

Gorse Hill
BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual Report & Financial Statement

2022

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Annual Report 2022	3
Charitable Objective	3
A Message from our Church Secretary, Shirley Westall.....	4
A Message from our Moderator, Martyn Cook	5
Organisational Structure	7
Charity Trustees.....	9
Our Leadership Team	10
Church Life	11
Pastoral Care.....	11
Children and Young People	12
Media	15
Band of Brothers	16
Flourish	16
Administration	17
Community	19
Stepping Stones	19
Mission Support	22
Lettings.....	25
Finance Report	27
Balance Sheet.....	30
Independent Examiner's Report.....	31
Statement of Financial Activities	32
Stepping Stones & Boxes of Hope Summary Accounts	33
Notes to the Accounts	34

Annual Report 2022

The Charity Trustees¹ present their Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2022. The Charity, called Gorse Hill Baptist Church², has been registered in the Central Register of Charities since 29th December 2008.

The Charity registration number is 1127294.

Charitable Objective

The Charity is governed by a Constitution which states that the purpose of the Church is the advancement of Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Charity may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The Trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.



Gorse Hill Baptist Church is so much more than the building we operate from. It is a group of followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose motto is 'Knowing God to make Him known.' Our aim is to live in the hope He gives us and share that hope to the community around us.

The Church occupies premises which are held by The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objective.

¹ 'Trustee' mainly refers to the Minister/Treasurer/Secretary and Deacons, i.e. those who are involved in the day to day operation of the Church. Where this is the case, the term used in this report will be 'Deacons' or 'Diaconate'.

² Referred to in this Report as 'the Church'

A Message from our Church Secretary, Shirley Westall

2022 has been a year of changes, challenges and opportunities at GHBC. Alongside the society we live in, we have needed to absorb the ongoing effects of Covid and the increasing pressures of the cost of living crisis; we have said goodbye to Steve Robinson, our minister of 11 years, and his wife, Christine; we have welcomed new people into our fellowship and we have continued to rise to the challenge of offering hope to the community around us, who are faced with increasing poverty, fear and hopelessness.

It is our faith gives us a firm foundation and hope with which to face an uncertain world, full of threat, darkness, loss and poverty. *"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." Psalm 62:5-6*



Steve and Christine retired in July and the service was attended by family and friends from afar

Steve's final service with us took place on July 10th and was a joyful celebration of lives lived in the service of Jesus Christ. The occasion brought together many people who have known, studied, and worked with Steve and Christine over the years and gave us a full church building.

Steve and Christine were heavily involved in all aspects of our fellowship and their departure has left many gaps. Naturally we miss them, not just for what they did, but for who they are and their friendship. However, the church must not

depend on one leader for survival. Our purpose remains the same – to serve God and share the Christian faith. Each of us has a part to play and it has been encouraging to see many people rising to the challenge of taking part in what we do, from preaching to cooking, to delivering Bags of Hope to advising people on how to manage money and escape from debt and of course making sure people are looked after pastorally. We continue to be a church which looks outwards to our community. Nowadays it is unusual to find the church building silent and empty. Instead there is the joyful noise of regular Sunday worship, the pushing of trolleys of groceries for distribution to those in need, the welcoming of people to share a meal, and the bustle in the queues of people coming in to take part in the Stepping Stones project. We believe we are using our buildings for the glory of God.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Luke 6:30.

The Trustees have appointed Martyn Cook as moderator during our time of ministerial vacancy, to help guide us through the process of searching and selecting a new minister. The members and broader fellowship have been involved in producing our Church Profile and minister specification and we look forward to working with the new leader God has chosen for us, when that time arrives.

Of course we have not been immune to changes resulting from Covid and the economy. Our income is reduced for various reasons: people don't carry cash in the same way as they used to; the cost of living crisis affects everyone and so what was once able to be given now needs to be spent on basics such as food and heating. Because of this the Trustees and church members have had to make some difficult decisions. We know that, if God wants this fellowship to carry out work, He will enable us to do this.

"That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe." 1 Timothy 4:10.

The following pages illustrate how we have used the resources God has blessed us with and give a flavour of how we continue to live out our faith.

A Message from our Moderator, Martyn Cook

It was a great privilege to be invited to be Moderator again during the current pastoral vacancy, to assist the trustees and the church fellowship in the process of appointing a new minister.

There have been some unexpected issues, which both the trustees and the fellowship have had to work through and that have been resolved with prayer, cooperation and understanding.

During this time it is necessary for the fellowship to support the trustees and leaders of the various activities by praying for:

- The person that God is calling to be the next minister of Gorse Hill Baptist Church.
- The trustees and their families as they take on additional responsibilities that would normally be those of the minister.
- The trustees and the search team, as they work through what is a new and very different Baptist Union and West of England Baptist Association process.
- More members of the fellowship to take on new and additional roles and responsibilities to enable the church to continue to serve Christ through its many activities.



We said goodbye to our Minister Steve (c) and welcomed Martyn (r) as moderator

- God to guide and lead the whole fellowship in the appointment of the new minister and into the next chapter of its work and witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the community here in this area of Swindon.

Also, as a church we thank God for His continued faithfulness and pray that we will be faithful to Him.

Organisational Structure

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint Charity Trustees, which include the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer, who are collectively known as the Diaconate. They are responsible for the day-to-day management and oversight of the Church's operations, together with the financial and legal aspects of the Charity. All Charity Trustees are aware of the specific guidance issued by the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission and have confirmed that they will act in accordance with such information and directives.

The Trustees have appointed Martyn Cook as moderator during our time of ministerial vacancy, to help guide us through the process of searching and selecting a new minister. The members and broader fellowship have been involved in producing our Church Profile and minister specification.

With the exception of the Minister, all Deacons are elected for an initial period of up to three years, after which they are eligible for re-election for two further terms of three years. They are then required to step down for at least one year, before being eligible for reappointment.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the constitution through a personal profession of faith in Christ and are people:

- whose conduct corresponds with the beliefs and practice of the Church
- who accept the Declaration of Faith
- who have followed the Lord's command and example in Believer's Baptism (unless exceptional circumstances apply)

The Church has a policy of open membership where, at the discretion of the Members' Meeting, a person may be accepted into full membership following public profession of their faith. The list is constantly being reviewed to reflect members who have left but not resigned. At Christmas 2022, the number of members stood at 128.

The Church continues to review its organisational structures, processes and activities to deliver its objectives. We meet together on a regular basis, as elected leaders and as a gathering of committed members, to seek guidance and direction from God through prayer.



Just as we need the structure of the tents used in our Fun Day, so we also need a structure for our church

Matters for consideration by the Members Meeting may be tabled by the Deacons or by members. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furthering of the Charitable Objectives. This is explained to all prospective members in a personal interview.

Charity Trustees

Minister

The Reverend Steve Robinson (*appointed March 2011, commenced Ministry July 2011, retired 10 July 2022*)

Secretary

Shirley Westall (*appointed 2021*)

Treasurer

Ian Burbidge (*re-appointed May 2021*)

Deacons

Elizabeth Mildenhall (*re-appointed March 2019*)

Gary Prictor (*re-appointed March 2019*)

Julie Harris (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Vicki Payn (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Adam Sibley (*appointed September 2020, Stood down March 2023*)

Rebecca Tromans (*re-appointed March 2023*)

Matthew Wright (*appointed May 2021*)

Finance Team

Ian Burbidge - *Treasurer*

Ian Burbidge - *Payroll & Accounts*

Julie Harris - *Gift Aid, Income and Banking*

Peter Morris - *Assets and Inventory*

Beverley Bolt - *Internal Audit (appointed March 2022)*

Brian Mildenhall - *Utilities Manager*

Property Trustees

The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Ltd

Little Stoke Baptist Church

Kingsway

Bristol BS34 6JW

Independent Examiner

James Gare

Monahans Chartered Accountants

Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue,

Swindon, SN2 2GA

Banker

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC

Swindon Branch

5 High Street

Swindon SN1 3EN

Solicitor

Wood Awdry and Ford

3 St Mary Street

Chippenham SN15 3JL

Registered Address: Gorse Hill Baptist Church, Cricklade Road, Gorse Hill, Swindon SN2 1AA

Our Leadership Team

The members re-elected two deacons in 2022, giving a team of seven deacons, secretary and treasurer. During the year the minister left due to planned retirement.

The deacons meet monthly, except August, to receive reports, act within agreed and delegated guidelines and make recommendations to the membership. This year the meetings have all been held in person in the building, as prior to the pandemic. In November the team met together for an "Away Day".

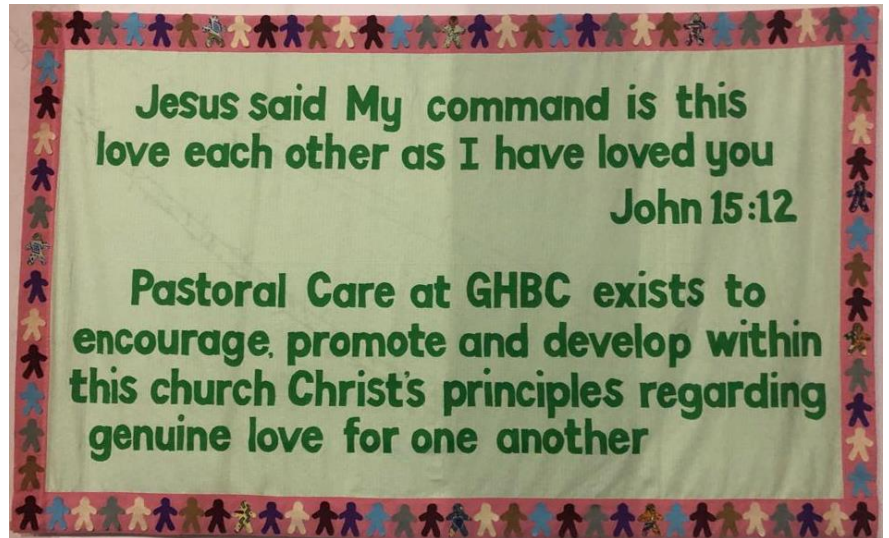
The different teams and events within the church have been divided up and each has a member of the leadership team responsible for it.

Church Life

Pastoral Care

Our mission statement (see right) is displayed on the wall in church as a reminder to everyone. This sums up all that pastoral care in this church stands for. It is love in action, caring and supporting each other, which is what we strive to do.

The Pastoral Care Team met regularly over the last year to discuss pastoral issues and ensure we care for both regular and new attendees. To ensure this, we have divided the fellowship into care groups, each with a Care Leader. Care group lists are regularly looked at and revised.



During the meetings we discuss people we have not been seen at church for a while. A recently produced 'missed you card' is sent out and we aim to follow it up with a phone call, to ask if they need any support or help.

We have concentrated on welcoming visitors and new people attending the church, encouraging those who have attended a few times to engage with us more. We encourage them to fill in one of our welcome cards and introduce them to a Care Leader. We believe it is important for new people to feel welcome, to have the opportunity to become part of a group, if they choose to do so, and to know who their Care Leader is.

Since our minister, Steve, retired, we now organise taking Communion to people living in care homes or who are housebound. This has been welcomed and is a good way to show people they are still important and cared for by the fellowship.

People leading regular church activities are invited to the start of pastoral care meetings, to give an update on their group and on any pastoral needs that have arisen, so we can support them,

and we regularly update the Diaconate about any problems, prayer needs, issues, and any needs for further support for members of the fellowship.

We have continued to expand the pre-service church breakfasts, in order to give people more time to get to know each other. These have become a regular feature in the church calendar, with more of the fellowship attending, creating a 'buzzy' and welcoming atmosphere on those Sunday mornings.



Children and Young People

After two years being disrupted by Covid, and high infection numbers at the start of 2022, there has been a more determined return to normality and in-person events over the course of the year.

Jacob Barron has continued his work with us over the last year, as our **Children, Youth and Family Worker**. In addition to his work, Jake has been attending Bristol Baptist College, where he is studying for the Level 4 Children and Youth Ministries' qualification.



Our Regular Groups

2022 has allowed for the "new normal" to settle in. Our regular groups have been increasing in popularity, giving the leaders a larger number of people with which to explore new and exciting themes. The Sunday groups have moved and settled into different rooms, and we are implementing improvements, as suggested by leaders.

The Friday groups have had a boost in popularity. **Pram Club**, which is now back to 'pre-pandemic' numbers, continues to run brilliantly, with credit to the wonderful team – more information is to be found below. Sadly some of the leaders of **CFC** have had to step down, due to new priorities and this has had a knock-on effect in the children able to attend. CFC would love to have some fresh faces, to allow this group to continue. **Ignite** has had the opposite situation: a keen new team has arisen, providing fresh ideas and a fresh start for the year to come. We have so many regular attendees, we are now able to speak more deeply about the themes we present.

At the start of the year a team was put together to create Sunday Plus, with the idea of adding something to each Sunday to complement the morning service. Examples of this included worship evenings, Pizza in the Park, Pastoral Breakfast and a youth service entitled Blaze. These were trialled for a few months, from which we learnt the type of events the GHBC community

want and we discontinued events with low attendance. Pastoral Breakfast and the Hour of Prayer on a Saturday have been continued and seasonal worship sessions have been reinstated.

Seasonal Events

Our Seasonal Events have evolved from the pandemic restrictions to freer, more adventurous events. Easter began this transition, converting our **Seasonal Giveaways** into **Festive Cafés**. Easter also marked the start of our various groups beginning to interweave. Our **Egg Hunt Map** proved popular and gave a great opportunity for people from different groups to interact.

Our **Jubilee Celebration** in the Rec may have been rained off, but our outstanding team persevered and, within 24hrs, had the plan rewritten to fit in the church building. A day that could have been spoiled by wet weather turned out to be gloriously busy, and a great way to work with our other local churches.



Our youth activity **Swindon Forge** sadly didn't quite go to plan, and had to be cancelled due to unforeseen logistical problems. However, our second season of **EcoHeroes** was very well received by both children and parents. EcoHeroes: Festivals and Fun took a slightly different angle from last year, by exploring

some of the best bits about life and God's Creation, and the way that we celebrate them across the world and in the Bible. We were also able to provide lunch, which helped parents out by giving them one less meal to think about.

GHBC's Community Fun Day

barbecue, games, crafts and sports, engine, inflatable football pitch, variety of visiting charities. All of best it could be, and we enjoyed who attended. We are grateful to spend the best part of the year detail, including the setup and take an enjoyable event for everyone.



included our regular inflatables, but with the addition of a fire wellbeing café, Sumo suits and a this made the 2022 Fun Day the celebrating with 900+ people the planning committee, who planning the events in minute down, ensuring the day is such

The 2022 **Light Parties** were enthusiastically attended. The theme was Pirates and the children and leaders alike enjoyed dressing up to play the parts. Primary School children enjoyed hot dogs and chips, crafts and games and the over-the-top decorations. Their party was followed by one for the teenagers, who were treated to a purpose-written Murder Mystery Game.

Christmas had a packed programme. The year's last **ReCreate** gave us time to make decorations for the church building, and it was well attended by lots of familiar faces. The **Christmas Café** mimicked the idea started at Easter and was able to run more effectively, with the now flexible Sanctuary space.

We trialled new or changed events and evaluated how they went. The family version of our schools presentation, **Christmas Unwrapped**, the **online Parents' Quiz** and **in-person Family Quiz** were not well attended, however moving the **Christingle Service** to the 24th December was very well received. All our Christmas services proved very popular this year.



All generations have enjoyed food and friendship at events held in the church and outside

Pram Club is our toddler group, which is run weekly during school term-time. It is open to anybody with preschool children and this year we have welcomed up to 25 children per session. The morning starts with open play and a craft, within which we try to share something about the Christian faith, followed by a song time, snack time and bike time. The aim of the sessions is to get alongside those that attend, to support them in any way needed, to share the love of Jesus with them and to invite them to other activities that the church runs.

Moving Forward

2023 looks to be as exciting as 2022. We are rebranding our groups and re-evaluating where they take place, with a view to making them relevant to the needs of the community. We will be building on links made with groups such as SYFC and food.gives.

Schools work

We enjoy a positive relationship with our local schools and continue to support them in providing RE. A group of members from the church, plus a member from Florence Street Mission Hall, carry out assemblies once a term (6 annually) in six Swindon primary schools and a village school to the south of Swindon. Each assembly contains a Bible story, a song, a period of meditation and an explanation / application of the story. This year we focussed on characters from the Old Testament. The scripts have been written by the team and are acted out, as this is found to keep the children engaged. In many schools the assembly is repeated and adjusted to suit Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Assemblies are carried out in accordance with guidelines set by SACRE (Standing

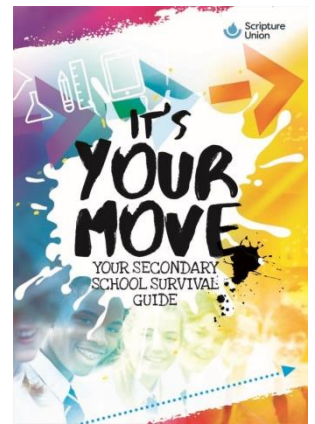


*Smiling faces of local children investigating the Bible story of Christmas for themselves.
Photo used by permission*

Advisory Committee for Religious Education in Swindon) and link into the National Curriculum for RE. Some 2,200 pupils are present at these assembly sessions each term. At one school we have been voted as the best assembly of the year.

We were able to welcome 5 schools into our building to take part in the Investigating Easter and Christmas Unwrapped presentations. At Easter we had 255+ in person and 30 online, due to a last minute Covid outbreak. At Christmas it was encouraging to once again be able to provide the full in-person experience for up to 330 children and adults, who engaged whole-heartedly. We received positive feedback from staff such as *'We always enjoy visiting and the children get to learn about Christianity in an interactive way.'* *'Thank you so much for welcoming us back again. The session is always informative and there are plenty of activities to engage the children.'*... *'A lovely morning as usual.'*... *'I thought the Christmas story was fantastic and fitted well with the retrieval question work in our reading lessons at school.'*... *'Amazing there was differentiated reading, so all children could access.'*... *'...you bring the true meaning of Christmas to life.'*

In the summer, Jacob from GHBC and Janet from Florence Street Mission Hall gave out approximately 170 Scripture Union 'It's Your Move' booklets to the Year 6s of 3 local primary schools, presenting them as part of events to prepare the children for their move to secondary school.



Media

This year we have continued with our hybrid services due to demand. As more and more people have returned to church the AV team has been squeezed into the back rows. This is restricting for them, though for encouraging reasons! We still have a significant number of people who watch our services online either exclusively, if they have yet to physically return, or when they are unable to attend the church building.

We are grateful for those who to volunteer to run the AV setup and especially to the new volunteers. Coordinating the cameras, sound, song words, presentations and the occasional video is a much trickier task than you might imagine, let alone streaming it to Facebook and it requires a number of people working together as a team.

For those who can't make it to church, or who may miss the live Facebook feed, video recordings and audio recordings are available on the church website and on YouTube, with sermons uploaded as podcasts on Apple Music and Amazon Music.

The GHBC Weekly Newsletter and GHBC prayer emails have continued to be crucial in keeping everyone up to date, providing us with channels for important information.

As well as hybrid church services, we have continued to conduct hybrid members meetings, allowing people to attend virtually if they aren't comfortable mixing, have childcare commitments or are away at the time. This has been a great success, allowing audience participation and interaction from within the church or at home.

Our youth worker Jacob has continued to use TikTok, Instagram and Facebook to connect with the youth of the church, which is proving successful. We are looking at how to improve our communications in the light of new technologies, for example this year we have also set up a church Twitter account to try to reach more people outside of the church's normal sphere of communications.

Band of Brothers

Band of Brothers returned this year, having been paused during Covid. There have been a number of well attended events, including a skittles evening playing against our arch-rivals Rodbourne Baptist church



and being able to bless the ladies of the church with a fellowship breakfast event. We hope to have many of our men join us for 'The Gathering' in June for some great fellowship over a fantastic weekend.

It has been encouraging to see this important area of men's fellowship start up again and we pray it will

continue to facilitate more contact with men outside of the church, as well as increase the bond between the men within the congregation itself. We will be looking to really move things forward next year with lots of different events to build a real network of men supporting one another throughout the fellowship.

Flourish

Flourish, a ministry for the women of the fellowship, has yet to restart, and we hope that this will be re-launched during 2023.

Administration

Church Facilities

The following works were carried out in 2022:

Inspection/servicing of key facilities items were carried out to: boilers, thermostatic mixing valves, fire alarm system, emergency lighting, and kitchen appliances, electrical equipment and fire extinguishers. Rodent inspections are regularly carried out, to help maintain a high standard of hygiene and the kitchen grease trap was cleaned.

Decorating works: External front and back timber doors were repainted; decoration works to the Cricklade Hall and the main sanctuary were touched up; new flooring to cleaner's cupboard was laid.

New Works completed:

- Blue roller blinds were installed to all the Bright Room windows.
- New hot water boiler installed in cleaner's cupboard.
- Remedial works to the underground drainage at the rear of the church.
- The old front external foyer area received a complete makeover. Non-slip floor paint applied. Repair works to the floor tiles completed, with coloured nosings supplied and fixed. Decorations refreshed to walls, ceiling and doors. Lighting upgraded to current regulations. Handrails repainted.
- Additional double set of stair handrails were fixed to the stair wall.
- Some of the first floor windows in the classrooms, received 'safety
- New automatic hand dryer fixed to the toilet.
- Both floor closers to main sanctuary doors replaced.
- Main sanctuary Teleflex window openers and high level blinds.
- External stainless steel letter repaired.
- Various carpentry, electrical and plumbing repairs.
- High level gutters cleared of debris and minor roofing repairs carried out at the same time.

Health, Safety & Environmental Health

2022 has seen the emergence of the UK and wider world from Coronavirus lockdowns and other restrictive measures. The church faced the challenge of trying to ensure people's safety on our premises and in our work, which has involved ministering to the vast array of needs which have arisen within our community over the last 2 years. We have tried to meet these needs in a practical, pastoral and spiritual manner.

This year we established a dedicated Health, Safety & Environmental Health team, which began to grow in size through 2022, with more members of the church getting involved in ensuring the safety of those within the life of the church.

As we move forward into 2023, we look forward to further increasing participation in this important function from all within the Church, allowing us to better place the safety and wellbeing of people at the centre of all that we do. This reflects Christ's command to have care for one another, and at the same time reassuring the public, volunteers, local government and other charity partners that we are a responsible organisation with which to partner and deliver real results to those Christ has called us to serve.

Safeguarding report

There have been no major issues requiring reports to other agencies. DBS are continuing to be approved or updated as required. The Safeguarding Policy was under review in 2022, with the aim of being adopted by the Trustees in February and voted on by the members at the March AGM.

Community

Stepping Stones



The Stepping Stones project has continued to develop and grow since we started it in a very small way in June 2020. The aim of the project is to meet our customers' holistic needs - physical, psychological and spiritual - in a variety of ways, by the services that we offer. Matthew 25 verses 35-40 explain perfectly what we are trying to achieve:

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Our **Boxes of Hope** project continues to expand. We now take referrals from professionals from many agencies across the town, both statutory and non-statutory, ensuring that the families who actually need the food receive it. We are recognized as a food provider for the Borough of



Swindon and work closely in partnership with many other services. To date we have delivered 6,732 food parcels, feeding 9,351 adults and 13,217 children. We have a fantastic group of volunteer drivers, who deliver the food parcels and aim to build relationships with the families that they deliver to. We have seen families come to many other events that we run as a church, as a result of them receiving support with food parcels from us.

Our overarching theme for the food parcels is **Hope**, as it says in Psalm 33 verse 22: 'Let your unfailing love surround us Lord, as our hope is in you alone.'

The **Community Fridge** has really taken off. We open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 11am-2pm. All the food that we have available is waste food which would have been thrown away by supermarkets. On average we have 130 visitors to the fridge each day. Since we opened in June 2021 we have had over 20,000 visitors and have prevented over 52,000 tonnes of waste food from going to landfill. The fridge is a fantastic way of getting many people into the church building and we are able to meet a need for them by providing good quality food for free. We are really starting to get to know many of the customers, building good relationships with them. In December one of our customers asked to go in to church, then asked one of the volunteers to pray with him - just one of the many small ways that we are seeing God work through us.

We are seeing many more of our customers pop into our **drop-in café** on a regular basis, as they get to know and trust us. It is open Monday from 11am-2pm and Thursday from 11am-2.30pm. This winter the café is also a 'Warm Space', to enable people to come and spend time with us. We offer a hot drink and a cake for 50p, and people can stay as long as they want to. We have lots of agencies that attend the café on a regular basis to help support people with immediate needs; the

agencies include, among others, Healthwatch, The Citizens Advice Bureau, Thames Water, The Live Well team. They can offer support to people and signpost them to other



agencies, as appropriate. We have a pre-loved clothes table, where our customers can take clothes for free, and a prayer table with lots of Christian booklets and posters, plus the opportunity to make prayer requests or have someone to pray with them.

In the last 12 months we have added some **adult education classes** for our customers to attend. We have been successful in running **CAP Money Management** sessions and have now had several people attend these classes. More recently we have started an **iCaf**, where our customers are able to come and learn English as a second language and put it into practice in an informal café-style class. We have just completed our first successful course which was well attended, and we hope to run these again in 2023. We have recently started a **computer course** for beginners which we called '**Getting Connected**'; this is run by Swindon Borough Council's Adult Learning Team and has proved popular.

Looking ahead, we are hoping to start running some **cookery classes** with slow cookers and look to distribute healthy start vitamins as well as continuing to develop all that we are doing.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers that work really hard in making the Stepping Stones project a real success. Recently we have been on Points West, filmed by Fuelcast to showcase what Baptist churches around the country are doing to help the people in their local communities and been interviewed by Wiltshire Community Foundation for an article in Wiltshire Life Magazine. In many small ways every day we are showing God's love in action to all the people that we meet and are seeing many rewards. As a team we are all excited by the way that God is using us and working through us. We can't wait to see what He has in store for us next.

ReCreate

It was great to be able to welcome families back to **ReCreate** again this year. In particular, the Christmas one was well-attended by lots of familiar faces. It gave us the opportunity to make decorations for the church building, which were widely appreciated.



Lunch Club

After Steve and Christine retired in July, Lunch Club took a break over the summer and re-opened refreshed in the autumn, with some new volunteers joining the team. It meets on Tuesday each week in term-time, from 12.30-2pm, to provide a 2-course meal, generally to the over 50s, who need to book in advance. As well as providing a hot meal to people who might



not cook for themselves on a regular basis, it is also a place which addresses one of the great ills of our society: loneliness. To quote one team member 'It is good to serve the community of Gorse Hill and give them a purpose to meet up and make new friends.'

The meal delivery service, which supported many during Covid, has now ceased and we are delighted to have people regularly coming into our building to share food and friendship.

Re-launched Outreaches in 2022

Friends & Fun re-started as planned in 2022, meeting on 2nd or 3rd Monday afternoon of the month. Originally intended to be a way of maintaining contact with members of Luncheon Club,

before Covid, it numbered 40-45 attendees. During the pandemic, a newsletter was sent out monthly, each with a theme (love, flowers, special days, the Queen, Easter, autumn, Remembrance Day, Coronavirus, holidays and now Christmas Light). There has always been a Christian message. For many this was a lifeline, demonstrated by numerous letters and phone calls from people who were richly blessed.

The current numbers are now around 20-25 people, as many originals have become infirm, moved into care homes or have sadly passed away. However, new members have started to join, either by personal invitation, or because they come to the Community Fridge. The group is keen to encourage church members to join and support.

The Table Tennis group started during the year, meeting every Monday from 11am-1pm. The group numbers between 4-10 weekly and attendance depends on commitments, as many are grandparents or have aging parents. Originally an offshoot of the Badminton Club, many of those involved used to help prepare vegetables for the Tuesday Luncheon Club. It is a social group, who support each other through tough life issues, such as losing loved ones. Members enjoy supporting other church outreaches such as the Fridge and Friends and Fun. Money donated goes to Mary's Meals, a charity which helps feed children around the world.

Mission Support

Despite the very challenging times, we have maintained our mission support, sharing our gifts and resources with those in need. The amount allocated from general income was £16,000, plus a carried forward amount of £2,576 from previous years.



*The people of Ghusel live in an isolated and challenging location, and want to work to improve their lives.
Photo(s): © Clive Thomas for BMS World Mission*

In addition, a number of appeals throughout the year raised further funds: notably for Leprosy Mission (£1,911); for those suffering in Ukraine (£2,425); for Operation Agri (£963); for Spurgeons (£1,378); and our Christmas Appeal for the Baptist World Mission (£4,602).

Many individuals from the church support a wide range of causes directly and such support is not recorded in our accounts.

Elsewhere in this report you will read of many other examples of our outreach. Collectively, this represents our calling to share the gifts we have been given by God with those both near and far.

The Mission Committee's budget of £16,000 was allocated to the following Christian causes: Webnet/Home Mission (£4,500); Baptist World Mission (£3,500); Swindon Youth for Christ (£2,000); Leprosy Mission (£1,600); Tear Fund (£1,600); Centre Mokili (£800); Educación Plus (£500); Angel's Orphanage (£500); Night Shelter (£500); Emergency Appeals (£500).

Webnet/Home Mission provides a wide range of support to Baptist Churches across the UK. This includes support to retired ministers and technical advice to churches, such as legal advice, HR and property services. New churches can also receive support and many community projects take place because of the financial support given by Webnet.



Paul and Sarah, front left, with people they are working with

The Baptist World Mission (BMS) tackles the injustice and suffering of the deeply disadvantaged in desperate places around the world. They work to see the flourishing of people with the fewest opportunities, who are the furthest behind and most excluded. During the year Ruth Whiter from BMS visited us to lead a service.

We have a close link to Baptist missionaries Paul & Sarah Brown, praying for them and

welcoming them to our church when they are in the UK. Paul & Sarah work directly with those in Thailand whose lives have been difficult and challenging giving hope for a better future.

Swindon Youth for Christ is now a resource centre offering support to youth workers across Swindon. They work in partnership with local churches and communities, bringing hope to thousands of young people in Swindon each year.

Leprosy Mission is a global organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness. Leprosy Mission is focused on goals of zero Leprosy transmission, zero Leprosy disability and zero Leprosy discrimination. Their work includes diagnosing and treatment, reconstruction, plus caring for disabled people, fighting stigma and advocating for change, and pioneering research. During the year Chris Stratta from Leprosy Mission visited us to lead a service.

Tear Fund is a charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters and the challenges posed by global warming, and challenging injustice. They believe an end to extreme poverty is possible. During the year David Morrell from Tear Fund visited us to lead a service.

Centre Mokili is a medical centre in Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has its roots in the Baptist faith and our connection with them spans many years. The people of the DRC have suffered years of extreme poverty and violence. Centre Mokili provides much needed health care, including a maternity unit. Our support is used to buy essential medicines, normally every other month, through a scheme first established by international governments to ensure safe medicines are supplied.



Educación Plus works in the shanty towns in San José, Costa Rica. Our connection with them



goes back many years. Their focus is supporting young people gain access to education and an alternative to street life and drifting into one of the many gangs that persist and drug addiction. The cost of education is often too much for many very poor families - uniforms, books, pens, pencils all have to be paid for. Educación Plus helps with these costs. They also run "summer camps" and regular youth meetings, where young people can develop healthy attitudes and resilience. During the year Keith

Holder from Ed Plus visited us to lead a service.

Angel's Orphanage is a special family in Nepal. Initially 22 children were brought together and, for the past 13 years, have been supported by a small local UK charity. The children are a mix of true orphans, given up children and rescued from the streets. They are now thriving young people on the verge of independent adult life. There are currently five girls at home, three are in the second year of nursing study and two are studying at college. Of the eight boys at home, four are studying at school or college, two are in the early stages of work-related training, one is trying to fund his way through further education, and one is recovering from back surgery. Those who have left are working independently and many have reconnected with their village families.



Swindon Night Shelter offers a safe, warm and secure place to spend the night for anyone over the age of 18 who has nowhere else to sleep. Everyone is accepted and treated with dignity. In a world of homelessness, addiction, fear, rejection and marginalisation, the Night Shelter aims to



come alongside the needy to show that somebody does care. They aim to minister to the spiritual needs as well as the emotional and physical needs of the homeless and vulnerable by being a visible testimony of Jesus Christ. They work closely with churches and individual Christians in Swindon and surrounding area.

During the year we supported **three Emergency Appeals** via Tear Fund. A total of £2,400 was given to the appeals in response to the Afghanistan earthquake, the Mozambique hunger, and the Pakistan floods. Our budget for such appeals was £500, so £1,900 was drawn from the £3,676 carried over from earlier years.

This year our **Christmas Appeal** a total of £4,602 was to help the **Baptist World Mission** working to transform the village of Ghusel in Nepal. Over a three year period, they will help to transform this village, by working alongside the villagers and listening to their dreams and wishes.

Our appeal focused on four key areas: improving the villagers' goat husbandry skills, leading to sustainable family income; improving the villagers' water and public hygiene knowledge, leading to healthier lives; training the school teachers, leading to better education for the children; and training volunteer community midwives, leading to safer mother and baby care.

For a summary of all of our giving to charities we support please see note 8 to the accounts

Lettings

Hires have been broadly the same over past year:

- Slimming World and Parent Partnership continue to hire from us. PP plan to reduce to once a week in 2023.
- The Brazilian church has continued hiring and now has a midweek Bible study. Another church uses the premises on a Sunday afternoon.
- We have had a number of one-off hires and many enquiries.
- We have had some issues:
 - Relating to the door codes and fobs in the last couple of months, which has caused difficulties for our hirers, especially the one off ones.
 - With damage to property with one particular group, but this was addressed and has not re-occurred.

- Billing difficulties with a few one-off hirers unwilling to settle bills. To address this we plan to introduce a system of upfront payments.
- A few groups chose to leave when we put up our rates last summer, but most regular hirers have chosen to stay.

Finance Report

In accordance with the Charity Constitution, an annual budget is compiled for both income and expenditure and approved by members in January, along with a plan for the following four years to enable effective financial planning.

The Church raises the funds that it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. The annual income that had started to recover has dropped this year by £10,447, this is in part linked to the current cost of living crisis and the impact this is having on people's ability to give. This has been offset to a certain degree by the increase in lettings income of £7,367. This situation has been highlighted to members as part of the AGM and budget setting process.

Our principal expenditure continues to be related to employing a full time minister and a full time youth worker.

Material areas of expenditure during the year include local ministry of £4,880 and running expenses which account for £49,801. This increase over the last year is due, in part, to the much higher energy costs.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by donating to national and international organisations and charities with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose. The Church budgets for this activity principally through its Missionary Committee and Missionary Fund. The Committee continues to work closely with a number of supported organisations, which are listed in the notes to the accounts, and communicates the activities of these organisations to the fellowship.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of its activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure, but contribute substantially to the achievement of its objectives. There were no significant 'gifts in kind', although some members cover minor costs personally.

The Boxes of Hope project has received funding of £33,514, including grant funding of £29,860, of which £29,160 came from Swindon Borough Council to provide food parcels. As noted above, this is in addition to numerous gifts of food and other supplies from the congregation and local supermarkets. There were approximately 250 hours of volunteer time every week, buying, packing and delivering the bags to the local community. In addition, the delivery and collection drivers gift around 300 miles per week. The project spent £21,034 in year on the provision of food and supplies to the residents of Swindon.

The Stepping Stones project has also received grant funding of £10,490 in year. The project employed 3 part-time staff (1 FTE) during the year to help deliver various aspects of this work. Grants received in support of these projects cannot be used to support the general running cost of the church; these are still met from the general funds of the church.

Both projects are in receipt of additional funding in 2023 to enable these activities to continue and assist Swindon residents recover from the effects of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

The Church maintains levels of reserves to meet its immediate needs, in particular stipends/salaries for the employees and the running costs of the premises. Sums are accumulated to facilitate specific projects and future strategic development, as agreed by members.

The Church is supported by a steady stream of income from the congregation

The Deacons have noted the General Fund balance of £112,882 and have assessed this against the level of potential commitments from 2022 to 2026. They have concluded that there is a need to carefully monitor these reserves, given the current uncertainty around future income

In addition, the Deacons have undertaken a significant review of church activities and, with the assistance of two former treasurers, have set a 5-year budget that will keep the Church in the black. This has meant that there have been significant cuts to some of the activities that have been historically undertaken. The funding is reviewed at the monthly deacons meetings and all spend requires the approval of the treasurer before being incurred. The members and wider congregation are updated regularly about the church's finances.

Given the current uncertainty, the Deacons have set the minimum level of reserves to equate to 6 months of unavoidable spend, this is approximately £50,000 (reduced as a currently we are searching for a new minister). Certain items of discretionary spend have been delayed to the end of 2023, which will ensure that they are still affordable, based on how the church finances have recovered. This policy is reviewed annually by the Diaconate. The Church agreed its annual budget at its January members meeting and noted that it is likely that the church reserves will be close to the minimum set if giving does not increase and expenditure continues at its current level. That meeting also agreed to set aside £38,000 of funds to address specific capital requirements, these include works to update the manse, replace aging AV & IT equipment and to replace the electronic piano.

The Deacons have assessed the major risks facing the Church, and are satisfied that there are policies and insurance in place to mitigate these risks. These policies include internal financial controls with advance approval thresholds set at Treasurer and Diaconate levels; items costing in excess of £750 require members' approval.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying Financial Statement.

Balance Sheet

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET (as at 31st December 2022)

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	12	1,850,000	1,850,000
Current Assets			
Receivables	13	8,142	8,838
Bank and cash	14	241,236	255,405
		<u>249,378</u>	<u>264,243</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(14,218)</u>	<u>(17,171)</u>
Net Current Assets		235,160	247,072
Payables amounts falling due after one year	16	-	(15,154)
Net Assets		<u>2,085,160</u>	<u>2,081,918</u>
Charitable Funds			
Unrestricted	17	1,962,882	1,990,680
Restricted	18	82,878	87,562
Designated	19	39,400	3,676
		<u>2,085,160</u>	<u>2,081,918</u>


The accompanying notes form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 9th March 2023

and signed on their behalf by



Mr I Burbidge ACCA MAAT
Treasurer



Mrs S Westall
Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2022, which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of the Committee and Examiner

The committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the 2011 Act), to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

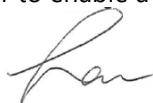
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 14th March 2023

Name: James Gare

Address: Monahans, Hermes House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2GA

Qualifications: Chartered Accountant

Statement of Financial Activities

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted		Designated		Restricted			Dec-22	Dec-21	
		General Fund	Asset Fund	Mission	Capital	Fellowship	Other charities	Projects	Depts.	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:											
Donations and legacies	2	109,231				571	13,294	44,043	4,331	171,470	213,447
Investments	3	900								900	113
Other trading activities	4	9,406								9,406	2,039
Total		119,537				571	13,294	44,043	4,331	181,776	215,599
Expenditure on											
Charitable activities	5	94,931		18,277		927	13,331	48,671	2,396	178,533	156,169
Total	7	94,931		18,277		927	13,331	48,671	2,396	178,533	156,169
Net Income/ (expenditure)		24,606		(18,277)		(356)	(38)	(4,629)	1,935	3,243	59,431
Transfers between funds		(52,402)		16,000	38,000				(1,598)		
Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals		(27,796)		(2,277)	38,000	(356)	(38)	(4,629)	337	3,243	59,431
Net movement in Funds		(27,796)		(2,277)	38,000	(356)	(38)	(4,629)	337	3,243	59,431
Total Funds brought forward		140,679	1,850,000	3,676		5,909		81,050	603	2,081,918	2,022,487
Total Funds carried forward		112,883	1,850,000	1,400	38,000	5,553	(38)	76,422	940	2,085,160	2,081,918

Stepping Stones & Boxes of Hope Summary Accounts

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Boxes of Hope

	2022	2021
Income		
Grants	29,860	32,600
Gifts	3,092	4,610
Tax Refunds	600	575
	33,552	37,785
Expenditure		
Groceries	19,282	12,814
Bags	1,280	878
Equipment		195
Boxes of hope - Literature	48	224
Boxes of hope - Stationery	425	191
	21,035	14,301
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	12,517	23,484
Funds B/fwd.	36,943	13,460
Funds C/fwd.	49,460	36,943

Stepping Stones

	2022	2021
Income		
Grants	9,570	42,200
Gifts	921	437
	10,491	42,637
Expenditure		
Office Costs	124	862
Community Fridge	978	64
Equipment	30	565
Staff Costs	24,962	4,074
Money Management	1,250	3,500
Community outreach		2,465
Teaching Materials	293	
	27,637	11,530
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(17,146)	31,107
Funds B/fwd.	44,107	13,000
Funds C/fwd.	26,961	44,107

Notes to the Accounts

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value except for assets included at revalued amounts.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

b) Going Concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

c) Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated trust constituted by a trust deed.

The address of the registered office and the nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the trustees' report.'

d) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are accounted for gross when received. Tax refunded under Gift Aid is accounted for on an accruals basis

The charges for the use of church premises are included in the accounts in the year in which they are receivable

Investment Income is included in the accounts in the year in which it is receivable

All of the management is carried out without charge, by volunteers. This intangible cost is not included in the Statement of Financial Activities since there is no measurable cost to the volunteers for their service

e) Expenditure recognition

"Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities. "

The Church does not make formal appeals for funds, and expenditure on fundraising and publicity costs is therefore not material

The Church makes grants to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. They are accounted for in the year in which they are paid

f) Receivables

Receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

g) Bank and cash

Bank and cash comprise cash at bank and on hand, and demand deposits with other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

h) Payables

Payables are stated at cost.

i) Fixed Assets

The church and manse premises are included in the balance sheet at market value determined by the trustee's opinion based on insurance value and other available information.

Furniture and equipment in the church premises are capitalised if over £1,000 and depreciated as detailed in note j.

j) Depreciation

Depreciation of other fixed assets is calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, at the following rates:

Furniture and fittings	10%	Full year depreciation charged in year of acquisition; no depreciation charged in year of disposal
Computers and equipment	33.3%	

k) Investment Assets

The Church has no quoted investments

l) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Members and Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes. The establishment of a restricted fund must be agreed by members.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in notes 17 and 18 in notes to the accounts.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted		Restricted			31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	General Fund	Fellowship	Other charities	Projects	Departments	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Offerings	86,429	571				87,000	95,394
Tax refunds	16,496		2,263	600		19,359	19,959
Church departments					4,331	4,331	4,411
Income for Other charities			11,031			11,031	6,973
Other	6,306			43,443		49,749	86,712
Totals	109,231	571	13,294	44,043	4,331	171,470	213,447

Government grants of £29,160 were received from Swindon Borough Council for the Boxes of Hope project. There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies attached to these grants. The charity has not directly benefited from any other forms of government assistance

3 Investments

	Unrestricted	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	General Fund		
	£	£	£
Bank interest	900	900	113
Totals	900	900	113

4 Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	General Fund		
	£	£	£
Use of premises	9,406	9,406	2,039
Totals	9,406	9,406	2,039

5 Charitable activities costs

	Unrestricted General Fund	Designated Missionary	Fellowship	Restricted Other charities	Projects	Depts.	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ministers	32,861						32,861	58,468
Other Ministry	3,953		927		48,671		53,551	30,408
Mission	7,058	18,277		13,331			38,666	32,989
Establishment	49,801						49,801	30,519
Church departments						2,396	2,396	2,382
Governance Costs (note 6)	1,258						1,258	1,404
Totals	94,931	18,277	927	13,331	48,671	2,396	178,533	156,169

6 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted General Fund	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£	£
Independent examination	1,258	1,258	1,404
Totals	1,258	1,258	1,404

7 Total resources expended

	Charitable activities	Grants paid (Mission)	Restricted projects	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Minister	32,861			32,861	58,468
Other Ministry	4,880		48,671	53,551	30,408
Mission		38,666		38,666	32,988
Establishment	49,801			49,801	30,519
Church departments	2,396			2,396	2,382
Governance Costs	1,258			1,258	1,404
Totals	91,196	38,666	48,671	178,533	156,169

8 Grants paid (Mission)

	Unrestricted General Fund	Designated Missionary	Restricted Other charities	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Outreach / youth work	6,278			6,278	1,411
Subscriptions	780			780	825
BMS World Mission		3,500	5,492	8,992	5,926
Education Plus		500	1,247	1,747	4,215
Friends of Angel's Orphanage		500		500	500
Friends of Centre Mokili		800		800	1,600
Leprosy Mission		4,000	375	4,375	3,573
Mary's Meals					1,090
Mellon Mission			1,247	1,247	2,701
Operation Agri			963	963	1,144
SASRA		377		377	-
Spurgeons			1,379	1,379	2,357
Swindon Night Shelter		500		500	-
Swindon Youth For Christ		2,000		2,000	2,500
Tear Fund			2,441	2,441	1,146
Toilet Twining		1,600		1,600	1,000
WEBA Home Mission		4,500	188	4,688	3,000
Totals	7,058	18,277	13,331	38,666	32,988

9 Staff costs and Trustees expenses and Trustees remuneration

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
General Fund Staff		
Salaries	39,229	48,671
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	3,204	1,133
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	(14,943)	5,121
Minister in Training Leaseback	1,732	0
Other costs	3,638	3,542
Totals	32,861	58,468
	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Restricted Projects Staff - Stepping Stones		
Salaries	23,367	3,896
Social Security costs (NI ER's)	44	0
Pension costs (Pens ER's)	1,550	178
Totals	24,962	4,074

Average number of employees during the year was 5, 2021 was 2.5, 3 of these are the staff for the Stepping Stones Project.

Employer pension contributions are included for all Members of staff except for the Minister who left the pension scheme during the year.

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year 2022 nor for 2021

Mrs J Harris is a trustee and was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £5,946 (2021: £991) and employers pension contributions of £322 (2021: £421).

Minister, Revd S Robinson, is also a trustee. He received remuneration of gross salary £16,388 (2021: £28,631) and employers pension contributions of £Nil (2021: £6,997).

There was no other trustee remuneration for the year.

The church pays pension contributions for its Employees to the Baptist Ministers Pension Trust Limited, which is a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State second pension. The scheme is a multi-employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the church. Therefore, as there is insufficient information, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

10 Comparative Statement of financial Activities

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Missionary £	Fellowship £	Restricted Other charities £	Projects £	Depts. £	Unrestricted Asset Fund £	Total £
Income and endowments from:								
Donations and legacies	118,681			9,934	80,422	4,411		213,447
Investments	113							113
Other trading activities	2,039							2,039
Total	120,833			9,934	80,422	4,411		215,599
Expenditure on								
Charitable activities	96,299	14,000	903	16,752	25,831	2,382		156,169
Total	96,299	14,000	903	16,752	25,831	2,382		156,169
Net Income/ (expenditure)	24,533	(14,000)	(903)	(6,818)	54,591	2,028		59,431
Transfers between funds	(14,210)	16,000				(1,790)		
Net incoming resources before revaluations and investment asset disposals	10,234	2,000	(903)	(6,818)	54,951	238		59,431
Net movement in Funds	10,234	2,000	(903)	(6,818)	54,951	238		59,431
Total Funds brought forward	130,355	1,676	6,812	6,818	26,460	365	1,850,000	2,022,487
Total Funds carried forward	140,697	3,676	5,909		81,050	603	1,850,000	2,081,918

11 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Church premises	Manse	Computers & equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
01 January 2022	1,500,000	350,000	16,632	1,866,632
31 December 2022	1,500,000	350,000	16,632	1,866,632
Depreciation				
01 January 2022			(16,632)	(16,632)
31 December 2022			(16,632)	(16,632)
Net Book Value				
31 December 2021	1,500,000	350,000		1,850,000
31 December 2022	1,500,000	350,000		1,850,000

All of the fixed assets are used for direct charitable purposes

The church premises and the manse and revalued to the estimated market value at 31 December 2020 as determined by the trustees.

The trustees do not believe that the carrying amount will not differ materially from the fair value of the asset at the end of the reporting period.

12 Receivables

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Accrued income	5,035	5,844
Prepayments and other receivables	3,107	2,994
Totals	8,142	8,838

13 Bank and cash balances

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Lloyds TSB Bank plc	197,122	212,287
Baptist Union Corporation Ltd	43,174	42,515
Departments	940	603
Totals	241,236	255,405

14 Payables : amounts falling due within one year

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Other creditors	-	4,146
Accruals	14,218	13,025
Totals	14,218	17,171

15 Payables : amounts falling due after more than one year

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Other creditors	-	15,154
Totals	-	15,154

16 Unrestricted Funds

	01/01/2022	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	140,679	119,537	(94,931)	(52,402)	112,883
Asset Fund	1,850,000		0	0	1,850,000
Totals	1,990,679	119,537	(94,931)	(52,402)	1,962,883

The balance of this fund includes elements which are represented by fixed and current assets

	01/01/2021	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	130,355	120,833	(96,299)	(14,210)	140,679
Asset Fund	1,850,000	0	0	0	1,850,000
Totals	1,980,355	120,833	(96,299)	(14,210)	1,990,679

17 Restricted Funds

	01/01/2022	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	5,909	571	(927)		5,553
Other charities		13,294	(13,331)		(38)
Boxes of Hope	36,943	33,552	(21,035)		49,460
Stepping Stones	44,107	10,491	(27,637)		26,961
Church departments	603	4,331	(2,396)	(1,598)	940
Totals	87,562	62,238	(65,325)	(1,598)	82,878

Transfers - a transfer of £1,597.85 was made from the restricted fund to the general fund to recognise the departments' contribution of their surplus towards the church's running costs.

	01/01/2021	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Fellowship Fund	6,812	0	(903)		5,909
Other charities	6,818	9,934	(16,752)		-
Boxes of Hope	13,460	37,785	(14,301)		36,943
Stepping Stones	13,000	42,637	(11,530)		44,107
Church departments	365	4,411	(2,382)	(1,790)	603
Totals	40,455	94,767	(45,869)	(1,790)	87,562

Fellowship Fund

This fund is available at the discretion of the Minister and Care Co-ordinators to provide financial assistance to those in specific need

Restricted Grant

This represents Community Grant Funding which the donor has restricted for the purchase of lunch club crockery and the creation of the gorse hill community garden

Other charities

This represents gifts which the donor has restricted to other parties in furtherance of the charity's objectives

Boxes of Hope

This represents funds raised as a result of the pandemic to provide food parcels to the residents of Swindon

Stepping Stones

This represents funds raised to help Swindonians recover from the dual impact of the closure of Honda and the pandemic.

Church departments

This represents funds related to clubs and groups run by the Church; Luncheon Club, Badminton and Pram Club

18 Designated Funds

	01/01/2022	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
Missionary Fund	3,676	(18,277)	16,000	1,400
Capital Fund			38,000	38,000
Totals	3,676	(18,277)	54,000	39,400

	01/01/2021	Resources expended	Transfers	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£
Missionary Fund	1,676	(14,000)	16,000	3,676
Totals	1,676	(14,000)	16,000	3,676

Missionary Fund

Funds are transferred from the General Fund in order to facilitate annually agreed support in the furtherance of the church's charitable objectives

Capital fund

Funds are transferred from the General Fund in order to deliver one off capital projects as formalised during the annual budget setting process and confirmed at the January members meeting.

19 Analysis of net assets

31-Dec-22	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
	£	£	£
General Fund	1,850,000	112,883	1,962,883
Missionary Fund		1,400	1,400
Capital Fund		38,000	38,000
Fellowship Fund		5,553	5,553
Other charities		(38)	(38)
Church departments		940	940
Restricted Projects		76,422	76,422
Totals	1,850,000	235,160	2,085,160

31-Dec-21	Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Total
	£	£	£
General Fund	1,850,000	140,679	1,990,679
Missionary Fund		3,676	3,676
Fellowship Fund		5,909	5,909
Other charities		-	-
Church departments		603	603
Restricted Projects		81,050	81,050
Totals	1,850,000	231,918	2,081,918

20 Pensions

The Church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust

Limited). The Scheme is a separate legal entity and the assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

For any month, each participating employer in the Scheme pays contributions as set out in the Schedule of Contributions in force at that time.

The Scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable towards benefits and expenses accrued in that year, plus any impact of deficiency contributions (see below).

The Minister(s) [and some members of the church staff] is / are eligible to join the Scheme. From January 2012, pension provision is being made through the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan within the Scheme. In general, members pay 8% of their Pensionable Income and employers pay 6% of members' Pensionable Income into individual pension accounts, which are operated and managed on behalf of the Pension Trustee by Legal and General Life Assurance Society Limited. In addition, the employer pays a further 4% of Pensionable Income to cover Death in Service Benefits, administration costs, and an associated insurance policy which provides income protection for Scheme members in the event that they are unable to work due to long-term incapacity. This income protection policy has been insured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain with Aviva plc. [Members of the Basic Section pay reduced contributions of 5% of Pensionable Income, and their employers also pay a total of 5%.] The further 4% contribution rate is reduced to 3% for Employer contributions made to the Segregated DC Arrangement.

Benefits in respect of service prior to 1 January 2012 are provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan within the Scheme. The main benefits for pre-2012 service were a defined benefit pension of one eightieth of Final Minimum Pensionable Income for each year of Pensionable Service, together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011.

Actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2019

A formal valuation of the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was performed at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. The market value of the DB Plan assets at the valuation date was £298 million.

The valuation of the DB Plan revealed a deficit of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £18 million (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other employers supporting the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit.

The key assumptions underlying the valuation were as follows:

Type of financial assumption	% pa
RPI price inflation assumption	3.20
CPI price inflation assumption	2.70
Minimum Pensionable Income increases (RPI)	3.20
Assumed investment returns	
- Pre-retirement	2.95
- Post retirement	1.70
Deferred pension increases	
- Pre April 2009	3.20
- Post April 2009	2.50
Pension increases	
- Main Scheme pension	2.70

- Post-retirement mortality in accordance with 80% of the S3NFA and S3NMA tables, with allowance for future improvements in mortality rates from 2013 in line with the CMI 2019 core projections, with a long term annual rate of improvement of 1.75% for males and 1.5% for females, with the core smoothing parameter and with additional initial mortality improvement factor A=0.5%.

The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Recovery Plan

In addition to the contributions to the DC Plan set out above, where a valuation of the DB Plan reveals a deficit the Trustee and the Council agree to a rate of deficiency contributions from churches and other employers involved in the DB Plan. Following the 2019 valuation a

Recovery Plan was signed in September 2020 under which deficiency contributions are payable until June 2026. These contributions were broadly based on each employer's membership at 31 December 2014 and increase annually in line with increases to Minimum Pensionable Income as defined in the Rules.

On 30th June 2022 the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

Accounting date (year ending):	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Balance sheet liability at year start	19,299	23,521
Minus deficiency contributions paid	(2,449)	(4,130)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	362	294
Remaining change to balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	(17,212)	(386)
Balance sheet liability at year end	0	19,299

* Comprises any change in agreed deficit recovery plan and change in assumptions between year-ends.

This liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions set by reference to the duration of the deficit recovery payments:

Accounting date	31/12/2022	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
Discount rate	5.7%	2.0%	0.4%
Future increases to Minimum Pensionable Income	0.0%	4.1%	3.0%

The Church has been advised that the cost for the church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 December 2022 was Nil (31 December 2021: £226,000).

21 Related parties

The custodian Trustee of the church is The West of England Baptist Trust Company (West) Limited. The church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the West of England Baptist Association. The church does not receive any grant funding from either party.

The church made a donation to the Baptist Union Home Mission Scheme as set out in note 8

The church made a donation to the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission (charity no 233782) as set out in note 8

The church paid a subscription to the Baptist Union of Great Britain amounting to £674.50 which is included in note 8

Total donations of £7,280 were received from trustees. These donations were all given without conditions. Trustees also donate via church plate collections. These amounts are not recorded separately

The spouse of trustee G Pricor was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £11,531 (2021: £1,416) and employers pension contributions of £593 (2021: £77)

The spouse of trustee I Burbidge was employed by the charity to deliver the Stepping Stones Project receiving gross salary £5,935 (2021: £991) and employers pension contributions of £634 (2021: £59).

Gorse Hill Baptist Church

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Registered Charity Number: 1127294