

# Great Victoria Street Baptist Church

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107744

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2020-10-12

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 1 Hope Street  
Belfast  
1 Hope Street  
Bt12 5ee  
BT12 5EE

**Phone** 07483169445

**Email** [secretary@gtvicbaptist.com](mailto:secretary@gtvicbaptist.com)

**Website** [www.gtvicbaptist.com](http://www.gtvicbaptist.com)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** Great Victoria Street Baptist Church acknowledges the headship of Jesus Christ over his Church and exists to glorify the triune God by maintaining and promoting his worship both individually and corporately. Its members devote themselves to the teaching of Scripture, to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and evangelism. They commit, with the help of God, to witness to the saving and sustaining power of the Lord Jesus Christ and to work for the extension of his Kingdom. The principal charitable object of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the teaching of Scripture, the Doctrinal Statement and Baptist principles.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion

**How the charity works:** Religious activities

**Who the charity helps:** General public

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£439,702	£205,073	£-7,520	4

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## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Dumican		
Dr Jim Davison		
Dr Stephen Hogg		
Mr Cameron Grieve		
Mr Clifford Manley		
Mr David Nicholl		
Mr Gareth Mckillen		
Mr Jason Cardwell		
Mr Jonathan Graham		
Mr Lewis Crothers		
Mr Luke Smith		
Mr Martin Moorecroft		
Mr Philip Bonar		
Mr Robert Patterson		
Mr Simon Farewell		
Mr Steve Auld		
Ms Joanne Adair		

**Great Victoria Street Baptist Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107744

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number NIC107744

**GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**



# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## CONTENTS

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	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' report	2 - 8
Independent auditor's report	9 -11
Statement of financial activities	12
Statement of financial position	13
Statement of cash flows	14
Notes to the financial statements	15 - 21

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Mr Steve Auld (Chairman)  
Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary)  
Mr Derek Browne  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Mr Lewis Crothers  
Dr Jim Davison  
Mr Simon Farewell  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Dr Stephen Hogg  
Mr Clifford Manley  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Mr Martin Moorcroft  
Dr Andrew Nicholl  
Mr Robert Patterson (Church Treasurer)  
Mr Luke Smith

### Charity number

NIC107744

### Church address

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church  
1 Hope Street  
Belfast  
BT12 5EE

### Auditor

Johnston Kennedy DFK  
Registered Auditors  
10 Pilots View  
Heron Road  
Belfast  
BT3 9LE

### Bankers

Ulster Bank  
Belfast City Office Branch  
PO Box 232  
11-16 Donegall Square East  
Belfast  
BT1 5UB

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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The trustees of Great Victoria Street Baptist Church present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 of the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2008 and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)'.

#### Structure, governance and management

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

##### Elders

Mr Steve Auld (Pastor)  
Mr Simon Farewell (Assistant Pastor)  
Dr Jim Davison  
Dr Stephen Hogg  
Mr Clifford Manley  
Mr Martin Moorcroft

##### Deacons

Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary)  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Mr Lewis Crothers  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Dr Rachel Graham\*  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Dr Andrew Nicholl  
Mr Robert Patterson (Church Treasurer)  
Mr Luke Smith

\*Dr Rachel Graham stepped down as Deacon on 31 March 2025. Mr Derek Browne was elected to the office of Deacon with effect from 1 April 2025.

##### Appointment of Charity Trustees

Given the nature of their responsibilities, appointed Elders and Deacons (collectively referred to as the "Office-bearers") serve as the charity trustees. Appointment to the role of Charity Trustee terminates on cessation of holding the Office of Elder or Deacon. Any elected Office-bearer who is disqualified by law from acting as a Charity Trustee retains the Office of Elder or Deacon and discharge the duties of that post. There must be a minimum of three Charity Trustees at all times.

##### Role

The role of charity trustees is set out in the church constitution adopted in August 2019:

- The charity trustees are responsible for the governance of the Church and the fulfilment of the purpose as stated in Clause 2 of the constitution, acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members' Meeting and in accordance with the specific and general directions of that Meeting.
- The Charity Trustees ensure, in accordance with the instruction of the Church Meeting, that:
  - the appropriate level of insurance for building, public and employer's liability is held; and
  - all properties including those held on separate property trusts, (except those buildings that are required to be kept in repair and insured by a tenant) are kept in the appropriate state of repair.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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### Meetings and Quorum

There must be a minimum of two full meetings per year. There shall not be fewer than two persons, or half of the number of appointed trustees (whichever is the greater number) present at a full meeting of the trustees. In addition to the meetings of the whole group, the charity trustees may meet in such sub-groups as are necessary and convenient. Reports of such subgroup meetings must be made to the next full charity trustees Meeting.

### Office-Bearers

The Church recognises two spiritual offices within the Church: Elders and Deacons.

#### Elders

Elders are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Church, with particular responsibility for spiritual matters, by being servant leaders and shepherds of the flock of God; teaching, caring for and protecting the Church from error.

Those eligible to serve as Elders shall:

- be chosen from the male (according to biological gender/sex at birth) membership of the Church;
- display the necessary qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1;
- be in membership of the Church for at least two years;
- be in good standing with the Church; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church

With the exception of a Pastor, Elders serve a period of five years, and are eligible for re-election.

Candidates for the Office of Elder are nominated in writing by two church members (one of whom should be an Elder) at least three weeks prior to the church meeting at which the election of Elders is to take place (usually in March). The election of Elders is by ballot vote and requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting.

Within the role of Elder, the Church recognises the gift of Pastor to prepare God's people for service that the Church might be built up. A Pastor shall:

- be chosen from the membership of a church of like faith and order;
- display the gift and qualifications of Elder as set out in Clause 5.1.2 of the Church Constitution; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church

When appointing a Pastor, the selection committee proposes a name to the Church at a special meeting of the Church where the call of a Pastor is to be considered. The appointment of a Pastor is by ballot vote and require a two-thirds majority of the entire membership as set out in the Church Trust Deed. If the majority at the special meeting of the Church is greater than seventy-five percent in favour, but less than the total required by the Church Trust Deed, assent forms may be given to those members unable to be present at the special meeting.

The terms of the Pastor's appointment shall be negotiated by the Office-bearers according to guidelines approved by the Church.

#### Deacons

The duties of Deacons, while spiritual in nature, include the administration of the affairs of the Church to ensure the smooth, ordered and efficient running of church life and the practical care of the members.

Members to be considered for appointment as Deacons shall:

- display the necessary qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3;
- have been, ideally, in membership of the Church for a period of at least two years;
- be in good standing with the Church; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church (see Clause 3).

Deacons serve a period of three years but are eligible for re-election.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024*

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Candidates for the office of Deacon are nominated in writing by two church members at least three weeks prior to the church meeting at which the election of Deacons is to take place. Persons nominating candidates must first obtain their consent. The election of Deacons is by ballot vote and require two-thirds of those present and voting.

The Office-bearers commend two church members for appointment to the roles of secretary and treasurer who also hold the role of Deacon.

#### Office-bearers' Meetings

The Office-bearers shall normally meet each month, with the exception of July and August. The date of each meeting shall be set at the previous meeting at the latest. Office-bearers' Meetings may be convened to consider matters of urgency arising between the monthly Meetings.

The quorum for Office-bearers' meetings shall not be fewer than two persons, or half of their number, whichever is the greater number.

The Church Secretary shall service the monthly Office-bearers' Meetings with minutes being circulated in a timely fashion.

The Church Treasurer shall report to the Office-bearers each month on the current financial position of the Church.

Elders shall meet separately to consider those matters which affect the spiritual life of the Church.

#### **Objectives and activities**

##### Objectives

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church acknowledges the headship of Jesus Christ over his Church and exists to glorify the triune God by maintaining and promoting his worship both individually and corporately.

Its members devote themselves to the teaching of Scripture, to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and evangelism. They commit, with the help of God, to witness to the saving and sustaining power of the Lord Jesus Christ and to work for the extension of his Kingdom.

The principal charitable object of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the teaching of Scripture, the Doctrinal Statement and Baptist principles.

##### Activities

The Church meet for morning and evening worship each Sunday and visitors are welcome to participate. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at the morning service and at the evening service of the third Sunday in the month. Anyone who has made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is on good standing at their local church is welcome to share in communion.

There is a range of activities that are held regularly throughout the year including but not limited to:

- Sunday services - morning and evening
- Sunday school
- Crèche
- Monthly Youth ministry (and one-off events including games evening and day trip)
- Bi-weekly mid-week meetings (prayer)
- Bi-weekly Small Groups (home Bible study and prayer groups)
- Monthly Mid-Week Mission Focus meetings
- Friendship Hour (monthly ministry for senior citizens with one-off special events at Christmas etc.)
- Abide (monthly women's ministry with one-off special events -)
- 20s & 30s (ministry for young adults for fellowship and discipling)
- Following God Together (monthly ministry for adults with intellectual disability)
- Ukrainian ministry (monthly fellowship, food and teaching for Ukrainian refugees)
- Men's Breakfasts (Fellowship and discipling)
- Timeout (Fellowship group for 50 plus age group)

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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- Hope Explored (evangelistic Bible study)
  - Bounce (seasonal vocational kids' Bible Club)

#### Attendance

Some approximate average attendance figures include:

Sunday morning services	175 (membership 142)
Sunday school	24
Crèche	20
Abide	30
20s & 30s	30
Friendship Hour	24
Small Groups	122
Mid-Week Prayer meeting	40
Timeout	20
Youth	7

#### **Achievements and performance**

The Church regularly gathers for public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching for all age groups, and provides pastoral care to the Church family through visitation and prayer. We organise meetings and events to proclaim and demonstrate with our lives our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord. The Church conducts evangelistic and outreach mission activities and supports other Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, financial gifts and prayer; and providing pastoral and financial support to our missionary family.

#### Charity Trustees 2024 Report

As we reflect on this past year of ministry at Great Vic the words of the following hymn come to mind:

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who walks beside;  
who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fear to fly;  
whose every promise is enough for every step I take;  
sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

#### Worship

On Sunday mornings this year we spent the lion's share of our time in the book of Revelation. The goal of this series has been to give us a bigger vision of our sovereign God to give us confidence in living hope filled lives in this fallen world. As well as this, we had a special series in the middle of the year studying Psalms that teach us what real spiritual growth looks like for God's people.

Supporting this ministry in the mornings, our associate pastor completed his excellent evening series in the book of Acts. After this he opened up Ezra and Nehemiah, helping us to renew our vision to revitalise and rebuild. We also had an excellent summer series on the books of 1st and 2nd Thessalonians where various members served the church by preaching faithfully. All this Sunday ministry has been reinforced in our midweek prayer times and small group Bible studies in various homes across the city.

#### Highlights

At the close of another year we can again say, "The Lord has done good things for us and we are glad" (Psalm 126:3). Particular encouragements from the year include:

- Welcoming two Elders onto our Eldership team and three new Deacons to our Diaconate team.
- Seeing 24 new members immerse themselves into to making Great Vic their true spiritual home.
- Four baptisms
- Renewed focus and significant progress on our building project.
- The running of Hope Explored - a three-week evangelistic Bible study
- Our ever-expanding Crèche, Sunday school ministries
- The expansion of Bounce , our children's Bible Club in the Sandy Row and Donegall Road areas with events held at Halloween and Christmas as well as the annual summer outreach week
- The launch of a new Youth ministry with a focus on Bible discussion, discipleship, and social events

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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- The launch of ChurchSuite software which has improved recording of church membership details, rotas and church information and communication.
  - Outreach events including St Patrick's Day, the Belfast Half Marathon and the first ever Great Vic Christmas Fair
  - The expansion of our student ministry with the introductions of student meals and the hosting of for QUB and University of Ulster Christian Union and Friends International events

The Trustees are thankful for the willing, joyful and often quiet service of everyone in the church. For all the ministries detailed in this report and for those which are not – the catering team faithfully serving refreshments after each service, the welcome team supporting the Deacons each Sunday and for those who maintain the building in which we worship.

#### Church Family

It was with delight that we welcomed six new lives into the church family and two marriages within the church family.

We saw the home call of five of our members whose combined membership totaled 370 years. We are thankful for their faithful love to the fellowship at Great Victoria Street, serving in mission support, women's ministry, Campaigners and mission support.

#### Missions

One of Great Vic's defining values is going into our city and the world with the gospel. We seek to make disciples not just in Belfast but also in different cultures across the world. We continue to support missionaries who have gone out from Great Vic for this very purpose to serve in Portugal, Peru, Kenya and Madagascar as well as supporting a church member currently training at Bible College in the Netherlands.

We had our annual missions focus weekend at Great Vic in October. Our guest preacher challenged us on the cost of making Christ known in the world and about the challenges of gospel ministry in the Republic of Ireland.

Our hope and prayer is that the Lord would lead people to worship him from every tribe, tongue and nation across the world (Rev 5:9).

#### **Financial review**

The net income for the year amounted to £234,629 (2023: £405,107), of which a net income of £16,070 is attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £184,207 (2023: £168,137) and a net income of £218,559 is attributable to restricted reserves.

#### **Plans for the future**

As we look forward to the next few years, we remain confident that we will see the development of our new church premises so that we can continue to serve the congregation and the student, business and residential community around us: 'The Lord is my strength and my shield in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him' (Psalm 28:70).

#### **Public Benefit**

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include:

- Eternal salvation and adoption into the family of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- The spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing reconciliation both between human beings and God and between human beings;
- The gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and the Doctrinal Statement of the Church leading to spiritual and moral development and personal growth in the Christian faith;
- The provision of regular Christian education, helping people to understand, live out, defend and

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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promote the Christian Gospel of Jesus Christ;

- Practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need, assistance and comfort to the sick, elderly and bereaved;
- The development of individual ability and gift through the engagement of willing volunteers in practical and spiritual service; and
- The positive impact on society that comes from the living out of the Christian worldview.

The benefits arising from the purpose will be demonstrated through:

- The number of those attending activities and events and directly benefiting each week from Bible teaching and corporate worship;
- The leaders and helpers mobilised each week through various programmes and the positive contributions of members within the wider community; and
- The effective pastoral care supporting both families and individuals.

This will be evidenced through regular evaluation, annual reports and informal feedback from members and those attending the events, their families and the general public within the community in which the Church operates.

The Trustees do not anticipate that any harm will flow from any of the above purposes.

The Church's beneficiaries are:

- Church Members, Associate Members and Adherents, and anyone who chooses to attend church services which are open to members of the general public;
- other individuals that the Church is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland; the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and secular organisations.

The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are the provision of a stipend for any pastor of the Church who will also assume the role of Trustee and paid employment for the personnel required to manage the work of the Church.

Any Trustee appointed by the Church as a member of the Missionary Family will be entitled to financial support from the Church according to the Church Missionary policy. Such stipend, salaries, support and any incurred expenses are incidental to enable the Church to provide the pastoral and administrative support required to fulfil the stated Purpose.

#### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are required to prepare the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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### Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 04/06/25 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Steve Auld  
Chairman

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Great Victoria Street Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the management committee report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees' are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 165(3)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations under section 66 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the nature of the organisation and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

We developed an understanding of the key fraud risks to the entity (including how fraud might occur), the controls in place to help mitigate those risks, and the accounts, balances and disclosures within the financial statements which may be susceptible to management bias.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

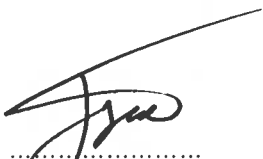
As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements,
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims,
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud,
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC,
- addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias, and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [https:// www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....  
**James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**For and on behalf of Johnston Kennedy DFK**  
**Statutory Auditor**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Registered Auditors**  
**10 Pilots View**  
**Heron Road**  
**Belfast**  
**BT3 9LE**

Date: ..... 4/6/25 .....

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	182,489	241,619	424,108	189,356	413,082	602,437
Investments	4	-	15,594	15,594	-	736	736
<b>Total income</b>		<u>182,489</u>	<u>257,213</u>	<u>439,702</u>	<u>189,356</u>	<u>413,818</u>	<u>603,174</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	5	146,126	58,947	205,073	132,509	65,558	198,067
Gross transfers between funds		(20,293)	20,293	-	(21,427)	21,247	-
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<u>16,070</u>	<u>218,559</u>	<u>234,629</u>	<u>35,419</u>	<u>369,686</u>	<u>405,105</u>
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		<u>168,137</u>	<u>2,885,688</u>	<u>3,053,825</u>	<u>132,717</u>	<u>2,516,001</u>	<u>2,648,718</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2024</b>		<u><u>184,207</u></u>	<u><u>3,104,247</u></u>	<u><u>3,288,454</u></u>	<u><u>168,137</u></u>	<u><u>2,885,688</u></u>	<u><u>3,053,825</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

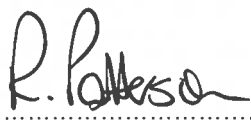
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		2,097,799		2,102,964
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	61,411		5,933	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,136,764</u>		<u>952,692</u>	
		1,198,175		958,625	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within One year</b>	10	<u>(7,520)</u>		<u>(7,764)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			1,190,655		950,861
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>3,288,454</u>		<u>3,053,825</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	11		3,104,247		2,885,688
Unrestricted funds	12		<u>184,207</u>		<u>168,137</u>
			<u>3,288,454</u>		<u>3,053,825</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 04/06/25



Mr Steve Auld  
Chairman



Mr Robert Patterson  
Treasurer

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	14		172,478		412,153
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,000)		(1,856)	
Investment income received		15,594		736	
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>					
			11,594		(1,120)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>					
			184,072		411,033
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year					
			952,692		541,659
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>					
			<u>1,136,764</u>		<u>952,692</u>

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# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church is a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 66a Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT9 6GD.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" as amended for accounting period commencing from 1 January 2016. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the

financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the trustee has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	149,287	220,553	369,840	553,501
Gift Aid Income	33,202	21,066	54,268	48,936
	<u>182,489</u>	<u>241,619</u>	<u>424,108</u>	<u>602,437</u>

4 Investments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	-	15,594	15,594	736
	<u>-</u>	<u>15,594</u>	<u>15,594</u>	<u>736</u>

### 5 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Support Costs	18,217	10,097	28,314	16,251
Activity costs	127,909	48,850	176,759	181,816
	<u>146,126</u>	<u>58,947</u>	<u>205,073</u>	<u>198,067</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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### 6 Trustees

4 trustees were employed by the Church during the year. In the capacity as employees they received remuneration totalling £91,725 during the financial year. No remuneration was paid in relation to their duties as trustees.

### 7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	4	3

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 8 Tangible fixed assets

	Property £	Fixtures and equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2024	2,075,386	45,162	2,120,548
Additions	-	4,000	4,000
At December 2024	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>49,162</u>	<u>2,124,548</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2024	-	17,584	17,584
Depreciation charged in the year	-	9,165	9,165
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>26,749</u>	<u>26,749</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>27,587</u>	<u>2,102,964</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>22,413</u>	<u>2,097,799</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 9 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Accrued income	21,806	4,159
Redevelopment costs incurred	34,916	-
Prepayments	4,688	1,774
	<u>61,411</u>	<u>5,933</u>
	£	£
Amounts within one year	<u>26,495</u>	<u>5,933</u>
Amounts after one year	<u>34,916</u>	<u>-</u>

### 10 Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts within one year:		
Accruals	<u>7,520</u>	<u>7,764</u>
	<u>7,520</u>	<u>7,764</u>

### 11 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Fellowship fund	1,991	-	(500)	-	1,491
Mission fund	-	14,458	(34,751)	20,293	-
Sunday School Trust	1,073	-	(318)	-	755
Staffing Support Fund	30,337	9,359	(19,724)	-	19,972
Abide Fund	250	2,752	(2,708)	-	294
Redevelopment Fund	739,892	228,380	-	(34,916)	933,356
Property Fund	2,075,386	-	-	34,916	2,110,302
Young Adults Fund	-	1,070	(946)	-	124
Manse Fund	<u>36,759</u>	<u>1,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,953</u>
	<u>2,885,688</u>	<u>257,213</u>	<u>(58,947)</u>	<u>20,293</u>	<u>3,104,247</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 12 Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	168,137	182,489	(146,126)	(20,293)	184,207

### 13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Net Current assets	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted income funds</b>				
Fellowship fund	-	1,491	1,491	1,991
Mission fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Trust	-	755	755	1,073
Staffing Support Fund	-	19,972	19,972	30,338
Abide Fund	-	294	294	250
Redevelopment Fund	-	933,356	933,356	739,891
Property Fund	2,075,386	34,916	2,110,302	2,075,386
Young Adults Fund	-	124	124	-
Manse Fund	-	37,953	37,953	36,759
	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>1,028,861</u>	<u>3,104,247</u>	<u>2,885,688</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>				
Designated funds	22,413	-	22,413	27,578
Free reserves	-	161,794	161,794	140,559
	<u>22,413</u>	<u>161,794</u>	<u>184,207</u>	<u>168,137</u>
	<u>2,097,799</u>	<u>1,190,655</u>	<u>3,288,454</u>	<u>3,053,825</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14	Cash generated from operations	2024	2023
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	234,629	405,106
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(15,594)	(736)
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	9,166	8,923
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(55,479)	(2,452)
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(244)	1,312
	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>172,478</u>	<u>412,153</u>

### 15 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation on the financial statements.

### 16 Related party transactions

During the year the congregation contributed £1,460 to the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland for congregational assessments.

During the year the Trustees formed a company limited by guarantee, GVBC Property Ltd (NI711686), to manage redevelopment of the Church property, at 66a Great Victoria Street, Belfast. Payments advanced to this related entity during the year, in relation to costs incurred, amounted to £34,916 and have been reflected within note 9 of the accounts

**Great Victoria Street Baptist Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107744

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number NIC107744

**GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## CONTENTS

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	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' report	2 - 8
Independent auditor's report	9 -11
Statement of financial activities	12
Statement of financial position	13
Statement of cash flows	14
Notes to the financial statements	15 - 21

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Mr Steve Auld (Chairman)  
Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary)  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Mr Lewis Crothers  
Dr Jim Davison  
Mr Simon Farewell  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Ms Rachel Graham  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Dr Stephen Hogg  
Mr Clifford Manley  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Mr Martin Moorcroft  
Mr Robert Patterson (Church Treasurer)  
Dr Andrew Nicholl  
Mr Luke Smith

### Charity number

NIC107744

### Church address

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church  
66a Great Victoria Street  
Belfast  
BT9 6GD

### Auditor

Johnston Kennedy DFK  
Registered Auditors  
10 Pilots View  
Heron Road  
Belfast  
BT3 9LE

### Bankers

Ulster Bank  
Belfast City Office Branch  
PO Box 232  
11-16 Donegall Square East  
Belfast  
BT1 5UB

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The trustees present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2008 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

### Structure, governance and management

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

#### Elders

Mr Steve Auld (Pastor)  
Mr Simon Farewell (Assistant Pastor)  
Dr Jim Davison  
Mr Clifford Manley

#### Deacons

Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary)  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Dr Rachel Graham  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Dr Stephen Hogg  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Mr Martin Moorcroft  
Mr Robert Patterson (Church Treasurer)

#### Appointment of Charity Trustees

Given the nature of their responsibilities, appointed Elders and Deacons (collectively referred to as the "Office-bearers") serve as the charity trustees. Appointment to the role of Charity Trustee terminates on cessation of holding the Office of Elder or Deacon. Any elected Office-bearer who is disqualified by law from acting as a Charity Trustee retains the Office of Elder or Deacon and discharge the duties of that post. There must be a minimum of three Charity Trustees at all times.

#### Role

The role of charity trustees is set out in the church constitution adopted in August 2019:

- The charity trustees are responsible for the governance of the Church and the fulfilment of the purpose as stated in Clause 2 of the constitution, acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members' Meeting and in accordance with the specific and general directions of that Meeting.
- The Charity Trustees ensure, in accordance with the instruction of the Church Meeting, that:
  - the appropriate level of insurance for building, public and employer's liability is held; and
  - all properties including those held on separate property trusts, (except those buildings that are required to be kept in repair and insured by a tenant) are kept in the appropriate state of repair.

#### Meetings and Quorum

There must be a minimum of two full meetings per year. There shall not be fewer than two persons, or half of the number of appointed trustees (whichever is the greater number) present at a full meeting of the trustees. In addition to the meetings of the whole group, the charity trustees may meet in such sub-groups as are necessary and convenient. Reports of such subgroup meetings must be made to the next full charity trustees Meeting.

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# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### Office-Bearers

The Church recognises two spiritual offices within the Church: Elders and Deacons.

### Elders

Elders are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Church, with particular responsibility for spiritual matters, by being servant leaders and shepherds of the flock of God; teaching, caring for and protecting the Church from error.

Those eligible to serve as Elders shall:

- be chosen from the male (according to biological gender/sex at birth) membership of the Church;
- display the necessary qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1;
- be in membership of the Church for at least two years;
- be in good standing with the Church; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church

With the exception of a Pastor, Elders serve a period of five years, and are eligible for re-election.

Candidates for the Office of Elder are nominated in writing by two church members (one of whom should be an Elder) at least three weeks prior to the church meeting at which the election of Elders is to take place (usually in March). The election of Elders is by ballot vote and requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting.

Within the role of Elder, the Church recognises the gift of Pastor to prepare God's people for service that the Church might be built up. A Pastor shall:

- be chosen from the membership of a church of like faith and order;
- display the gift and qualifications of Elder as set out in Clause 5.1.2 of the Church Constitution; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church

When appointing a Pastor, the selection committee proposes a name to the Church at a special meeting of the Church where the call of a Pastor is to be considered. The appointment of a Pastor is by ballot vote and require a two-thirds majority of the entire membership as set out in the Church Trust Deed. If the majority at the special meeting of the Church is greater than seventy-five percent in favour, but less than the total required by the Church Trust Deed, assent forms may be given to those members unable to be present at the special meeting.

The terms of the Pastor's appointment shall be negotiated by the Office-bearers according to guidelines approved by the Church.

### Deacons

The duties of Deacons, while spiritual in nature, include the administration of the affairs of the Church to ensure the smooth, ordered and efficient running of church life and the practical care of the members.

Members to be considered for appointment as Deacons shall:

- display the necessary qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3;
- have been, ideally, in membership of the Church for a period of at least two years;
- be in good standing with the Church; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church (see Clause 3).

Deacons serve a period of three years but are eligible for re-election.

Candidates for the office of Deacon are nominated in writing by two church members at least three weeks prior to the church meeting at which the election of Deacons is to take place. Persons nominating candidates must first obtain their consent. The election of Deacons is by ballot vote and require two-thirds of those present and voting.

The Office-bearers commend two church members for appointment to the roles of secretary and treasurer who also hold the role of Deacon.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### Office-bearers' Meetings

The Office-bearers shall normally meet each month, with the exception of July and August. The date of each meeting shall be set at the previous meeting at the latest. Office-bearers' Meetings may be convened to consider matters of urgency arising between the monthly Meetings.

The quorum for Office-bearers' meetings shall not be fewer than two persons, or half of their number, whichever is the greater number.

The Church Secretary shall service the monthly Office-bearers' Meetings with minutes being circulated in a timely fashion.

The Church Treasurer shall report to the Office-bearers each month on the current financial position of the Church.

Elders shall meet separately to consider those matters which affect the spiritual life of the Church.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### Objectives

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church acknowledges the headship of Jesus Christ over his Church and exists to glorify the triune God by maintaining and promoting his worship both individually and corporately.

Its members devote themselves to the teaching of Scripture, to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and evangelism. They commit, with the help of God, to witness to the saving and sustaining power of the Lord Jesus Christ and to work for the extension of his Kingdom.

The principal charitable object of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the teaching of Scripture, the Doctrinal Statement and Baptist principles.

#### Activities

The Church meet for morning and evening worship each Sunday and visitors are welcome to participate. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at the morning service and at 4h evening service of the third Sunday in the month. Anyone who has made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is on good standing at their local church is welcome to share in communion.

There is a range of activities that are held regularly throughout the year including but not limited to:

- Sunday services - morning and evening
- Sunday school
- Crèche
- Monthly Youth ministry (and one-off events including games evening and day trip)
- Bi-weekly mid-week meetings (prayer)
- Bi-weekly Small Groups (home Bible study and prayer groups)
- Monthly Mid-Week Mission Focus meetings
- Friendship Hour (monthly ministry for senior citizens with one-off special events at Christmas etc.)
- Abide (monthly women's' ministry with one-off special events -)
- 20s & 30s (ministry for young adults for fellowship and discipling)
- Following God Together (monthly ministry for adults with intellectual disability)
- Ukrainian ministry (monthly fellowship, food and teaching for Ukrainian refugees)
- Men's Breakfasts (Fellowship and discipling)
- Timeout (Fellowship group for 50 plus age group)
- Hope Explored (evangelistic Bible study)
- Bounce (annual vocational kids' Bible Club)

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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### Attendance

Some approximate average attendance figures include:

Sunday morning services	165 (membership 127)
Sunday school	20
Crèche	17
Abide	30
20s & 30s	30
Friendship Hour	24
Small Groups	105
Mid-Week Prayer meeting	40

### **Achievements and performance**

The Church regularly gathers for public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching for all age groups, and provides pastoral care to the Church family through visitation and prayer. We organise meetings and events to proclaim and demonstrate with our lives our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord. The Church conducts evangelistic and outreach mission activities and supports other Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, financial gifts and prayer; and providing pastoral and financial support to our missionary family.

2023 has been another encouraging year for us at Great Vic and the words of the following hymn come to mind:

Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

### Worship

On Sunday mornings this year we finished the book of Daniel early in the year before moving into an extended series on the book of Galatians entitled "Christ is Enough." How great it was to rejoice in the sufficiency of Christ throughout that series. In the Summer months we studied Psalm 119 and then the book of Habakkuk before launching out into the deep waters of Revelation with a new series entitled, "The Presence of the Future." Our Sunday morning ministry has been helpfully complemented by our assistant pastor Simon's evening series from Acts entitled "Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth," and from Genesis entitled, "God's Good Purposes" a study in the life of Joseph. The Word has been living and active among us and it is encouraging to hear of people being ministered to by the Spirit of God through his Word. All this has been reinforced in our midweek prayer times and small group Bible studies as we gather to seek the Lord and encourage each other.

### Highlights

So many people work so hard to serve in so many ways at Great Vic and there is a very real sense that we are in this work together and that God is at work among us. Particular highlights from the year include:

- The running of Hope Explored - a three-week evangelistic Bible study
- Our growing crèche and Sunday school ministry
- Summer outreach including Bounce, our children's Bible Club in the Sandy Row and Donegall

### Road areas

- The start of a new Men's Breakfast ministry
- The appointment of a pastoral intern
- The continued progress of our building project
- A further 9 members being added to our fellowship including three family units with eight children among them. We also celebrated four baptisms towards the end of the year.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### Church Family

It was with joy and excitement that we welcomed two new lives into the church and celebrated the marriage of two members of the congregation. We also remember with joy and thanksgiving four of our members went home to be with the Lord. We give thanks for their love and dedication to the fellowship over many years, serving in various ways including Sunday school, Baptist Women's Fellowship and Campaigners.

Their combined membership totaled over 250 years! What a wonderful testimony to Christian women at Great Vic.

#### Missions

The missionary weekend was held between 14th and 15th October with this year's focus being "The Unreached within Reach." We considered how God has brought peoples from hard-to-reach places now within reach opening a wonderful door of opportunity for mission and evangelism on our doorstep. We also heard about the work at Blackrock Community Church, Dublin. The Sunday evening was a wonderful internationally themed, multi-lingual praise evening where we rejoiced that we are part of God's global Church.

We continue to support missionaries who have gone out from Great Vic to serve in Portugal, Peru, Kenya and Madagascar as well as supporting a church member currently training at Bible College in the Netherlands.

At the close of another year we can again say, "The Lord has done good things for us and we are glad" (Psalm 126:3).

#### **Financial review**

The net income for the year amounted to £405,107 (2022: £35,534), of which a net income of £35,420 is attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £168,137(2022: £132,717) and a net income of £369,687 is attributable to restricted reserves.

#### **Plans for future periods**

We look forward to another year with confidence and are particularly excited as we work towards the redevelopment of our church site. This is a significant undertaking but we believe that God will be with us as we move toward building fit for purpose premises which will best serve the congregation and the community around us.

#### **Public Benefit**

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include:

- Eternal salvation and adoption into the family of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- The spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing reconciliation both between human beings and God and between human beings;
- The gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and the Doctrinal Statement of the Church leading to spiritual and moral development and personal growth in the Christian faith;
- The provision of regular Christian education, helping people to understand, live out, defend and promote the Christian Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- Practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need, assistance and comfort to the sick, elderly and bereaved;
- The development of individual ability and gift through the engagement of willing volunteers in practical and spiritual service; and
- The positive impact on society that comes from the living out of the Christian worldview.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The benefits arising from the purpose will be demonstrated through:

- The number of those attending activities and events and directly benefiting each week from Bible teaching and corporate worship;
- The leaders and helpers mobilised each week through various programmes and the positive contributions of members within the wider community; and
- The effective pastoral care supporting both families and individuals.

This will be evidenced through regular evaluation, annual reports and informal feedback from members and those attending the events, their families and the general public within the community in which the Church operates.

The Trustees do not anticipate that any harm will flow from any of the above purposes.

The Church's beneficiaries are:

- Church Members, Associate Members and Adherents, and anyone who chooses to attend church services which are open to members of the general public;
- other individuals that the Church is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland; the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and secular organisations.

The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are the provision of a stipend for any pastor of the Church who will also assume the role of Trustee and paid employment for the personnel required to manage the work of the Church.

Any Trustee appointed by the Church as a member of the Missionary Family will be entitled to financial support from the Church according to the Church Missionary policy. Such stipend, salaries, support and any incurred expenses are incidental to enable the Church to provide the pastoral and administrative support required to fulfil the stated Purpose.

#### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are required to prepare the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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### Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on *11<sup>th</sup> June 2024* and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
**Mr Steve Auld**  
Chairman

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Great Victoria Street Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the management committee report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 165(3)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations under section 66 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the nature of the organisation and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
  - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
  - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

We developed an understanding of the key fraud risks to the entity (including how fraud might occur), the controls in place to help mitigate those risks, and the accounts, balances and disclosures within the financial statements which may be susceptible to management bias.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements,
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims,
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud,
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC,
- addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias, and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [https:// www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....  
**James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**For and on behalf of Johnston Kennedy DFK**  
**Statutory Auditor**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Registered Auditors**  
**10 Pilots View**  
**Heron Road**  
**Belfast**  
**BT3 9LE**

Date: ..... 11/6/24 .....

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	189,356	413,082	602,438	137,744	105,231	242,975
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	4	-	736	736	128	-	128
Other income		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>189,356</b>	<b>413,818</b>	<b>603,174</b>	<b>137,872</b>	<b>105,231</b>	<b>243,103</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	6	132,509	65,558	198,067	132,838	74,731	207,568
Gross transfers between funds		(21,427)	21,427	-	(71,209)	71,209	-
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>35,420</b>	<b>369,687</b>	<b>405,107</b>	<b>(66,175)</b>	<b>101,709</b>	<b>35,534</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		132,717	2,516,001	2,648,718	198,891	2,414,292	2,613,183
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		<b>168,137</b>	<b>2,885,688</b>	<b>3,053,825</b>	<b>132,717</b>	<b>2,516,000</b>	<b>2,648,718</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		2,102,964		2,110,031
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	5,933		3,479	
Cash at bank and in hand		952,692		541,659	
		958,625		545,138	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within One year</b>	10	(7,764)		(6,452)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			950,861		538,687
<b>Net assets</b>			3,053,825		2,648,717
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	11		2,885,688		2,516,000
Unrestricted funds	12		168,137		132,717
			3,053,825		2,648,717

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on..... 11/6/24



Mr Steve Auld  
Chairman



Mr Robert Patterson  
Treasurer

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	14		412,153		47,040
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,856)		-	
Investment income received		736		128	
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>			<u>(1,120)</u>		<u>128</u>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			411,033		47,168
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			541,659		494,491
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>952,692</u>		<u>541,659</u>

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# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church is a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 66a Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT9 6GD.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" as amended for accounting period commencing from 1 January 2016. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the

financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the trustee has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the 's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	158,311	395,191	553,502	207,952
Gift Aid Income	31,045	17,891	48,936	35,146
	<u>189,356</u>	<u>413,082</u>	<u>602,438</u>	<u>243,098</u>

4 Investments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	-	736	736	128
	<u>-</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>128</u>

### 5 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Support Costs	16,251	-	16,251	14,155
Activity costs	116,258	65,558	181,816	193,413
	<u>132,509</u>	<u>65,558</u>	<u>198,067</u>	<u>207,568</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 6 Trustees

4 trustees received a remuneration for their services, totalling £78,357 during the financial year.

### 7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2023 Number	2022 Number
4	3

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 8 Tangible fixed assets

	Property £	Fixtures and equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2023	2,075,386	43,306	2,118,692
Additions	-	1,856	1,856
At December 2023	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>45,162</u>	<u>1,810,199</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2023	-	8,661	8,661
Depreciation charged in the year	-	8,923	8,923
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>17,584</u>	<u>17,584</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>27,578</u>	<u>2,102,964</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>34,645</u>	<u>2,110,031</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 9 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Accrued income	4,159	2,004
Prepayments	1,774	1,475
	<u>5,933</u>	<u>3,479</u>

### 10 Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Accruals	7,765	6,452
	<u>7,765</u>	<u>6,452</u>

### 11 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship fund	1,991	-	-	-	1,991
Mission fund	-	11,758	(32,568)	20,810	-
Sunday School Trust	1,385	-	(312)	-	1,073
Staffing Support Fund	31,200	10,419	(11,281)	-	30,338
Abide Fund	255	2,345	(2,851)	500	250
Redevelopment Fund	369,556	384,517	(14,181)	-	739,892
Property Fund	2,075,386	-	-	-	2,075,386
Young Adults Fund	205	4,043	(4,365)	117	-
Manse Fund	36,023	736	-	-	36,759
	<u>2,516,000</u>	<u>413,818</u>	<u>(65,558)</u>	<u>21,427</u>	<u>2,885,688</u>

### 12 Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	132,717	189,356	(132,509)	(21,427)	168,137
	<u>132,717</u>	<u>189,356</u>	<u>(132,509)</u>	<u>(21,427)</u>	<u>168,137</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Net Current assets	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted income funds</b>				
Fellowship fund	-	1,991	1,991	1,991
Mission fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Trust	-	1,073	1,073	1,385
Staffing Support Fund	-	30,338	30,338	31,200
Abide Fund	-	250	250	255
Redevelopment Fund	-	739,891	739,891	369,556
Property Fund	2,075,386	-	2,075,386	2,075,386
Young Adults Fund	-	-	-	205
Manse Fund	-	36,759	36,759	36,023
	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>810,302</u>	<u>2,885,688</u>	<u>2,516,001</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>				
Designated funds	27,578	-	27,758	34,645
Free reserves	-	140,559	140,559	98,072
	<u>27,578</u>	<u>140,559</u>	<u>168,137</u>	<u>132,717</u>
	<u>2,102,964</u>	<u>950,861</u>	<u>3,053,825</u>	<u>2,648,718</u>

### 14 Cash generated from operations

	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus for the year	405,106	44,195
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(736)	(128)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	8,923	
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,452)	(3,478)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,312	6,451
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>412,153</u>	<u>47,040</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 15 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation on the financial statements.

### 16 Related party transactions

During the year the congregation contributed £1,342 to the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland for congregational assessments.

The following contributions were also made to Association of Baptist Church in Ireland:

Baptist Missions	£3,500
Acre International	£4,350
Mission Support – Shane McGloin	£8,500

There were no other related party transactions.

**Great Victoria Street Baptist Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107744

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# Annual report

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Charity registration number NIC107744

**GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## CONTENTS

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	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' report	2 - 8
Independent auditor's report	9 -11
Statement of financial activities	12
Statement of financial position	13
Statement of cash flows	14
Notes to the financial statements	15 - 21

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Mr Steve Auld (Chairman)  
Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary)  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Mr Lewis Crothers  
Dr Jim Davison  
Mr Simon Farewell  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Ms Rachel Graham  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Dr Stephen Hogg  
Mr Clifford Manley  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Mr Martin Moorcroft  
Mr Robert Patterson (Church Treasurer)  
Dr Andrew Nicholl  
Mr Luke Smith

### Charity number

NIC107744

### Church address

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church  
66a Great Victoria Street  
Belfast  
BT9 6GD

### Auditor

Johnston Kennedy DFK  
Registered Auditors  
10 Pilots View  
Heron Road  
Belfast  
BT3 9LE

### Bankers

Ulster Bank  
Belfast City Office Branch  
PO Box 232  
11-16 Donegall Square East  
Belfast  
BT1 5UB

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The trustees present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2008 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

#### Structure, governance and management

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

##### Elders

Mr Steve Auld (Pastor)  
Mr Simon Farewell (Assistant Pastor)  
Dr Jim Davison  
Mr Clifford Manley

##### Deacons

Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary)  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Dr Rachel Graham  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Dr Stephen Hogg  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Mr Martin Moorcroft  
Mr Robert Patterson (Church Treasurer)

##### Appointment of Charity Trustees

Given the nature of their responsibilities, appointed Elders and Deacons (collectively referred to as the "Office-bearers") serve as the charity trustees. Appointment to the role of Charity Trustee terminates on cessation of holding the Office of Elder or Deacon. Any elected Office-bearer who is disqualified by law from acting as a Charity Trustee retains the Office of Elder or Deacon and discharge the duties of that post. There must be a minimum of three Charity Trustees at all times.

##### Role

The role of charity trustees is set out in the church constitution adopted in August 2019:

- The charity trustees are responsible for the governance of the Church and the fulfilment of the purpose as stated in Clause 2 of the constitution, acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members' Meeting and in accordance with the specific and general directions of that Meeting.
- The Charity Trustees ensure, in accordance with the instruction of the Church Meeting, that:
  - the appropriate level of insurance for building, public and employer's liability is held; and
  - all properties including those held on separate property trusts, (except those buildings that are required to be kept in repair and insured by a tenant) are kept in the appropriate state of repair.

##### Meetings and Quorum

There must be a minimum of two full meetings per year. There shall not be fewer than two persons, or half of the number of appointed trustees (whichever is the greater number) present at a full meeting of the trustees. In addition to the meetings of the whole group, the charity trustees may meet in such sub-groups as are necessary and convenient. Reports of such subgroup meetings must be made to the next full charity trustees Meeting.

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# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### Office-Bearers

The Church recognises two spiritual offices within the Church: Elders and Deacons.

### Elders

Elders are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Church, with particular responsibility for spiritual matters, by being servant leaders and shepherds of the flock of God; teaching, caring for and protecting the Church from error.

Those eligible to serve as Elders shall:

- be chosen from the male (according to biological gender/sex at birth) membership of the Church;
- display the necessary qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1;
- be in membership of the Church for at least two years;
- be in good standing with the Church; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church

With the exception of a Pastor, Elders serve a period of five years, and are eligible for re-election.

Candidates for the Office of Elder are nominated in writing by two church members (one of whom should be an Elder) at least three weeks prior to the church meeting at which the election of Elders is to take place (usually in March). The election of Elders is by ballot vote and requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting.

Within the role of Elder, the Church recognises the gift of Pastor to prepare God's people for service that the Church might be built up. A Pastor shall:

- be chosen from the membership of a church of like faith and order;
- display the gift and qualifications of Elder as set out in Clause 5.1.2 of the Church Constitution; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church

When appointing a Pastor, the selection committee proposes a name to the Church at a special meeting of the Church where the call of a Pastor is to be considered. The appointment of a Pastor is by ballot vote and require a two-thirds majority of the entire membership as set out in the Church Trust Deed. If the majority at the special meeting of the Church is greater than seventy-five percent in favour, but less than the total required by the Church Trust Deed, assent forms may be given to those members unable to be present at the special meeting.

The terms of the Pastor's appointment shall be negotiated by the Office-bearers according to guidelines approved by the Church.

### Deacons

The duties of Deacons, while spiritual in nature, include the administration of the affairs of the Church to ensure the smooth, ordered and efficient running of church life and the practical care of the members.

Members to be considered for appointment as Deacons shall:

- display the necessary qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3;
- have been, ideally, in membership of the Church for a period of at least two years;
- be in good standing with the Church; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church (see Clause 3).

Deacons serve a period of three years but are eligible for re-election.

Candidates for the office of Deacon are nominated in writing by two church members at least three weeks prior to the church meeting at which the election of Deacons is to take place. Persons nominating candidates must first obtain their consent. The election of Deacons is by ballot vote and require two-thirds of those present and voting.

The Office-bearers commend two church members for appointment to the roles of secretary and treasurer who also hold the role of Deacon.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### Office-bearers' Meetings

The Office-bearers shall normally meet each month, with the exception of July and August. The date of each meeting shall be set at the previous meeting at the latest. Office-bearers' Meetings may be convened to consider matters of urgency arising between the monthly Meetings.

The quorum for Office-bearers' meetings shall not be fewer than two persons, or half of their number, whichever is the greater number.

The Church Secretary shall service the monthly Office-bearers' Meetings with minutes being circulated in a timely fashion.

The Church Treasurer shall report to the Office-bearers each month on the current financial position of the Church.

Elders shall meet separately to consider those matters which affect the spiritual life of the Church.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### Objectives

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church acknowledges the headship of Jesus Christ over his Church and exists to glorify the triune God by maintaining and promoting his worship both individually and corporately.

Its members devote themselves to the teaching of Scripture, to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and evangelism. They commit, with the help of God, to witness to the saving and sustaining power of the Lord Jesus Christ and to work for the extension of his Kingdom.

The principal charitable object of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the teaching of Scripture, the Doctrinal Statement and Baptist principles.

#### Activities

The Church meet for morning and evening worship each Sunday and visitors are welcome to participate. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at the morning service and at 4h evening service of the third Sunday in the month. Anyone who has made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is on good standing at their local church is welcome to share in communion.

There is a range of activities that are held regularly throughout the year including but not limited to:

- Sunday services - morning and evening
- Sunday school
- Crèche
- Monthly Youth ministry (and one-off events including games evening and day trip)
- Bi-weekly mid-week meetings (prayer)
- Bi-weekly Small Groups (home Bible study and prayer groups)
- Monthly Mid-Week Mission Focus meetings
- Friendship Hour (monthly ministry for senior citizens with one-off special events at Christmas etc.)
- Abide (monthly women's' ministry with one-off special events -)
- 20s & 30s (ministry for young adults for fellowship and discipling)
- Following God Together (monthly ministry for adults with intellectual disability)
- Ukrainian ministry (monthly fellowship, food and teaching for Ukrainian refugees)
- Men's Breakfasts (Fellowship and discipling)
- Timeout (Fellowship group for 50 plus age group)
- Hope Explored (evangelistic Bible study)
- Bounce (annual vocational kids' Bible Club)

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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### Attendance

Some approximate average attendance figures include:

Sunday morning services	165 (membership 127)
Sunday school	20
Crèche	17
Abide	30
20s & 30s	30
Friendship Hour	24
Small Groups	105
Mid-Week Prayer meeting	40

### **Achievements and performance**

The Church regularly gathers for public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching for all age groups, and provides pastoral care to the Church family through visitation and prayer. We organise meetings and events to proclaim and demonstrate with our lives our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord. The Church conducts evangelistic and outreach mission activities and supports other Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, financial gifts and prayer; and providing pastoral and financial support to our missionary family.

2023 has been another encouraging year for us at Great Vic and the words of the following hymn come to mind:

Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

### Worship

On Sunday mornings this year we finished the book of Daniel early in the year before moving into an extended series on the book of Galatians entitled "Christ is Enough." How great it was to rejoice in the sufficiency of Christ throughout that series. In the Summer months we studied Psalm 119 and then the book of Habakkuk before launching out into the deep waters of Revelation with a new series entitled, "The Presence of the Future." Our Sunday morning ministry has been helpfully complemented by our assistant pastor Simon's evening series from Acts entitled "Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth," and from Genesis entitled, "God's Good Purposes" a study in the life of Joseph. The Word has been living and active among us and it is encouraging to hear of people being ministered to by the Spirit of God through his Word. All this has been reinforced in our midweek prayer times and small group Bible studies as we gather to seek the Lord and encourage each other.

### Highlights

So many people work so hard to serve in so many ways at Great Vic and there is a very real sense that we are in this work together and that God is at work among us. Particular highlights from the year include:

- The running of Hope Explored - a three-week evangelistic Bible study
- Our growing crèche and Sunday school ministry
- Summer outreach including Bounce, our children's Bible Club in the Sandy Row and Donegall

### Road areas

- The start of a new Men's Breakfast ministry
- The appointment of a pastoral intern
- The continued progress of our building project
- A further 9 members being added to our fellowship including three family units with eight children among them. We also celebrated four baptisms towards the end of the year.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### Church Family

It was with joy and excitement that we welcomed two new lives into the church and celebrated the marriage of two members of the congregation. We also remember with joy and thanksgiving four of our members went home to be with the Lord. We give thanks for their love and dedication to the fellowship over many years, serving in various ways including Sunday school, Baptist Women's Fellowship and Campaigners.

Their combined membership totaled over 250 years! What a wonderful testimony to Christian women at Great Vic.

#### Missions

The missionary weekend was held between 14th and 15th October with this year's focus being "The Unreached within Reach." We considered how God has brought peoples from hard-to-reach places now within reach opening a wonderful door of opportunity for mission and evangelism on our doorstep. We also heard about the work at Blackrock Community Church, Dublin. The Sunday evening was a wonderful internationally themed, multi-lingual praise evening where we rejoiced that we are part of God's global Church.

We continue to support missionaries who have gone out from Great Vic to serve in Portugal, Peru, Kenya and Madagascar as well as supporting a church member currently training at Bible College in the Netherlands.

At the close of another year we can again say, "The Lord has done good things for us and we are glad" (Psalm 126:3).

#### **Financial review**

The net income for the year amounted to £405,107 (2022: £35,534), of which a net income of £35,420 is attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £168,137(2022: £132,717) and a net income of £369,687 is attributable to restricted reserves.

#### **Plans for future periods**

We look forward to another year with confidence and are particularly excited as we work towards the redevelopment of our church site. This is a significant undertaking but we believe that God will be with us as we move toward building fit for purpose premises which will best serve the congregation and the community around us.

#### **Public Benefit**

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include:

- Eternal salvation and adoption into the family of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- The spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing reconciliation both between human beings and God and between human beings;
- The gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and the Doctrinal Statement of the Church leading to spiritual and moral development and personal growth in the Christian faith;
- The provision of regular Christian education, helping people to understand, live out, defend and promote the Christian Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- Practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need, assistance and comfort to the sick, elderly and bereaved;
- The development of individual ability and gift through the engagement of willing volunteers in practical and spiritual service; and
- The positive impact on society that comes from the living out of the Christian worldview.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The benefits arising from the purpose will be demonstrated through:

- The number of those attending activities and events and directly benefiting each week from Bible teaching and corporate worship;
- The leaders and helpers mobilised each week through various programmes and the positive contributions of members within the wider community; and
- The effective pastoral care supporting both families and individuals.

This will be evidenced through regular evaluation, annual reports and informal feedback from members and those attending the events, their families and the general public within the community in which the Church operates.

The Trustees do not anticipate that any harm will flow from any of the above purposes.

The Church's beneficiaries are:

- Church Members, Associate Members and Adherents, and anyone who chooses to attend church services which are open to members of the general public;
- other individuals that the Church is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland; the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and secular organisations.

The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are the provision of a stipend for any pastor of the Church who will also assume the role of Trustee and paid employment for the personnel required to manage the work of the Church.

Any Trustee appointed by the Church as a member of the Missionary Family will be entitled to financial support from the Church according to the Church Missionary policy. Such stipend, salaries, support and any incurred expenses are incidental to enable the Church to provide the pastoral and administrative support required to fulfil the stated Purpose.

#### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are required to prepare the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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### Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
**Mr Steve Auld**  
Chairman

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Great Victoria Street Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the management committee report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 165(3)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations under section 66 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the nature of the organisation and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

We developed an understanding of the key fraud risks to the entity (including how fraud might occur), the controls in place to help mitigate those risks, and the accounts, balances and disclosures within the financial statements which may be susceptible to management bias.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements,
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims,
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud,
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC,
- addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias, and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [https:// www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....  
**James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**For and on behalf of Johnston Kennedy DFK**  
**Statutory Auditor**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Registered Auditors**  
**10 Pilots View**  
**Heron Road**  
**Belfast**  
**BT3 9LE**

Date: ..... 11/6/24 .....

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	189,356	413,082	602,438	137,744	105,231	242,975
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	4	-	736	736	128	-	128
Other income		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>189,356</b>	<b>413,818</b>	<b>603,174</b>	<b>137,872</b>	<b>105,231</b>	<b>243,103</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	6	132,509	65,558	198,067	132,838	74,731	207,568
Gross transfers between funds		(21,427)	21,427	-	(71,209)	71,209	-
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>35,420</b>	<b>369,687</b>	<b>405,107</b>	<b>(66,175)</b>	<b>101,709</b>	<b>35,534</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		132,717	2,516,001	2,648,718	198,891	2,414,292	2,613,183
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		<b>168,137</b>	<b>2,885,688</b>	<b>3,053,825</b>	<b>132,717</b>	<b>2,516,000</b>	<b>2,648,718</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		2,102,964		2,110,031
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	5,933		3,479	
Cash at bank and in hand		952,692		541,659	
		958,625		545,138	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within One year</b>	10	(7,764)		(6,452)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			950,861		538,687
<b>Net assets</b>			3,053,825		2,648,717
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	11		2,885,688		2,516,000
Unrestricted funds	12		168,137		132,717
			3,053,825		2,648,717

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on..... 11/6/24



Mr Steve Auld  
Chairman



Mr Robert Patterson  
Treasurer

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	14		412,153		47,040
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,856)		-	
Investment income received		736		128	
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>			<u>(1,120)</u>		<u>128</u>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			411,033		47,168
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			541,659		494,491
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>952,692</u>		<u>541,659</u>

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# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church is a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 66a Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT9 6GD.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" as amended for accounting period commencing from 1 January 2016. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the

financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the trustee has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the 's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	158,311	395,191	553,502	207,952
Gift Aid Income	31,045	17,891	48,936	35,146
	<u>189,356</u>	<u>413,082</u>	<u>602,438</u>	<u>243,098</u>

4 Investments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	-	736	736	128
	<u>-</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>128</u>

### 5 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Support Costs	16,251	-	16,251	14,155
Activity costs	116,258	65,558	181,816	193,413
	<u>132,509</u>	<u>65,558</u>	<u>198,067</u>	<u>207,568</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 6 Trustees

4 trustees received a remuneration for their services, totalling £78,357 during the financial year.

### 7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2023 Number	2022 Number
4	3

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 8 Tangible fixed assets

	Property £	Fixtures and equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2023	2,075,386	43,306	2,118,692
Additions	-	1,856	1,856
At December 2023	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>45,162</u>	<u>1,810,199</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2023	-	8,661	8,661
Depreciation charged in the year	-	8,923	8,923
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>17,584</u>	<u>17,584</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>27,578</u>	<u>2,102,964</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>34,645</u>	<u>2,110,031</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 9 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Accrued income	4,159	2,004
Prepayments	1,774	1,475
	<u>5,933</u>	<u>3,479</u>

### 10 Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Accruals	7,765	6,452
	<u>7,765</u>	<u>6,452</u>

### 11 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship fund	1,991	-	-	-	1,991
Mission fund	-	11,758	(32,568)	20,810	-
Sunday School Trust	1,385	-	(312)	-	1,073
Staffing Support Fund	31,200	10,419	(11,281)	-	30,338
Abide Fund	255	2,345	(2,851)	500	250
Redevelopment Fund	369,556	384,517	(14,181)	-	739,892
Property Fund	2,075,386	-	-	-	2,075,386
Young Adults Fund	205	4,043	(4,365)	117	-
Manse Fund	36,023	736	-	-	36,759
	<u>2,516,000</u>	<u>413,818</u>	<u>(65,558)</u>	<u>21,427</u>	<u>2,885,688</u>

### 12 Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	132,717	189,356	(132,509)	(21,427)	168,137
	<u>132,717</u>	<u>189,356</u>	<u>(132,509)</u>	<u>(21,427)</u>	<u>168,137</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Net Current assets	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted income funds</b>				
Fellowship fund	-	1,991	1,991	1,991
Mission fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Trust	-	1,073	1,073	1,385
Staffing Support Fund	-	30,338	30,338	31,200
Abide Fund	-	250	250	255
Redevelopment Fund	-	739,891	739,891	369,556
Property Fund	2,075,386	-	2,075,386	2,075,386
Young Adults Fund	-	-	-	205
Manse Fund	-	36,759	36,759	36,023
	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>810,302</u>	<u>2,885,688</u>	<u>2,516,001</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>				
Designated funds	27,578	-	27,758	34,645
Free reserves	-	140,559	140,559	98,072
	<u>27,578</u>	<u>140,559</u>	<u>168,137</u>	<u>132,717</u>
	<u>2,102,964</u>	<u>950,861</u>	<u>3,053,825</u>	<u>2,648,718</u>

### 14 Cash generated from operations

	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus for the year	405,106	44,195
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(736)	(128)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	8,923	
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,452)	(3,478)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,312	6,451
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>412,153</u>	<u>47,040</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 15 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation on the financial statements.

### 16 Related party transactions

During the year the congregation contributed £1,342 to the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland for congregational assessments.

The following contributions were also made to Association of Baptist Church in Ireland:

Baptist Missions	£3,500
Acre International	£4,350
Mission Support – Shane McGloin	£8,500

There were no other related party transactions.

**Great Victoria Street Baptist Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107744

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# Annual return

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Charity registration number NIC107744

**GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**



# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## CONTENTS

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	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' report	2 - 8
Independent auditor's report	9 -11
Statement of financial activities	12
Statement of financial position	13
Statement of cash flows	14
Notes to the financial statements	15 - 21

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### Trustees

Mr Steve Auld (Chairman)  
Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary)  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Mr Lewis Crothers  
Dr Jim Davison  
Mr Simon Farewell  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Ms Rachel Graham  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Dr Stephen Hogg  
Mr Clifford Manley  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Mr Martin Moorcroft  
Mr Robert Patterson (Church Treasurer)  
Dr Andrew Nicholl  
Mr Luke Smith

### Charity number

NIC107744

### Church address

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church  
66a Great Victoria Street  
Belfast  
BT9 6GD

### Auditor

Johnston Kennedy DFK  
Registered Auditors  
10 Pilots View  
Heron Road  
Belfast  
BT3 9LE

### Bankers

Ulster Bank  
Belfast City Office Branch  
PO Box 232  
11-16 Donegall Square East  
Belfast  
BT1 5UB

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The trustees present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2008 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

### Structure, governance and management

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

#### Elders

Mr Steve Auld (Pastor)  
Mr Simon Farewell (Assistant Pastor)  
Dr Jim Davison  
Mr Clifford Manley

#### Deacons

Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary)  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Dr Rachel Graham  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Dr Stephen Hogg  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Mr Martin Moorcroft  
Mr Robert Patterson (Church Treasurer)

#### Appointment of Charity Trustees

Given the nature of their responsibilities, appointed Elders and Deacons (collectively referred to as the "Office-bearers") serve as the charity trustees. Appointment to the role of Charity Trustee terminates on cessation of holding the Office of Elder or Deacon. Any elected Office-bearer who is disqualified by law from acting as a Charity Trustee retains the Office of Elder or Deacon and discharge the duties of that post. There must be a minimum of three Charity Trustees at all times.

#### Role

The role of charity trustees is set out in the church constitution adopted in August 2019:

- The charity trustees are responsible for the governance of the Church and the fulfilment of the purpose as stated in Clause 2 of the constitution, acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members' Meeting and in accordance with the specific and general directions of that Meeting.
- The Charity Trustees ensure, in accordance with the instruction of the Church Meeting, that:
  - the appropriate level of insurance for building, public and employer's liability is held; and
  - all properties including those held on separate property trusts, (except those buildings that are required to be kept in repair and insured by a tenant) are kept in the appropriate state of repair.

#### Meetings and Quorum

There must be a minimum of two full meetings per year. There shall not be fewer than two persons, or half of the number of appointed trustees (whichever is the greater number) present at a full meeting of the trustees. In addition to the meetings of the whole group, the charity trustees may meet in such sub-groups as are necessary and convenient. Reports of such subgroup meetings must be made to the next full charity trustees Meeting.

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# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### Office-Bearers

The Church recognises two spiritual offices within the Church: Elders and Deacons.

### Elders

Elders are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Church, with particular responsibility for spiritual matters, by being servant leaders and shepherds of the flock of God; teaching, caring for and protecting the Church from error.

Those eligible to serve as Elders shall:

- be chosen from the male (according to biological gender/sex at birth) membership of the Church;
- display the necessary qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1;
- be in membership of the Church for at least two years;
- be in good standing with the Church; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church

With the exception of a Pastor, Elders serve a period of five years, and are eligible for re-election.

Candidates for the Office of Elder are nominated in writing by two church members (one of whom should be an Elder) at least three weeks prior to the church meeting at which the election of Elders is to take place (usually in March). The election of Elders is by ballot vote and requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting.

Within the role of Elder, the Church recognises the gift of Pastor to prepare God's people for service that the Church might be built up. A Pastor shall:

- be chosen from the membership of a church of like faith and order;
- display the gift and qualifications of Elder as set out in Clause 5.1.2 of the Church Constitution; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church

When appointing a Pastor, the selection committee proposes a name to the Church at a special meeting of the Church where the call of a Pastor is to be considered. The appointment of a Pastor is by ballot vote and require a two-thirds majority of the entire membership as set out in the Church Trust Deed. If the majority at the special meeting of the Church is greater than seventy-five percent in favour, but less than the total required by the Church Trust Deed, assent forms may be given to those members unable to be present at the special meeting.

The terms of the Pastor's appointment shall be negotiated by the Office-bearers according to guidelines approved by the Church.

### Deacons

The duties of Deacons, while spiritual in nature, include the administration of the affairs of the Church to ensure the smooth, ordered and efficient running of church life and the practical care of the members.

Members to be considered for appointment as Deacons shall:

- display the necessary qualifications as laid out in 1 Timothy 3;
- have been, ideally, in membership of the Church for a period of at least two years;
- be in good standing with the Church; and
- affirm and hold unreservedly the Doctrinal Statement of the Church (see Clause 3).

Deacons serve a period of three years but are eligible for re-election.

Candidates for the office of Deacon are nominated in writing by two church members at least three weeks prior to the church meeting at which the election of Deacons is to take place. Persons nominating candidates must first obtain their consent. The election of Deacons is by ballot vote and require two-thirds of those present and voting.

The Office-bearers commend two church members for appointment to the roles of secretary and treasurer who also hold the role of Deacon.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### Office-bearers' Meetings

The Office-bearers shall normally meet each month, with the exception of July and August. The date of each meeting shall be set at the previous meeting at the latest. Office-bearers' Meetings may be convened to consider matters of urgency arising between the monthly Meetings.

The quorum for Office-bearers' meetings shall not be fewer than two persons, or half of their number, whichever is the greater number.

The Church Secretary shall service the monthly Office-bearers' Meetings with minutes being circulated in a timely fashion.

The Church Treasurer shall report to the Office-bearers each month on the current financial position of the Church.

Elders shall meet separately to consider those matters which affect the spiritual life of the Church.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### Objectives

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church acknowledges the headship of Jesus Christ over his Church and exists to glorify the triune God by maintaining and promoting his worship both individually and corporately.

Its members devote themselves to the teaching of Scripture, to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and evangelism. They commit, with the help of God, to witness to the saving and sustaining power of the Lord Jesus Christ and to work for the extension of his Kingdom.

The principal charitable object of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the teaching of Scripture, the Doctrinal Statement and Baptist principles.

#### Activities

The Church meet for morning and evening worship each Sunday and visitors are welcome to participate. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month at the morning service and at 4h evening service of the third Sunday in the month. Anyone who has made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and is on good standing at their local church is welcome to share in communion.

There is a range of activities that are held regularly throughout the year including but not limited to:

- Sunday services - morning and evening
- Sunday school
- Crèche
- Monthly Youth ministry (and one-off events including games evening and day trip)
- Bi-weekly mid-week meetings (prayer)
- Bi-weekly Small Groups (home Bible study and prayer groups)
- Monthly Mid-Week Mission Focus meetings
- Friendship Hour (monthly ministry for senior citizens with one-off special events at Christmas etc.)
- Abide (monthly women's' ministry with one-off special events -)
- 20s & 30s (ministry for young adults for fellowship and discipling)
- Following God Together (monthly ministry for adults with intellectual disability)
- Ukrainian ministry (monthly fellowship, food and teaching for Ukrainian refugees)
- Men's Breakfasts (Fellowship and discipling)
- Timeout (Fellowship group for 50 plus age group)
- Hope Explored (evangelistic Bible study)
- Bounce (annual vocational kids' Bible Club)

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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### Attendance

Some approximate average attendance figures include:

Sunday morning services	165 (membership 127)
Sunday school	20
Crèche	17
Abide	30
20s & 30s	30
Friendship Hour	24
Small Groups	105
Mid-Week Prayer meeting	40

### **Achievements and performance**

The Church regularly gathers for public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching for all age groups, and provides pastoral care to the Church family through visitation and prayer. We organise meetings and events to proclaim and demonstrate with our lives our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord. The Church conducts evangelistic and outreach mission activities and supports other Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, financial gifts and prayer; and providing pastoral and financial support to our missionary family.

2023 has been another encouraging year for us at Great Vic and the words of the following hymn come to mind:

Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

### Worship

On Sunday mornings this year we finished the book of Daniel early in the year before moving into an extended series on the book of Galatians entitled "Christ is Enough." How great it was to rejoice in the sufficiency of Christ throughout that series. In the Summer months we studied Psalm 119 and then the book of Habakkuk before launching out into the deep waters of Revelation with a new series entitled, "The Presence of the Future." Our Sunday morning ministry has been helpfully complemented by our assistant pastor Simon's evening series from Acts entitled "Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth," and from Genesis entitled, "God's Good Purposes" a study in the life of Joseph. The Word has been living and active among us and it is encouraging to hear of people being ministered to by the Spirit of God through his Word. All this has been reinforced in our midweek prayer times and small group Bible studies as we gather to seek the Lord and encourage each other.

### Highlights

So many people work so hard to serve in so many ways at Great Vic and there is a very real sense that we are in this work together and that God is at work among us. Particular highlights from the year include:

- The running of Hope Explored - a three-week evangelistic Bible study
- Our growing crèche and Sunday school ministry
- Summer outreach including Bounce, our children's Bible Club in the Sandy Row and Donegall

### Road areas

- The start of a new Men's Breakfast ministry
- The appointment of a pastoral intern
- The continued progress of our building project
- A further 9 members being added to our fellowship including three family units with eight children among them. We also celebrated four baptisms towards the end of the year.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### Church Family

It was with joy and excitement that we welcomed two new lives into the church and celebrated the marriage of two members of the congregation. We also remember with joy and thanksgiving four of our members went home to be with the Lord. We give thanks for their love and dedication to the fellowship over many years, serving in various ways including Sunday school, Baptist Women's Fellowship and Campaigners.

Their combined membership totaled over 250 years! What a wonderful testimony to Christian women at Great Vic.

#### Missions

The missionary weekend was held between 14th and 15th October with this year's focus being "The Unreached within Reach." We considered how God has brought peoples from hard-to-reach places now within reach opening a wonderful door of opportunity for mission and evangelism on our doorstep. We also heard about the work at Blackrock Community Church, Dublin. The Sunday evening was a wonderful internationally themed, multi-lingual praise evening where we rejoiced that we are part of God's global Church.

We continue to support missionaries who have gone out from Great Vic to serve in Portugal, Peru, Kenya and Madagascar as well as supporting a church member currently training at Bible College in the Netherlands.

At the close of another year we can again say, "The Lord has done good things for us and we are glad" (Psalm 126:3).

#### **Financial review**

The net income for the year amounted to £405,107 (2022: £35,534), of which a net income of £35,420 is attributable to unrestricted reserves which now stand at £168,137(2022: £132,717) and a net income of £369,687 is attributable to restricted reserves.

#### **Plans for future periods**

We look forward to another year with confidence and are particularly excited as we work towards the redevelopment of our church site. This is a significant undertaking but we believe that God will be with us as we move toward building fit for purpose premises which will best serve the congregation and the community around us.

#### **Public Benefit**

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include:

- Eternal salvation and adoption into the family of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- The spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing reconciliation both between human beings and God and between human beings;
- The gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and the Doctrinal Statement of the Church leading to spiritual and moral development and personal growth in the Christian faith;
- The provision of regular Christian education, helping people to understand, live out, defend and promote the Christian Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- Practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need, assistance and comfort to the sick, elderly and bereaved;
- The development of individual ability and gift through the engagement of willing volunteers in practical and spiritual service; and
- The positive impact on society that comes from the living out of the Christian worldview.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The benefits arising from the purpose will be demonstrated through:

- The number of those attending activities and events and directly benefiting each week from Bible teaching and corporate worship;
- The leaders and helpers mobilised each week through various programmes and the positive contributions of members within the wider community; and
- The effective pastoral care supporting both families and individuals.

This will be evidenced through regular evaluation, annual reports and informal feedback from members and those attending the events, their families and the general public within the community in which the Church operates.

The Trustees do not anticipate that any harm will flow from any of the above purposes.

The Church's beneficiaries are:

- Church Members, Associate Members and Adherents, and anyone who chooses to attend church services which are open to members of the general public;
- other individuals that the Church is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland; the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and secular organisations.

The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are the provision of a stipend for any pastor of the Church who will also assume the role of Trustee and paid employment for the personnel required to manage the work of the Church.

Any Trustee appointed by the Church as a member of the Missionary Family will be entitled to financial support from the Church according to the Church Missionary policy. Such stipend, salaries, support and any incurred expenses are incidental to enable the Church to provide the pastoral and administrative support required to fulfil the stated Purpose.

#### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are required to prepare the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTISTS CHURCH

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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### Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees on <sup>11<sup>th</sup></sup> June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
**Mr Steve Auld**  
Chairman

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Great Victoria Street Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the 's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

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### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the management committee report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 165(3)(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with regulations under section 66 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the nature of the organisation and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

We developed an understanding of the key fraud risks to the entity (including how fraud might occur), the controls in place to help mitigate those risks, and the accounts, balances and disclosures within the financial statements which may be susceptible to management bias.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements,
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims,
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud,
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC,
- addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias, and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [https:// www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....  
**James Gage (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**For and on behalf of Johnston Kennedy DFK**  
**Statutory Auditor**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**Registered Auditors**  
**10 Pilots View**  
**Heron Road**  
**Belfast**  
**BT3 9LE**

Date: ..... 11/6/24 .....

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	189,356	413,082	602,438	137,744	105,231	242,975
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	4	-	736	736	128	-	128
Other income		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>189,356</b>	<b>413,818</b>	<b>603,174</b>	<b>137,872</b>	<b>105,231</b>	<b>243,103</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Charitable activities	6	132,509	65,558	198,067	132,838	74,731	207,568
Gross transfers between funds		(21,427)	21,427	-	(71,209)	71,209	-
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>35,420</b>	<b>369,687</b>	<b>405,107</b>	<b>(66,175)</b>	<b>101,709</b>	<b>35,534</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		132,717	2,516,001	2,648,718	198,891	2,414,292	2,613,183
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		<b>168,137</b>	<b>2,885,688</b>	<b>3,053,825</b>	<b>132,717</b>	<b>2,516,000</b>	<b>2,648,718</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		2,102,964		2,110,031
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	5,933		3,479	
Cash at bank and in hand		952,692		541,659	
		958,625		545,138	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within One year</b>	10	(7,764)		(6,452)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			950,861		538,687
<b>Net assets</b>			3,053,825		2,648,717
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	11		2,885,688		2,516,000
Unrestricted funds	12		168,137		132,717
			3,053,825		2,648,717

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on..... 11/6/24



Mr Steve Auld  
Chairman



Mr Robert Patterson  
Treasurer

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	14		412,153		47,040
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,856)		-	
Investment income received		736		128	
<b>Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities</b>			<u>(1,120)</u>		<u>128</u>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			411,033		47,168
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			541,659		494,491
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			<u>952,692</u>		<u>541,659</u>

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# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church is a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 66a Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT9 6GD.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" as amended for accounting period commencing from 1 January 2016. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the

financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the trustee has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Operating creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Operating creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the 's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	158,311	395,191	553,502	207,952
Gift Aid Income	31,045	17,891	48,936	35,146
	<u>189,356</u>	<u>413,082</u>	<u>602,438</u>	<u>243,098</u>

4 Investments	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	-	736	736	128
	<u>-</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>128</u>

### 5 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Support Costs	16,251	-	16,251	14,155
Activity costs	116,258	65,558	181,816	193,413
	<u>132,509</u>	<u>65,558</u>	<u>198,067</u>	<u>207,568</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 6 Trustees

4 trustees received a remuneration for their services, totalling £78,357 during the financial year.

### 7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2023 Number	2022 Number
4	3

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

### 8 Tangible fixed assets

	Property £	Fixtures and equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2023	2,075,386	43,306	2,118,692
Additions	-	1,856	1,856
At December 2023	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>45,162</u>	<u>1,810,199</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2023	-	8,661	8,661
Depreciation charged in the year	-	8,923	8,923
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>17,584</u>	<u>17,584</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
At 31 December 2022	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>27,578</u>	<u>2,102,964</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>34,645</u>	<u>2,110,031</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 9 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Accrued income	4,159	2,004
Prepayments	1,774	1,475
	<u>5,933</u>	<u>3,479</u>

### 10 Creditors

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Accruals	7,765	6,452
	<u>7,765</u>	<u>6,452</u>

### 11 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship fund	1,991	-	-	-	1,991
Mission fund	-	11,758	(32,568)	20,810	-
Sunday School Trust	1,385	-	(312)	-	1,073
Staffing Support Fund	31,200	10,419	(11,281)	-	30,338
Abide Fund	255	2,345	(2,851)	500	250
Redevelopment Fund	369,556	384,517	(14,181)	-	739,892
Property Fund	2,075,386	-	-	-	2,075,386
Young Adults Fund	205	4,043	(4,365)	117	-
Manse Fund	36,023	736	-	-	36,759
	<u>2,516,000</u>	<u>413,818</u>	<u>(65,558)</u>	<u>21,427</u>	<u>2,885,688</u>

### 12 Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	132,717	189,356	(132,509)	(21,427)	168,137
	<u>132,717</u>	<u>189,356</u>	<u>(132,509)</u>	<u>(21,427)</u>	<u>168,137</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed assets	Net Current assets	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted income funds</b>				
Fellowship fund	-	1,991	1,991	1,991
Mission fund	-	-	-	-
Sunday School Trust	-	1,073	1,073	1,385
Staffing Support Fund	-	30,338	30,338	31,200
Abide Fund	-	250	250	255
Redevelopment Fund	-	739,891	739,891	369,556
Property Fund	2,075,386	-	2,075,386	2,075,386
Young Adults Fund	-	-	-	205
Manse Fund	-	36,759	36,759	36,023
	<u>2,075,386</u>	<u>810,302</u>	<u>2,885,688</u>	<u>2,516,001</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>				
Designated funds	27,578	-	27,758	34,645
Free reserves	-	140,559	140,559	98,072
	<u>27,578</u>	<u>140,559</u>	<u>168,137</u>	<u>132,717</u>
	<u>2,102,964</u>	<u>950,861</u>	<u>3,053,825</u>	<u>2,648,718</u>

### 14 Cash generated from operations

	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus for the year	405,106	44,195
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(736)	(128)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	8,923	
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,452)	(3,478)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,312	6,451
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>412,153</u>	<u>47,040</u>

# GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### 15 Non-audit service provision

In common with many other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation on the financial statements.

### 16 Related party transactions

During the year the congregation contributed £1,342 to the Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland for congregational assessments.

The following contributions were also made to Association of Baptist Church in Ireland:

Baptist Missions	£3,500
Acre International	£4,350
Mission Support – Shane McGloin	£8,500

There were no other related party transactions.

**Great Victoria Street Baptist Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107744

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# Accounts

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Receipts and payments accounts  
Year ended 31 December 2022

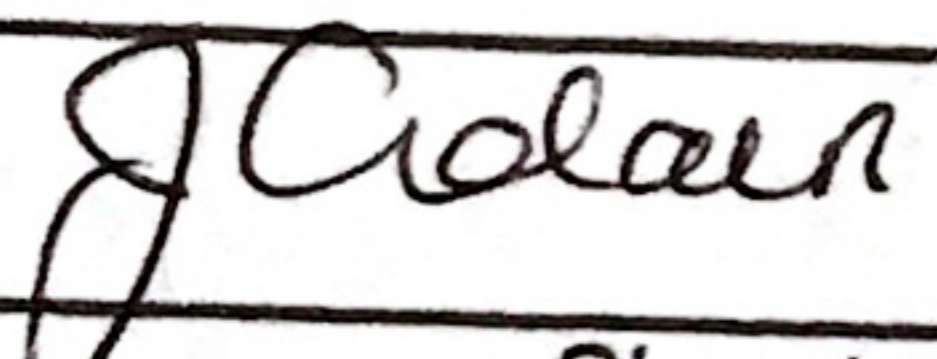
Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations & legacies	135,871	105,233	241,104	240,387
Interest on deposit account	128	-	128	79
<b>Sub total (Gross income for the Annual Return)</b>	<b>135,999</b>	<b>105,233</b>	<b>241,232</b>	<b>240,466</b>
<b>Asset and investment sales</b>				
Proceeds from sale of fixed asset	-	-	-	1,936
Encashment of an investment	-	-	-	84,821
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,757</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>135,999</b>	<b>105,233</b>	<b>241,232</b>	<b>327,223</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Direct charitable activity	117,125	74,732	191,857	121,087
Governance costs	2,208	-	2,208	4,560
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>119,333</b>	<b>74,732</b>	<b>194,065</b>	<b>125,647</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>119,333</b>	<b>74,732</b>	<b>194,065</b>	<b>125,647</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>16,666</b>	<b>30,501</b>	<b>47,167</b>	<b>201,576</b>
Transfers between funds	(71,209)	71,209	-	-
Prior year income adjustment	-	-	-	16,869
Cash funds last year end	198,891	295,600	494,491	276,046
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>144,348</b>	<b>397,310</b>	<b>541,658</b>	<b>494,491</b>

**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
Cash funds	Current account	65,618	397,310	462,928	415,889
	Deposit account	78,730	-	78,730	78,602
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>144,348</b>	<b>397,310</b>	<b>541,658</b>	<b>494,491</b>

Signed on behalf of all the trustees:

  
Signature

JOANNE ADAIK.  
Print Name

10/10/23  
Date

  
Signature

ROBERT PATTERSON  
Print Name

10/10/2023  
Date

# Great Victoria Street Baptist Church

## Financial Summary

For the year ended 31st December 2022

### Funds Note

#### Restricted income funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Fellowship Fund	1,991	-	-	-	1,991	-
Sunday School Trust	1,385	-	-	-	1,385	-
Mission Fund	133	29,840	(51,642)	21,669	-	-
Building fund	253,453	41,954	(19,156)	50,000	326,251	-
Manse fund	36,023	-	-	-	36,023	-
Young Adults Fund	-	1,114	(909)	-	205	-
Missionary Training Fund	1,670	790	(2,000)	(460)	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	946	335	(1,025)	-	256	-
Administration Support Fund	-	31,200	-	-	31,200	-
	<u>295,600</u>	<u>105,233</u>	<u>(74,732)</u>	<u>71,209</u>	<u>397,310</u>	

#### Unrestricted income funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	
General fund	<u>198,891</u>	<u>135,999</u>	<u>(119,333)</u>	<u>(71,209)</u>	<u>144,348</u>	-
Total	<u>494,491</u>	<u>241,232</u>	<u>(194,065)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>541,658</u>	

**Great Victoria Street Baptist Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107744

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# Annual report

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# **GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The Trustees of Great Victoria Street Baptist Church present their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **The Charity Name**

The legal name of the charity is Great Victoria Street Baptist Church

### **The Charity's Areas Operation and UK Charitable Registration**

The charity is registered in Northern Ireland with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland (CCNI) with charity number 107744

### **Legal Structure of The Charity**

The charity is constituted as an unincorporated charity, established by a written constitution approved by the members, and endorsed by the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland (CCNI). There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

### **Trustees in Office on 31 December 2022**

Ms Joanne Adair  
Mr Steve Auld  
Dr Alistair Ashby  
Mr Chris Cardwell  
Mr Jason Cardwell  
Dr Jim Davison  
Mr Simon Farewell  
Mr Jonathan Graham  
Mrs Rachel Graham  
Mr Cameron Grieve  
Mr Clifford Manley  
Mr Gareth McKillen  
Mr Robert Patterson

### **Principal Operating Address, Telephone Number, Email and Web Addresses**

Ms Joanne Adair (Church Secretary), 1 Hope Street, Belfast, BT12 5EE

Website: <http://www.gtvicbaptist.com>

Email: [contact@gtvicbaptist.com](mailto:contact@gtvicbaptist.com)

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities (Northern Ireland) Act 2008, as amended and The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with regulations made under the Charities (Northern Ireland) Act 2008, as amended. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

#### **STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

#### **Objects And Activities of the Charity**

Great Victoria Street Baptist Church acknowledges the headship of Jesus Christ over his Church and exists to glorify the triune God by maintaining and promoting his worship both individually and corporately.

Its members devote themselves to the teaching of Scripture, to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer and evangelism. They commit, with the help of God, to witness to the saving and sustaining power of the Lord Jesus Christ and to work for the extension of his Kingdom.

The principal charitable object of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the teaching of Scripture, the Doctrinal Statement and Baptist principles.

#### **Public benefits**

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose include:

- Eternal salvation and adoption into the family of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- The spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing reconciliation both between human beings and God and between human beings
- The gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and the Doctrinal Statement of the Church leading to spiritual and moral development and personal growth in the Christian faith
- The provision of regular Christian education, helping people to understand, live out, defend and promote the Christian Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need, assistance and comfort to the sick, elderly and bereaved
- The development of individual ability and gift through the engagement of willing volunteers in practical and spiritual service
- The positive impact on society that comes from the living out of the Christian worldview.

The benefits arising from the purpose will be demonstrated through:

- The number of those attending activities and events and directly benefiting each week from Bible teaching and corporate worship
- The leaders and helpers mobilised each week through various programmes and the positive contributions of members within the wider community; and the effective pastoral care supporting both families and individuals.

This will be evidenced through regular evaluation, annual reports and informal feedback from members and those attending the events, their families and the general public within the community in which the Church operates.

The Trustees do not anticipate that any harm will flow from any of the above purposes.

The Church's beneficiaries are Church Members, Associate Members and Adherents, and anyone who chooses to attend church services which are open to members of the general public; other individuals that the Church is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland; the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and secular organisations. The only private benefits flowing from our purposes are the provision of a stipend for any pastor of the Church who will also assume the role of Trustee and paid employment for the personnel required to manage the work of the Church.

Any Trustee appointed by the Church as a member of the Missionary Family will be entitled to financial support from the Church according to the Church Missionary policy. Such stipend, salaries, support and any incurred expenses are incidental to enable the Church to provide the pastoral and administrative support required to fulfil the stated Purpose.

### **Main Activities Undertaken During the Year**

The Church regularly gathers for public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching for all age groups, and provides pastoral care to the Church family through visitation and prayer.

We organise meetings and events to proclaim and demonstrate with our lives our belief in Jesus Christ as Lord.

The Church conducts evangelistic and outreach mission activities and supports other Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, financial gifts and prayer; and providing pastoral and financial support to our missionary family.

### **Charity Trustees 2022 Report.**

2022 has been an encouraging year for Great Victoria Street Baptist. In our morning services from January to Easter, we completed a series on Mark's gospel entitled, "Seeing Jesus to be Shaped by Jesus." This was helpfully complemented by our assistant pastor Simon's evening series through Ecclesiastes entitled, "Being Human." In May and June, we considered the doctrine of the Trinity in a series called, "Enjoying our Triune God." While, in the Summer we worked through Colossians and Philemon in the mornings and studied prayers across Scripture in the evenings. Through the Autumn we completed a series in the book of Daniel in the morning entitled, "Steadfast Hope in an Unsteady World," and the book of Acts in the evening entitled, "Witnesses to the Ends of the Earth." As always it has been encouraging to hear reports of God's living and active Word continuing to touch hearts and to transform lives.

There are many reasons why we consider this an encouraging year for us as a fellowship including:

- Last year we reported that the increase in membership was such that had not been seen in a generation, well we can report that the increase this year was greater than last year with eighteen new members being added to our roll.
- In March, we welcomed six new deacons into our team of office-bearers. We had been asking the Lord to strengthen our diaconate and the Lord has heard and answered our prayers positively.

- We have made real progress in evangelism and cross-cultural missions. Locally our team has been strengthened when a member of our church family came on board as an intern, giving a lead to our evangelistic work. Internationally, it has been encouraging to send and support one church member as a long-term missionary to Portugal and another to study a missionary training college in the Netherlands.
- Fourthly, and finally, planning permission was granted for our building project, giving us the green light to press on in this faith-filled vision to redevelop our site. This is a big vision, but we know our God is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine.

We also remember with joy and thanksgiving four of our members went home to be with the Lord. These members served the fellowship in different ways over many years.

In September, a new monthly meeting started for older (but young at heart) members and friends called "Fellowship Hour." This is a time to allow these "Senior Saints," in an informal way to share and enjoy fellowship with each other over a cup of tea/coffee and a scone.

The missionary weekend was held between 15th -16th October where the focus was on the persecuted church. A representative from Release International shared on Saturday night and Sunday morning. The Sunday evening was a guest speaker sharing about the persecuted church. There were also updates from our missionaries via videos. The children packed the items that had been brought to the church for the shoebox appeal.

There is a very real sense that God is at work among us at Great Vic and at the close of another year we can say together with thanksgiving, *'The Lord has done good things for us, and we are glad.'*

Signed:   
Chairman of Church Charity Trustees

Date: 5/9/23

**Great Victoria Street Baptist Church**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107744

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# Annual return

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## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREAT VICTORIA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 5.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees of the church and examiner**

As the trustees of the church you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

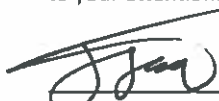
### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your church accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees of the church concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



James Gage FCA

For and on behalf of  
Johnston Kennedy DFK  
Chartered Accountants  
10 Pilots View  
Heron Road  
Belfast  
BT3 9LE

Date: 6/9/2023