met with the leaders of Kings Arms Church Bedford to discuss the building, land and assets of the Trust. Two new Trustees from Kings Arms were appointed in October 2021. Regular meetings in the building resumed in September 2023 and a new part-time leader commenced employment in June 2023.

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The building has and is being used for regular prayer/worship meetings, Kings Arms leadership team meetings, a weekly Mother and Toddler group and one-off events including a Youth Identity conference and monthly meetings of the Blunham Good Neighbours Scheme. It is intended that the Blunham property will once again become a thriving church community as an additional location for Kings Arms services, reaching into the nearby villages and beyond. Under the terms of a collaboration agreement, the costs of staffing, any equipment acquired for operation of congregation, heat and light and cleaning are borne by Kings Arms Church.

4. Policies

The Investment portfolio is comprised of units in the COIF Charity Investment Fund.

The Fund, consisting of well-diversified investments principally equities but including other asset classes, aims to be suitable for up to 100% of a charity's long-term capital, providing a return that is even-handed between present and future beneficiaries. It is believed that over the longer-term this approach should help to protect both capital and income from the effects of inflation.

The Fund follows an ethical investment policy. The portfolio is invested mainly in equities but will also include fixed interest securities, property and other assets.

The Trustees continue to believe that investment in these units is consistent with the Charity's aims and objectives and the obligation to ensure the best possible income allied to an acceptable degree of security for its assets.

The overall strategy towards the level of cash reserves that must be retained, takes account of the need to cover the cost of major repairs and of rectifying any deterioration to the buildings and provide funds for possible future enhancements.

5. Signatures and Declaration

We declare in our capacity of Charity Trustees, that the Trustees have approved the above report and attached accounts and have authorised us to sign on their behalf.

Signature:



Full name: Peter Humphrey
Date: 20th August 2024

Signature:



Full name: Roydon Loveley
Date: 20th August 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of **Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust** for the year ended 31 December 2023

I report on the accounts of the charity.

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 (the 2011 Act) 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 Commissioners 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 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:

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 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 accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date

17th July 2024

Carolyn Smith FMAAT

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Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts

Receipts & Payments Account

For the Year Ended 31st December 2023

		2023	2022
		£	£
RECEIPTS			
Dividends - COIF Charity Funds	Note 1	7,098	7,215
Legacy	Note 5	159,484	0
Bank Interest received		817	9
Rent received - Field R.A. Gibson		50	50
Gifts received		50	0
Funds transferred from Investment		10,000	0
		177,500	7,274
Less:			
PAYMENTS			
Insurances - Chapel		(1,267)	(1,063)
Legal fees		(1,140)	0
Chapel Refurbishment	Note 6	(23,771)	0
Chapel grounds maintenance		(5,589)	(8,406)
Chapel maintenance		(6,447)	(5,526)
Telephone & Broadband		(546)	(448)
Bank charges		(72)	0
Utilities - Water & Sewerage		(334)	0
Retirement Gift		(100)	0
Bank Interest payable		(0)	0
		(39,266)	(15,443)
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		138,234	(8,169)
Cash funds at 1st January		7,424	11,777
Cash funds at 31st December		141,842	7,424
Movement in Cash		134,418	(4,353)
Less: Change in amount due from / (to) Kings Arms Trust		3,816	(3,816)
		138,234	(8,169)

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Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31st December 2023

		2023 £	2022 £
LAND & BUILDINGS			
Chapel Buildings	Note 3	1,335,926	1,335,926
Chapel Contents	Note 3	81,535	81,535
Field - rented to R. A. Gibson		No current valuation	
INVESTMENTS			
COIF Charity Investment Fund units held	Note 2	12,764	13,295
Mid-market value		19.85	18.17
COIF Charity Investment Fund at market value		253,298	241,634
CASH FUNDS			
Natwest Current Account		535	3,274
Natwest Business Reserve Account		1	4,150
Unity Current Account		2,999	0
Unity Instant Access Account		23,307	0
Unity Fixed Term Deposit Account	Note 7	115,000	0
		<u>141,842</u>	<u>7,424</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		395,140	249,058
Total Assets		<u>1,812,601</u>	<u>1,666,519</u>
CREDITORS - due (to) / from Kings Arms Trust		0	(3,816)
Net Assets		<u>1,812,601</u>	<u>1,662,703</u>

Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Note 1

COIF Charity Investment Fund

	2023	2022
Quarterly dividends received per unit were:	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
28th February	13.73	13.52
31st May	13.52	13.52
28th August	13.52	13.52
30th November	13.71	13.71

Note 2

		2023 movements	
COIF Charity Investment Fund	Per unit	Units	£
Balance at start of the year	18.17	13,294.93	241,634
Withdrawal	18.83	(531.12)	(10,000)
Increase due change in market value	1.67		5,550
Balance at end of the year	19.85	<u>12,763.81</u>	<u>253,298</u>

More than three quarters of the funds invested with COIF arose following the sale of the Church Manse in 2016. Proceeds of sale were in part used to fund improvements to the Church with the balance invested - 10,240 units were purchased on 15th June 2017 at £14.648 per unit at total cost of £150,000.

Note 3

Land & Buildings and content valuations are amounts covered in property damage section of Baptist Insurance policy renewal on 24th June 2023.

Note 4

Amount owed to Kings Arms Trust at end 2022 arose due to temporary difficulties accessing the Natwest Account following a change of that have since been resolved.

Note 5

This represents money received from the estate of a lady called Rita Ashwell who passed away on 15 December 2019. Under the terms of her will the Trust was was entitled to 50% of a property in nearby Putnoe. The amount shown represents net proceeds of sale and rental following the sale in April 2023.

Note 6

Chapel refurbishment represent expenditure incurred in a major refresh of the rear hall and includes the cost of removal of old floor, replacement with new Karndean flooring and the purchase of new furniture.

Note 7

Fixed Term deposit expires 14th October 2024. Interest is receivable at 5%.

Accounts

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Mr. M. Button

Mrs. B.M. Murray

Mr. S. John

Mr. R. Loveley (appointed 14th October 2021)

Mr. P. Humphrey (appointed 14th October 2021)

3. Activities and Achievements

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The Charity makes financial assistance available at its discretion to members of the community deemed to be poor and in need of help. No payments were made by the Trust for this purpose in 2021.

Blunham Baptist Church ceased using the building during 2010 and the Family Life Church (formerly known as Word of Life Church) whose beliefs agree with the Trust Deed; worshipped in the building until 2020 when Covid and declining numbers brought a cessation of Services.

In 2021, the Trustees met with the leaders of Kings Arms Church Bedford to discuss ownership of the building, land and assets of the Trust. Two new Trustees from Kings Arms were appointed in October 2021. It is intended that the Blunham property will once again become a thriving church community as an additional location for Kings Arms services, reaching into the nearby villages and beyond.

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Signature:



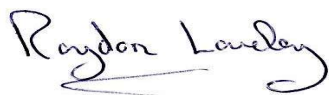
Full name:

Peter Humphrey

Date:

28th April 2022

Signature:



Full name:

Roydon Loveley

Date:

28th April 2022

Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts

Receipts & Payments Account

For the Year Ended 31st December 2021

		2021 £	2020 £
RECEIPTS			
Dividends - COIF Charity Funds	Note 1	7,554	7,406
Bank Interest		0	3
Rent received - Field R.A. Gibson		50	50
Funds transferred from Investment	Note 2	20,000	0
		<u>27,604</u>	<u>7,459</u>
Less:			
PAYMENTS			
Insurances - Chapel		(975)	(977)
Chapel grounds maintenance		(1,860)	0
Funds transferred to Family Life Church	Note 2	(20,000)	0
Youth Pastor Redundancy		0	(20,237)
		<u>(22,835)</u>	<u>(21,214)</u>
Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments		<u>4,769</u>	<u>(13,755)</u>
Cash funds at 1st January		7,008	20,763
Cash funds at 31st December		11,776	7,008

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Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31st December 2021

		2021 £	2020 £
LAND & BUILDINGS			
Chapel Buildings	Note 4	1,112,284	1,112,284
Chapel Contents	Note 4	67,886	67,886
Field - rented to R. A. Gibson		No current valuation	
INVESTMENTS			
COIF Charity Investment Fund units held	Note 2&3	13,295	14,285
Mid-market value at 31st December		20.57	18.01
COIF Charity Investment Fund at market value 31st December		273,429	257,288
CASH FUNDS			
Natwest Bank - Current Account		7,636	2,868
Natwest Bank - Deposit Account		4,141	4,140
		<u>11,777</u>	<u>7,008</u>
Total Assets		<u>1,465,376</u>	<u>1,444,466</u>

Blunham Old Meeting Baptist Church Trust

Trustee's Annual Report and Accounts

Notes to the accounts

For the Year Ended 31st December 2021

Note 1

COIF Charity Investment Fund

	2021	2020
Quarterly dividends received per unit were:	Pence per unit	Pence per unit
28th February	12.99	12.48
31st May	13.19	13.19
28th August	13.19	13.19
30th November	13.51	12.99

Note 2

COIF Charity Investment Fund

On 4th November, 2021 the Trust sold 989.79 units at £20.2063 per unit realising £20,000.

These funds were transferred to Family Life Church for repairs to roof and general maintenance.

Note 3

COIF Charity Investment Fund

More than three quarters of the funds invested with COIF arose following the sale of the Church Manse in 2016. Proceeds of sale were in part used to fund improvements to the Church with the balance invested - 10,240 units were purchased on 15th June 2017 at £14.648 per unit at total cost of £150,000.

Note 4

Land & Buildings and content valuations are amounts covered in property damage section of Baptist Insurance policy renewal on 24th June 2021