

Fivehead Baptist Church ANNUAL CHURCH REPORTS Jan 2023-Jan 2024

Minister's Report 2024

As we look back over 2023 we are thankful to God for his grace and provision throughout another year.

The regular church activities have continued – Sunday Morning Worship, Sunday Rocks, Cafe Church, Tuesday Bible Study, St. Martin's Close Discussion Group, Contact Lunch, Craft Group, Women On Wednesday, Men On Thursday, The Stable & Youth Cafe. In addition to this the monthly Saturday Men's Breakfast was relaunched in March and has been very well attended each month. Some of the younger guys enjoyed a board games evening organised by Ben Powell, which we hope to do again. At the end of the year a new Thursday afternoon prayer time was started with a focus on the children and young people. At the heart of all this is the real point of church: we gather together as people following Jesus, supporting each other, and sharing his love with others.

During the year we paused to remind ourselves of this central purpose, asking "Why Church?" It was a very helpful time to reflect on our purpose. Two main things emerged from our discussions: we GATHER together to be filled with Jesus, and we GO out into our community to share Jesus. This twin purpose of "gathering and going" is helpful to keep in mind in everything we do as a church. Alongside this we particularly spent time in Paul's letter to the Colossians which reminded us to keep Jesus at the centre of everything.

Some special events... In January some of the men met for a curry evening. In March we shared in a special Wedding Anniversary celebration with Dave & Daisy Di. At Easter we enjoyed a Tenebrae style service on Maundy Thursday (led by Vince) before our usual Easter Sunday celebrations. During the year we had visits from missionary speakers from World Vision and Bethlehem Bible College. As part of an SWBA pulpit exchange we had Mike Sherburn visit us to share news of Watchet Baptist Church. Matt visited Taunton Baptist Church to talk about FBC. At Harvest we supported Operation Agri. We held a Tearfund Big Quiz in October. Chris Bowater visited us in October to lead a Sunday service and to give some teaching on leading worship. On Remembrance Sunday we joined with St. Martin's Church for a shared service. For Christmas we had a full church for our carol service and also held family services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

New people have joined us as regulars this year and we welcomed Jill Simon and Ian & Joan Sherwood into membership. Dilla Davis became a deacon, joining the leadership team. Paul Douglass decided to retire from the diaconate when his term ended – we are very grateful to Paul for all his wisdom and input on the leadership over the years.

We said goodbye to Hilary Wotton who passed away in September and John Woodhill who passed away in October. They are both missed by the fellowship but we know they are with the Lord and we look forward in the hope of resurrection.

The church Mission Team has been re-established to keep a focus on Mission. The team is made up of Matt Cottington, Laurie & Karen Burn, and Pete & Gaynor White.

Laurie Burn also joined the Safeguarding Team which now made up of: Paul Douglass, Ruta Lusite, Anne Burnham, and Laurie Burn. Levels 2 and 3 Safeguarding training was completed by three members of the church leadership this year (Matt, Dilla, Anne).

Debs Powell and Sarah Cottington also attended a course on Youth Work organised by SWBA and Youthscape. This has prompted some good discussion on the future of our youth work at FBC which we hope to launch in a new format in 2024.

During the year Matt continued with some extra studies towards his national accreditation with BUGB. Although Matt has been an ordained minister for more than 20 years he wanted to transfer his accreditation to the Baptist Union since joining them a few years ago. Having completed the extra studies Matt attended "Ministerial Recognition" days

in November and was accepted as a nationally accredited minister following these interviews. Matt is very grateful to FBC for supporting him in this process and is delighted to receive national accreditation.

As The Stable report will show, it has been a very encouraging year for the cafe. The Stable has been very busy and was featured in an SWBA mission stories video. We have also been able to host a new Mental Health Support Group which started in November as well as continuing to host the Re-Engage Teas and Macmillan coffee days. This is in addition to the usual charitable giving and Youth Cafe evenings (see The Stable report).

Towards the end of the year our church website and logo were redesigned and updated. We are very grateful to Ben Powell for helping us with this.

It has not been an easy year for some in our fellowship. A fair number of people have been through health issues, treatments, bereavements, hospital stays, and other health concerns. The support and prayers of the church family are so important at such times.

There is much more that goes on week-by-week besides what is mentioned here. We are grateful for all the time, energy, love, and prayers everyone gives to church life and to helping each other on our journey of faith.

As we look back in gratitude to God for his grace in 2023 we also look ahead in faith for the year ahead.

Pastor Matt Cottingham.

Secretary's report Jan 2023-Jan 2024

Once again, much of my report would echo the pastor's report and indeed, other areas of church life, but I will endeavour not to duplicate!

Our Midweek fellowships in various homes and in The Stable occasionally have been following a pattern of prayer, study and fellowship, with the study mostly around questions arising from the Sunday's teaching. This is particularly helpful when some have been involved in Children's work, or away and unable to present for the sermon (although the sermon is usually available via the church website). Having tried to maintain two groups on a Tuesday evening, this was not always viable, so we have returned to one group. The single group is often quite large, but discussion still flows well. Wow meet on Wednesday mornings and a further group on Tuesday afternoons follow a different study pattern.

Zoom is still a useful tool for services as people are very sensible when feeling poorly. It also includes those who are unable to travel to the service. A weekend away has not been practical, but various picnics, bring and share lunches, TEAR fund quiz and other gatherings have been fun social occasions.

Numbers in many senses are unimportant, but we do need to keep records and we currently our membership stands at 40 members and 1 junior member. However, we have many more meeting together and contributing to Church life.

We are also delighted to report that Matt has now received National Accreditation as a Baptist minister.

It is always positive to work with the Parish church for the annual Remembrance service, we hope to have a joint Palm Sunday event this coming year too. We also work with members of the Anglican community and other villagers next door in The Stable

Each year, as I compile these various reports I continue to be thankful and marvel that a small rural Fellowship does so much. This particularly applies to the work in The Stable where we welcome so many during the week and provide a safe and welcoming space for local teenagers too. My desire and prayer remains that everyone will use the huge number of varied gifts that God has given us and that we will act upon the opportunities that God provides, so that FBC does make a difference in our communities.

Judy Male

Mission Team Report 2023

"It is the duty of every member to take part in the evangelisation of the world." (Baptist Union Declaration of Principle)

Matt asked me to convene a meeting of the Mission Team whose primary aim is to review all the main mission organisations currently linked to FBC and to propose which ones should be regularly supported by the church. Secondly, our brief is to plan how and when up to date information about each mission would be communicated to the church.

The first meeting of the new team was held on 9th June and the team comprises Laurie & Karen Burn, Matt Cottingham and Pete & Gaynor White.

International Mission:

BMS World Mission - This is a specifically Baptist mission, funded from 5% of our church budget income. Laurie was asked to invite BMS employee Ruth Whiter (from Totterdown Baptist Church, Bristol) to visit one Sunday. This visit is planned for February 3rd 2024.

Operation Agri - another Baptist mission, formerly the Baptist Men's Movement, was proposed for the 2023 Harvest Appeal (Tanzania) on 17th September.

TEAR Fund - Big Quiz was organised on 7th October.

HOPE Now (Ukraine) - Pete & Gaynor were to organise another collection of items, but this was cancelled due to new import restrictions.

IcFEM Dreamland Mission (Kenya) - A presentation of the work, including the Hospital and School was given by Laurie & Karen on 2nd March 2023. A future mission visit is being planned for late October 2024 with FBC folk invited. So far, Laurie, Karen and Glynis are going. www.icfem-mission.org

Tools with a Mission (TWAM) – The local collector in Westport has ceased collecting.

Toy Box - Gaynor to bring recent news of a new child ambassador during a short input in morning service. A special offering was taken at our Christmas Carol Service.

World Vision - Matt Hyam spoke at FBC on September 10th.

The Leprosy Mission - Gaynor to organise occasional sale of goods.

Wycliffe Bible Translators – We have contact with Will & Judith Sawers who are involved in Bible translation in several languages in the Central African Republic.

February 24th 2024 - to be an all-age service with World Mission focus.

Local/National Mission:

Baptist Home Mission - (funded from 5% of our budget income). A new SWBA (South West Baptist Association) video featuring The Stable was released during the year.

The Stable – is our main local mission outreach and regular updates should be given to the church.

Contact Lunch - monthly outreach for local people living alone.

Re-Engage Teas for the elderly – A short notice tea was arranged in The Stable on Sunday 11th June and proposed dates for 2024 are planned on the afternoons of February 11th and July 14th.

Good News for Everyone - Peter Yaxley keeps us updated with this work of distributing scripture, formerly known as Gideons UK. See Below

Laurie Burn

Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons) Chard Branch 2024: We have had some very interesting and rewarding visits this year after the Covid restrictions were lifted. The main event was a visit to each of the residential / Care homes in the Ilminster area. Usually in teams of two, the welcome was almost overwhelming due to them missing us for a couple of years. We went all bright eyed and bushy tailed, quite a site! Besides Bibles in various formats we had Key Worker Testaments for the staff with a special cover. To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla a special edition PWT was produced, these were particularly well received as gifts from Grandparents to their grandchildren. HOPE magazines went like hot cakes in all our usual outlets and were a most useful starting point in our one to one conversations. One young husband we met for a second time and he asked for a complete Bible and Bibles for each of his children. The children's school has been given a class set of the Discover magazine. This publication is subtitled "Exploring the Bible" and has also been warmly welcomed by the head teacher at Huish Episcopi

Primary school. We joined with Taunton GNfE to help man the Christian Marquee at Taunton Flower Show. Very recently we have been able to present both NT's and Discover magazines in the Ukrainian language to the group who are living with families in the Langport wider area. A very moving occasion that reduced me to tears, their stories: sorry are so !!!!! Please do speak to me about "our work". The fields are ripe for the harvest but the harvesters are so few. Come and join us. **Peter Y.**

Stable Report 2023

As ever we are grateful to our volunteers from the church and surrounding villagers who serve and bake for us, without them we would not be able to open as many hours.

At this time we have 18 volunteers, some twice a month, others once per week and a few of us who have more spare time fill in the rest. New volunteers are always welcome.

Donations

In 2023 we gave our end of year profit of £4000.00 split equally between overseas and local to:

Dreamland Mission Hospital Kenya	£1000.00
World Vision	£1000.00
Adventure Therapy	£ 500.00
Greatwood Christian Centre	£ 500.00
Youth for Christ (Taunton)	£ 500.00
Bibic	£ 500.00

Village defibrillator maintenance £ 300.00

Our annual MacMillan day raised £361.00 a record!

Our tips are always donated to various causes both home and abroad. The total given away since we opened is in excess of £16,000.00.

We still have enough in our reserves to buy any replacements for equipment etc,

We anticipate a large commitment in 2024 as the drains need a major overhaul.

Our garden is still well used when the weather permits. We have installed 2 new decking areas this year, one between the Stable and access ramp, and the other on the left hand side of the steps, where the ground was very uneven. We would like to thank Laurie and Adrian for making this possible.

We continue to provide a welcome to customers and a safe place for teenagers at Youth café. Occasionally we have been able to offer prayer and more direct help to our customers. We are always pleased to open our doors to the village for other activities. More recently, providing a venue for a fortnightly mental health group.

Baking We currently have a 4 week baking rota (more bakers provide occasional cakes and help to stock our freezer. We would always welcome more contributors.) A decision was made in November 2022 to pay our bakers, as they are now providing a minimum of 4 cakes a week, all have given their services free of charge since day 1. With costs spiralling, the deacons agreed a small fixed payment of £30.00 each time.

Due to the increase in visitors our decision last year to buy a new tall freezer has proved invaluable.

2023 has been another record year for us, financially and meeting lots of new customers.

Post Office counter: We are sad that the directors of the Post Office decided that it wasn't viable to continue visiting on Thursday afternoons. We had offered our premises free of charge for approaching 5 years.

Glynis Boucher.

Children & Youth Work Report 2023

In April this year we produced a “Values Statement” for the children’s work at FBC. This gives an outline of the values we want to pass on to children and is helpful for leaders and for parents who want to know what the children will be taught. The 7 values are: Love, Gratitude, Self-Worth, Belonging, Forgiveness, Creativity, Purpose. A copy is attached to the reports.

Sunday Morning: The Sunday morning children and youth work (“Sunday Rocks”) has continued in the form of two age groups who meet in the two adjoining rooms upstairs. The youngsters join the main service to begin with where there is usually a children’s talk of some sort. Part way through the service they go to their groups upstairs, which are led by at least two adults. Once a month (usually the third Sunday) we have an all-age service.

The younger group have been following the “Aslan” Bible lesson material which gives outlines and ideas for each session. Leaders are free to use this or do their own thing.

The older group have a less structured, more conversational format where leaders encourage them to share and talk about whatever they want. During the year we put up the old snooker table which seems to be popular, as well as the Nintendo Wii games console.

During the year Debs Powell and Sarah Cottington attended an SWBA Youth Leaders training course called “Youthscape Essentials”. The course encouraged leaders to think about the different circumstances, assumptions, and challenges facing young people today. It also challenged leaders to think about the need for new and fresh approaches to youth ministry. This prompted some very helpful discussion together with Matt and the Deacons who all share a concern for the future shape of youth work at the church. Towards the end of the year it was decided to ask Debs and Sarah to come up with a new format for the youth work which can be tried for 6 months. Debs and Sarah have suggested a new format of Sunday “YP Chill Zone” in the Stable rooms. This will be complemented by “Dig Deeper” activities and events on other days (bible study / small group / youth alpha / interest specific courses etc) and hopefully attending some Christian camps as well. The new format is planned to begin early in 2024 and will be advertised locally once up and running. It was emphasised that prayer is vital and a new Thursday afternoon prayer time has been started in the Stable each week to pray for the children’s and youth work at FBC.

A copy of the “FBC Youth Work Vision” is attached to the reports.

Youth Café: Thursday evening Youth Cafe at The Stable has continued through 2023. Attendance at the group varies anywhere from 2 – 10 young people. There have been some new faces join the group. The new rules put in place seem to be working well, ensuring we know where everyone is and setting out some guidelines for behaviour. We also bought some new games for them to use. The young people enjoy coming to the cafe. During the year we were able to take 18 youngsters, including some from Youth Cafe, to a “Living Out Loud” Christian event in Taunton which was organised by Youth For Christ.

Matt Cottington

Contact Lunches 2023

The contact lunches, which have been running since October 2018 are open to anyone living on their own in Fivehead or anyone attending church who lives alone and are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

As the name suggests, it provides a place where people can have a hot meal and meet with others.

We have managed to serve lunches each month this year with no problems of covid, heatwave or lack of kitchen that we encountered in 2022.

The average number of guests is 12, though some months we have catered for 16, not counting the cooks and helpers. We have welcomed 2 more regular guests this year but there is always room at the table for others to join us.

The price of the meal is £4 (an increase from 2022), though many guests pay more. As a result of their generosity it has enabled us to buy some kitchen utensils and we now have 2 large slow cookers that we use. Donations towards energy have been made to the church and a cheque for £59.46 went to Crisis to allow 2 guests to have a Christmas lunch and to access the services Crisis offer.

The new double oven purchased by the church at the beginning of December meant that cooking the 2023 Christmas dinner was not quite the logistical problem that it has been in previous years!

Many thanks to all who help make these lunches such enjoyable occasions. **Karen Burn**

Men On Thursday (MoT)

With the ability to freely meet together after the Covid precautions, it has been a pleasure to be able to spend time in fellowship with other men and passing the time together on Thursday mornings in the Stable. Though a rather depleted number at times and on one occasion being a case of Man on Thursday enjoying coffee, it has been good nonetheless to be able to spend time in fellowship and discussion together. Whilst in previous years we have been able to take day trips to places of interest, it is to be hoped that we might be able to do so again in the not too distant future. PD

WOW Report 2023 (Women on Wednesday)

In January 2023 Dilla was leading WOW on the Old Testament.

February, we studied the Jewishness of Jesus.

March, we had a visit from Dilla's friend Jilly. She led a day on Israel. Ladies from other churches were invited to attend and we shared lunch together.

We were also asked by Matt if we as a group would lead the All-age service for Mother's Day. I asked Vince to put together 3 sketches from Mary and Elizabeth's perspective from heaven.

In May, Dilla took the decision to step down from leading. It was put to a vote and I; Janice was asked to lead. Initially I suggested we studied the book of Jude. As I was on holiday Greta lead the ladies. Due to us moving house, Dilla lead the following week on James.

"We took a break until September. During this time, I suggested we draw up a Covenant so that WOW would be a place of safety where all the ladies could feel able to share. I shared this with all the ladies and the feedback was positive from all those that replied. Each of the ladies were given a copy and we have one laminated in the room."

We started back in September and studied a book on 'The Beatitudes' which had been used for the Bible Study in Spring Harvest.

In November we spent one morning watching a film called 'The War Room'. It's a lovely film on the power of prayer. We then decorated the Church for Christmas. Our last week was spent as a coffee and chat at Yandel's in Martock. The Ladies then agreed to start 2024 studying the Old Testament prophecies on Jesus.

Janice Carrington

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding within the church is led by a small group which includes Anne Burnham, the Safeguarding Deacon, Laurie Burn, Ruta Lusite and Paul Douglass. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are carried out for all who are involved with the young people in any way, including those helping in the Stable as there are sometimes young people who help serve in there. Safeguarding is not limited to ensuring the safety of young people, but can be applied to all ages and if you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to one of those named above or our Pastor, Matt Cottington.

Policy Statement on Safeguarding Children in Fivehead

Baptist Church

(referred to as “the church” in the Policy Statement)

This statement was agreed at the church meeting held on 16th June 2015.

It will be read annually at the Annual Church Meeting where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

In fulfilling the Church's vision:

- we welcome children into the life of our community
- have a programme of events for children
- make our premises available to organisations working with children

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all young people under the age of 18 (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) as set out in The Children Act 1989 and 2004, *Safe from Harm* (HM Government 1994) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2013).

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation.

Prevention and reporting of abuse - It is the duty of each church member to prevent the physical, sexual, emotional and spiritual abuse of children. It is the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected. The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with the church.

Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers - The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, whether paid or volunteer. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children.

Respecting children - The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children so that all children are shown the respect that is due to them.

Safe working practices - The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

A safe community - The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children. The church will work to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children and young people in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

Financial Report as at: 31ST December 2023

Balances of church and stable accounts at 31st December 2023 (including adjustments paid in Jan '24)

Nat West deposit a/c	28,361.06
Church	4,911.00
Stable	11,225.42

The income and expenditure figures are almost identical to the previous year if you take into account that we are due approximately £7,700 back in Gift Aid in the next few weeks.

We also received £995 VAT refund from a charity that helps listed building refurbishments.

93% of our income comes from giving and Stable repaying Electricity & phone bills paid by church

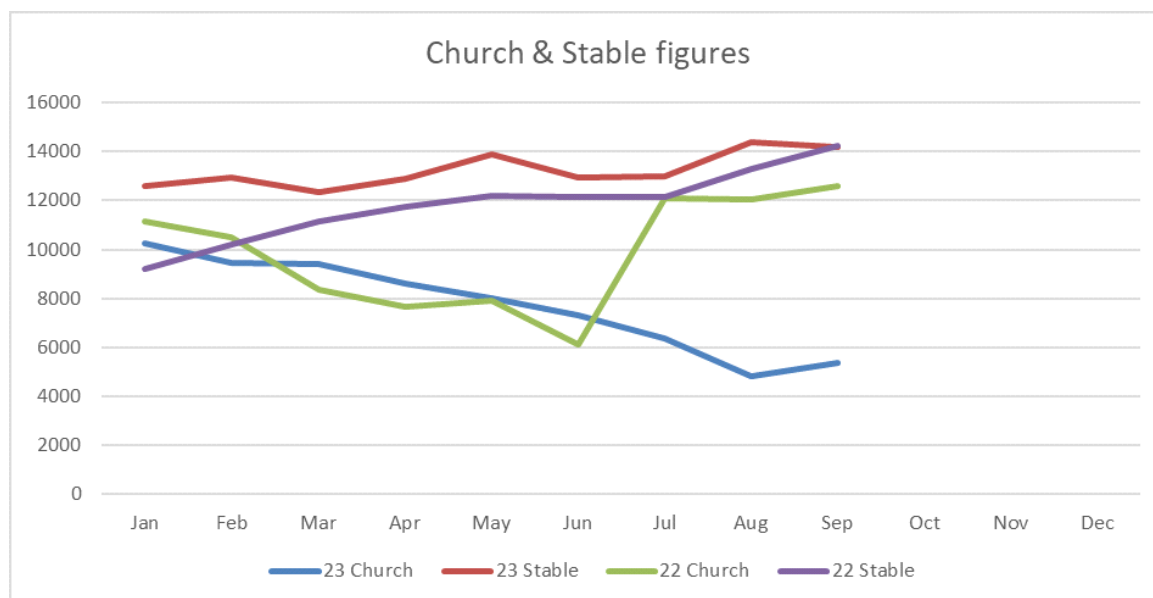
85% of our expenditure is on Ministry and maintaining our buildings

12% of our giving goes to Mission, approximately 10% to Baptist related mission.

The Stable has given over £5,100 away this year and still retains a healthy balance that will be needed in the coming year for drain maintenance.

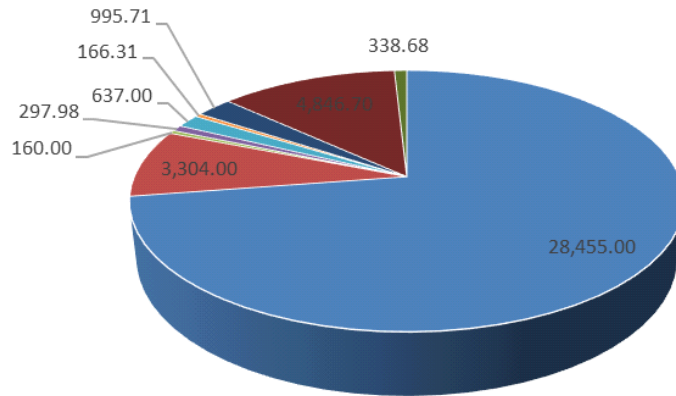
Overall, I think we are doing very well. My thanks go to Paul, Karen and others who count the cash on Sundays, Sheila who deals with Stable Cash and all the workers who do their best to fill in slips for various sale items.

Vince Carrington



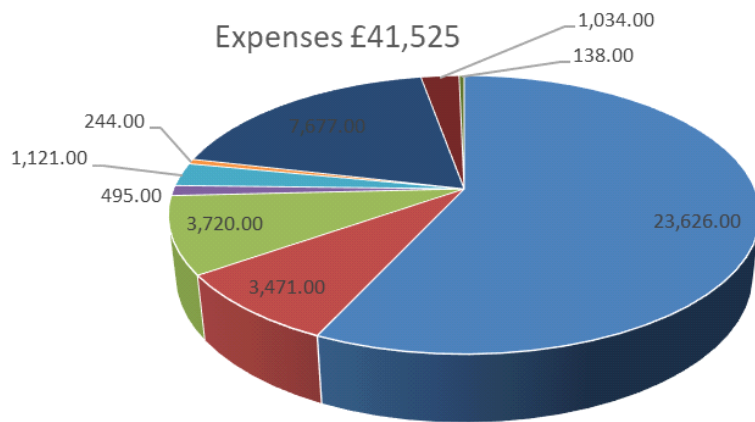
The following graphs show income and expenditure listed below:

Income £39,201.38



- 72.6% Monthly standing order
- 8.4% Weekly cash & cheques
- 0.4% BMS Birthday (£90 sent direct)
- 0.8% Eric (Toybox)
- 1.6% Special mission donations
- 0.4% B'fast & Cntct lunch
- 2.5% VAT Refund
- 12% Stable
- 0.9% Interest on deposit a/c
-

Expenses £41,525



- 57% Ministry
- 8% Manse
- 9% BMS Home and Abroad
- 0.2% Toybox
- 3% Special missions
- 0.6% Children & Youth
- 18% Maintenance
- 2.5% Cleaning
- 0.3% Events
-



Fivehead Baptist Church

Client
Original

Receipts & Payments Accounts

Period 1st January to 31st December 2023

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Stable Funds (Restricted)	Total funds	Last year 2022
Receipts					
Weekly Offering/Regular Gifts	31,849			31,849	32,689
Children's Collections Toybox	43			43	150
Lee Abbey Church Outing	-			0	603
Cottington Family Gift	-			0	765
Misc Receipts				0	851
BMS Birthday Scheme	70			70	160
Special Offerings	892			892	3,298
Hire Church Premises/Contact lunch	166			166	105
Other receipts	-		0	0	429
Gift Aid Tax Refund	996			996	6214
Bank Interest	339			339	61
Stable Utilities				0	0
Total Church receipts	34,355	0	0	34,355	45,325
BUC Fund Interest	-	186	0	186	96

The Stable

Stable Tips			715	715	925
Nett Receipts: The Stable	14,817			14,817	16,831
Total Stable	14,817	0	715	15,532	17,756

Gross Income

	49,172	186	715	50,073	63,177
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Payments

BU Pension Defecit				0	1,880
Ministry Salary,pension cont. expenses	23,626			23,626	21,701
Church: Insurance Utilities etc	-			0	2,172
Manse: Maintenance,Improvements	-			0	1,422
Manse:Water,Council Tax, Insurance	3,471			3,471	3,180
Church: Maintenance, Improvements,Cleaning	8,455			8,455	1,662
Mission	4,855			4,855	8,002
Mission payments by Stable	-			0	1,580
Pulpit	-			0	100
Youth /Children's Work	244			244	139
Admin.:Accounts Exam,Copyright,BU Sub etc.	256			256	1,000
Miscellaneous, Tea, Coffee, Cleaning Mats. Etc.	138			138	0
Website, Podcast, Tech support	-			0	257
Deacons Retirement Gift	-			0	0
Covid Hardship Fund Donations	-			0	0
Church outing	-			0	728
Cottington Family Gift	-			0	765
Oddments Theatre	-			0	250
Total payments	41,045	0	0	41,045	44,838

The Stable

Donations from Stable Tips	355		715	1,070	1,113
Stable Café Donations	4,000			4,000	3,374
Stable Café; Utilities; Consumables; Isle Abbots	10,645			10,645	11,343
Total	15,000	0	715	15,715	15,830

Gross Expenditure

56,045	0	715	56,760	60,668
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Net of receipts/payments

(6,873)	186	0	(6,687)	2,509
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Transfers between funds**Cash funds last year end**

52,266	6,281	0	58,547	56,038
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Cash funds this year end

45,393	6,467	0	51,860	58,547
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Cash Funds

NatWest Bank: General Fund	28,361		28,361	28,022
NatWest Bank: The Stable	12,412		12,412	12,121
Co-operative Bank	4,620		4,620	12,123
Stable unbanked cash			0	0
Stable Float			0	0
Stable Tips			0	0
BU Corporation Account		6,467	0	6,467
	45,393	6,467	0	51,860
				58,547

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Details	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Cash funds	NatWest Bank General Fund	28,361		28,361
	The Stable	12,412		12,412
	Co-operative Bank	4,620		4,620
	BU Corporation Account		6,467	6,467

Assets retained for the Charity's own use (Estimated Valuation)	Details	Funds to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	The manse	General	0	419,500
	Church Buildings	General	0	463,260
	Fixtures and Fittings	General	0	8,200
	Fixtures and fittings 'Stable Café'	General	0	3400

Liabilities	Details	Funds to which liability belongs	Amount due Optional	When due (Optional)
	Unpresented cheques	General	0	
	Baptist pension Scheme			
	Estimated Employer Debt	General	47,600	

Signed by one or two
of the trustees
on behalf of the trustees

Signature

Print name

Date of
approval

V Carrington

Vincent Carrington
(Treasurer)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Fivehead Baptist Church**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Fivehead Baptist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Fivehead Baptist Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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, 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.

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.



B Evans
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Somerset Accountancy Services Ltd
22 Wessex Park
Bancombe Business Estate
Somerton
Somerset
TA11 6SB

Date: 12/2/2025