

Charity registration number 1091066

Company registration number 04279837 (England and Wales)

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



Caladine

Chartered Certified Accountants

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees:	Rev'd Judith Wheatley Rev'd Christopher Brockway Mr Andrew Johnson Mrs Ann Andrews Mr Peter Brookes Rev'd Anthony Clarke Mr Jason Collis Rev'd Simon Ford Ms Emma Green Rev'd Martin Hardwidge Rev'd Clare Hooper Rev'd Matthew Huckle Rev'd Jonathan Keyworth Rev'd Dr Colin Norris Ms Janet Quarry Rev'd Christopher Walker Rev'd Hayley Young	Interim Moderator of the Trustees (Until 31st March 2023) Moderator of the Trustees (Appointed 6th November 2023) Association Treasurer (Until 6th November 2023) (Until 6th November 2023) (Until 6th November 2023) Regent's Park College Representative (Until 6th November 2023) (Appointed 1st July 2023) (Appointed 6 November 2023) Regional Ministry Team Leader (Until 31st Jan 2023) (Appointed 6th November 2023) (Appointed 6th November 2023) (Appointed 1st July 2023)
Regional Ministry Team:	Rev'd Hayley Young Rev'd Clare Hooper Rev'd Stephen Barber Rev'd Simon Gray Rev'd James Thomas	Regional Minister Co-Team Leader Regional Minister Co-Team Leader, Children, Youth & Families Regional Minister Regional Minister/Operations Lead (Interim Treasurer) Regional Minister, Mission Development
Staff Team:	Mrs Amy Allen Mr Keith Baldwin	Administration Manager Safeguarding Adviser
Charity number	1091066	
Company number	04279837	
Registered office and operational address	Baptist House 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XD	
Independent examiner	Colin Dadswell FCA FCCA DChA Caladine Limited Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF	
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 6 High Street Abingdon Oxfordshire OX11 8RP	

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 7
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	8
Independent examiner's report	9
Statement of financial activities	10 - 11
Statement of financial position	12
Statement of cash flows	13
Notes to the financial statements	14 - 30

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Association for the purposes of company law, are pleased to present their Annual report and financial statements of the charitable company for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023, which are prepared to meet the requirements for a director's report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

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 Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 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)".

Objectives and activities

The Southern Counties Baptist Association (also known as SCBA) is a registered charity (number 1091066). It was incorporated as a private limited company on 31 August 2001 and is governed by Articles and Memorandum of Association.

The objective of the charitable company is 'the advancement of the Christian faith especially by means of and in accordance with the principles of the Baptist denomination, as set out for the time being, in the Declaration of Principle of the Baptist Union of Great Britain'.

The principal activities of the charitable company are the employment of Regional Ministers and administrative staff team, with the involvement of a number of volunteers, working in groups or individually, to offer support and guidance, training and financial resources to advance the Christian religion in a way which benefits Baptist churches and the communities in which they serve.

The charitable company is part of the family of Baptist organisations serving the needs of many of the Baptist Churches in Great Britain, working particularly closely with the Baptist Union of Great Britain and BMS World Mission.

Public benefit

The trustees, having regard to the Charity Commission's guidance document, 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)', continued to provide public benefit by seeking to advance the Christian religion and practice 'according to the principles of the Baptist denomination' and with the Objects of the charitable company. More detailed information about the activities and their success is provided in the "Achievements and Performance" section of this report.

The charitable company aims to:

Short-term:

- Co-operate with churches directly and through working groups by passing appropriate resolutions to enable building development projects, including the provision of grants and loans, including Sustainable Energy Funding. Many of these projects are directly aimed at making church buildings more accessible and available to the local community.
- Assist churches and ministers that are seeking new ministries through the National Settlement process.
- Assist individuals in exploring a call to any Baptist ministry by signposting various routes to recognised Baptist ministry, interviewing candidates, supporting ministerial candidates and providing Baptist Union approved training for Regionally Recognised Leaders and lay pastors.(our RRL formation fulfils BUGB requirements for Lay Pastors so they can be separately listed).
- Encourage dialogue within churches or between churches and their local community.
- Encourage the SCBA Grants Committee as it continues to seek creative ways of supporting churches in their mission using Baptist Home Mission, Pioneering and other Association funds.
- Receive and consider reports from the SCBA Strategy Groups and the Regional Ministers, enabling the charitable company to maintain effective governance.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Long-term:

- Make Safeguarding training available on a rolling programme, encouraging and enabling members of our churches to receive training at a reduced cost or free, and ensuring that ministers have completed Level 2 & 3 training.
- Ensure, through its Staff, Finance & Administration Group, responsible and effective stewardship of the resources of the charitable company.
- Encourage churches to support Baptist Home Mission and BMS World Mission through prayer, direct partnership with mission personnel and financial gifts, so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ can continue to be shared in the UK and abroad.
- Support the staff employed by the charitable company through the provision of appropriate training and support, and provision of clear and effective staffing and other policies.
- Seek appropriate and timely advice on issues having a potentially wide-ranging effect with a view to mitigating risk.

The aim of our charity is to inspire, connect and resource healthy churches in relationship for God's mission and this fully reflects the purposes that the charity was set up to further. The team and trustees sought to achieve these aims in a number of ways, primarily providing support to the churches and their ministers to enable them to advance the Christian religion by public worship and their objects but also including granting assistance to churches seeking to improve their premises, encouraging churches to adopt robust safeguarding policies and practice, acting to provide help and support to churches seeking to improve their own governance and holding the Regional Ministers accountable for their support for churches seeking to advance the Christian religion in their communities.

The trustees review our aims, objectives and activities each year through appraisals of the team and the work that they have carried out. In doing this, not only are we able to ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focussed, but also that the team are carrying out their roles to the best of their abilities.

Significant Activities of our Association included:

- Hosting events for ministers and leaders, including a three-day conference, to teach and to develop and deepen their relationship with God
- Providing Home Mission Grants to sustain churches and organisation for mission in their communities
- Providing support for our Association churches, ministers and leaders, including pastoral, safeguarding and monetary.
- Through different Association working groups, continuing to assess and develop the various aspects of our mission, including finance, safeguarding and leadership development.
- Identifying, partnering with and resourcing pioneer mission initiatives

The Association's volunteers have roles either as trustees on the Steering and Strategy Group; or as non-trustee members of one of the Association working groups. The Association also uses volunteers to carry out their safeguarding training sessions, who are trained to a high standard to fulfil this role.

Achievements and performance

The Association is made up of 144 member churches of the Association, mainly located in Berkshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire, covering thirteen counties in total. The Regional Ministers gave regular input to individual churches about good practice, backed up by the resources of the Baptist Union, as well as being involved in conflict resolution when necessary.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The testing of the call to ministry is carried out by a Ministerial Recognition Group formed as part of the South-West Partnership and was carried out with the four Associations. The Regional Ministers also oversee the development of ministers during their first three years of ministry. Four ministers became Fully Accredited Ministers and will be recognised at the Baptist Assembly in 2024, with ten Newly Accredited Ministers attending reflection sessions in February and September.

The Regional Ministry Team spent the year making contact with their allocated churches and ministers, giving advice and support where needed, as well as attending church meetings and leading or speaking at services, both online and in-person. They have continued to be in contact with all of the Association contacts through a monthly email with up-to-date information of what is happening both nationally and in the Association.

In January 2023, Revd Colin Norris left his role as Regional Minister Team Leader to pursue a portfolio ministry. Whilst the trustees reflected on what was needed in terms of leadership for the Regional Team, Rev. Clare Hooper became acting Team Leader. Then, following a rigorous application and interview process Rev. Clare Hooper and Rev. Hayley Young were appointed as Co-Team Leaders and took up their roles on the 1st July 2023.

Rev. Judith Wheatley retired in March 2023 and stepped down from her role as Interim Moderator. Rev. Chris Brockway was co-opted by the trustees as Interim Acting Moderator and following his appointment at the November AGM became Moderator.

The team and trustees continued to work on the Strategic Review carried out by Helen Cameron, and in particular the five strategic priorities: clusters, mission development, pioneering, children, youth and families, and leaders development; and the two main enabling priorities: the reserves policy and people strategy.

In-person Safeguarding Training continued throughout the year. The Safeguarding Training is run across the Association with a trained team of Safeguarding Trainers (all of whom are volunteers) in the light of the national policies and procedures. In 2023, 975 ministers, leaders and church members of SCBA churches were trained in level 2 and level 3 safeguarding by SCBA safeguarding trainers.

In the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023, in addition to more general questions, SCBA supported 18 churches with safeguarding incidents. The continuing high number of contacts is anecdotally related to an increased in safeguarding training provision, an increased raising of awareness of what matters and an increase in societal stress. These are appropriately consulted on with SCBA leading to an increase in safeguarding matters.

Various events, training and meetings were held throughout the year. 111 Ministers and Leaders attended our three-day in Cheltenham conference held in February, led by Rev. Rosa Hunt. The first day of the conference was an opportunity for a selection of our groups to meet up together, including the children, youth and family workers, newly accredited ministers, and chaplains.

In March, an additional leaders' day and Extraordinary General Meeting was attended by 43 ministers and leaders, led by Revd Wale Hudson-Roberts, Justice Enabler for Baptists Together, who introduced the new 'Visions of Colour' anti-racism course for ministers and churches. In June a leaders' day, was attended by 54 ministers and leaders, led by Rev. Steve Tinning, for the Joint Public Issues Team, helping churches engage with some current political issues. In November, the leaders' day and AGM was attended by 76 leaders and ministers and was led by Rev. Lisa Kerry, speaking on 'Ministry in the Goldfish Bowl', examining issues around power and expectation in ministry. The children, youth and families workers continued to meet both online and in person for training and support.

The Association made a difference to its beneficiaries in terms of support, advice and training when requested or offered. Also, the Home Mission Group and the Staff, Finance and Administration Group vetted and advised on the applications for Home Mission grants from 9 churches and 4 para-church organisations, including consultation about the approach taken with representatives from South-West, West and South Wales Baptist Associations with whom we informally partner. The Association has also made six grants to individuals for education and development.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

At the end of 2023, there were 17 pioneers within SCBA. 8 were accredited Baptist Ministers (or MITs); 2 were RRLs; 7 had no Baptist accreditation. The pioneers were pastorally supported by an SCBA pioneering network and represented by a pioneering steering group.

At the end of 2023 there were 46 Children, Youth and Families workers employed by churches within the Association. These CYF workers are supported by Rev Clare Hooper and the work of the CYF Steering Group.

In reviewing the achievements and performance of the Association during the reporting period, this is mainly achieved through the number of ministers, leaders, members and churches who have interacted with the Association in some way, whether through events, training, or meeting with the Regional Ministry Team.

A number of positive and negative factors, both within and outside the charity's control, have affected achievements of its objectives. The continued employment of the Safeguarding Adviser has been an extremely positive factor, taking some of the pressure and work from the Regional Ministry Team. The working groups continue to evolve so that the varied aspects of the Association's work are covered. The working groups are currently: Staff, Finance and Administration; Children, Youth and Families; Safeguarding; Leadership and Ministerial Development; Mission Development; Home Mission; Pioneering and Communications.

The Regional Team spend significant time engaging with local churches. However, there are also those churches who are difficult to contact, sometimes because they do not wish to have contact with the Association and are very independent. The restriction of finance and resources will continue to have a negative impact on the objectives in the future of the Association and the way the objectives are fulfilled.

In regard to fundraising activities, the Association has a major responsibility for encouraging churches to donate funds to the Baptist Union Home Mission Appeal but such encouragement is limited to drawing attention to the need and benefits during meetings and church visits, on the SCBA website, and in letters from the Association Treasurer to the church treasurers. The team has sought to be more proactive in this and are looking at producing more resources going forward. In 2023, the giving by SCBA churches failed to reach the target set for the Association by the Baptist Union.

The Association is not permitted to raise funds to meet its operational or administrative costs, other than to meet the expenses of events, such as training. However, the Association does receive gifts for the Confidential Fund, established to relieve the hardship of ministers or spouses. A grant from the money raised for the Baptist Union Home Mission in 2022 was given to the Association to cover staff salaries and administrative costs in 2023, as well as to distribute to Home Mission grant recipients. This is the principal source of income to cover the operating costs of the Association. The Association did not use any material expenditure to raise income in the reporting period.

Financial review

During 2023 the overall funds of the Association increased by £419,211 (2022: a decrease of £45,825).

The Association had Unrestricted general funds of £2,363,274 at the period end and £397,174 restricted funds. The Association's general fund totalled £1,715,039 at the end of 2023. Funds of £636,215 are held as loan funds for interest free loans to churches, of which £161,017 was on loan. In addition there were designated funds amounting to £25,078.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Association maintains reserves of £450,000 which currently represent approximately 9 months full running costs.

The trustees have recognised that, taking into account the size of the staff team, the Association will be running a deficit budget for a number of years which is likely to be with in the region of £135,000 a year unless additional funds accrue.

Given the existing level of unrestricted funds above and beyond that necessary to maintain the Association's reserves the trustees consider the Association remains a going concern despite an excess of expenditure over income. However, since there is little prospect of a significant reduction in costs if the Association continues to operate at its current level, the trustees have engaged in the Strategic Review mentioned earlier.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Association incurred financial costs on the majority of its events. In 2023, SCBA did charge for the Minister' and Leaders' Conference and the Leaders' Days, but additional costs including the speakers fee and staff mileage are covered by the Association. The cost of providing the safeguarding training was covered by the charge to those attending. Association support, events and training also incur the costs of the Regional Ministry Team time and mileage.

In regard to investment performance, funds not required for immediate purposes were deployed with the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, which employs investment manager. The Baptist Union Trustees monitor investment performances through their Finance and Audit Committee.

The principal risk facing the Association is the current deficit budget. This has been fully identified but the trustees, through the Staff, Finance and Administration Group. The Association trustees and Regional Ministry Team continue to meet to discuss the Strategic Review and the way forward whilst working with a deficit budget. However, monies from closed church are currently covering the deficit to some extent but cannot be relied on long-term.

The principal funding source to SCBA is form Home Mission giving from out Association churches, either through SCBA or directly to the Baptist Union. This is then put into a 'shared pot' with the other Association in the Union, and SCBA then receive a percentage of the total amount. An increase in giving to the Home Mission fund from SCBA churches may not directly result in an increased grant directly to SCBA.

The Association is part of a very complex multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme comprising approximately 1,200 employers. SCBA have now paid off the pension debt that was owed for the Association. Debts to churches that had closed and who did not own a building to sell were also covered by SCBA. The Association has conducted research to establish other churches whose trustees would be liable to pay the pension debt if the church closed (and if a building sale will not cover the debt) and SCBA will also be able to cover these debts.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Plans for Future Periods

During 2024, the charitable company will seek to continue to fulfil its objectives in creative ways that will assist in the advancement of the Christian religion and the enrichment of church and community life in the Southern Counties.

The Regional Ministry Team will plan to keep the regular activities in place. These activities include: the continuation of Safeguarding Training available to all churches and communities; supporting the member churches, both pastorally through the Regional Ministry Team, and for some, financially through grants; and hosting ministers' and leaders' events including a three-day conference and the AGM. The Board of Trustees will continue to work on the findings of the Strategic Review of the Association, particularly reviewing the current deficit.

Structure, governance and management

The charitable company is governed by its Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association and Rules. The Objects of this charitable company are the advancement of the Christian religion especially by the means of and in accordance with the principles of the Baptist denomination as set out for the time being in the Declaration of Principle of The Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The charity is an Incorporated Private Limited Company and is constituted of a board of eleven trustees, who are also the Company's Directors, including the Moderator and the Treasurer, who oversee the works of the charity. The charity's members are the 144 churches within the Association, who have the right to appoint two representatives to attend and to vote at the general meeting of the Association.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The board of Trustees consists of:

- The Regional Ministry Co-Team Leaders
- The Moderator appointed by the members of the Association
- The Treasurer appointed by the members of the Association
- A person appointed by Regent's Park College for such term of office and accordance with such procedures and rules as shall from time to time be decided by the College
- Seven trustees appointed by the members of the Association (four trustees were appointed by vote at the AGM in November 2023)

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr Andrew Johnson	
Mrs Anne Andrews	(Resigned 6 November 2023)
Revd Christopher Brockway	(Appointed 17 May 2023)
Mr Peter Brookes	(Resigned 6 November 2023)
Rev'd Anthony Clarke	
Mr Jason Collis	
Rev'd Simon Ford	(Resigned 6 November 2023)
Ms Emma Green	
Rev'd Martin Hardwidge	
Revd Clare Hooper	(Appointed 1 July 2023)
Revd Jonathan Keyworth	
Rev'd Dr Colin Norris	(Resigned 31 January 2023)
Rev'd Judith Wheatley	(Resigned 31 March 2023)
Revd Hayley Young	(Appointed 1 July 2023)
Revd Matthew Huckle	(Appointed 6 November 2023)
Ms Janet Quarry	(Appointed 6 November 2023)
Revd Christopher Walker	(Appointed 6 November 2023)

Up to six trustees can be appointed on to the trustee board, three of which will be appointed solely to enable the trustee board to positively represent the age, sex and ethnic origin of the membership of the member churches.

The Association Moderator is at the head of the Association. Below this role are the rest of the board of the trustees including the Association Treasurer. The Regional Ministry Co-Team Leaders are responsible for the rest of the team of three Regional Ministers and two support staff. A structure of strategic and enabling groups is in place to support the various aspects of the Association. These areas are: Staff Finance and Administration; Leadership and Ministerial Development; Children, Youth and Families; Safeguarding; Pioneer Mission; Mission Development; Home Mission and Communication. In line with the Memorandum and Articles, the majority of the decisions made by the charity as a whole will be made by the board of trustees, though on occasions, the other strategy groups or Regional Ministry Team will make decisions and inform the board of trustees of these decisions.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

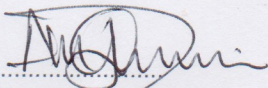
Prospective trustees are advised of the qualifications for serving as charity trustees and directors. They are invited to an informal discussion with the Moderator or Regional Ministry Co-Team Leaders to discuss the appointment. On appointment they are provided with an overview of the governing documents of instruments and activities of the charitable company, along with the Association policies and past trustee meeting minutes. Trustees are invited to various training sessions hosted by the Association or Baptist Union for its members, including Data Protection and Safeguarding.

The Regional Ministry Team are paid a stipend which is in line with the recommended stipend by the Baptist Union plus a percentage depending on their position in the team. Housing allowance and expenses are also paid on a monthly basis. The rest of the staff team are paid a salary, decided by the board of trustees, plus any out-of-pocket expenses. All volunteers within the Association are paid any out-of-pocket expenses, particularly for travel to and from meeting and events.

Key Management personnel remuneration: the charitable company consider their key management personnel to be the charitable company's board of trustees. The pay and remuneration of the employees of the charitable is set by the charitable company through the board of trustees and its finance group and is based upon the Baptist Union recommended stipend.

The charitable company is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, paying a subscription to this charity. Funds from the Home Mission fund, which is the principle working fund of the Union, are received by the charitable company and dispersed by its Grants Group, as well as used for the running of the Association. The Association also works informally in partnership with three other association within the Baptist Union: West of England Baptist Network, South West Baptist Association and South Wales Baptist Association. The partnership is mainly for mutual support, inspiration and advice in pursuing the aims and objectives of the Associations.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



.....
Mr Andrew Johnson

Trustee

Dated: 5 August 2024

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Southern Counties Baptist Association for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company 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 and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 Companies Act 2006. 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 SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Southern Counties Baptist Association (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Colin Dadswell FCA FCCA DChA

Caladine Limited
Chantry House
22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 1BF

Dated: 08/08/2024

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	4,186	6,651	3,066	13,903	27,120
Charitable activities	4	252,451	-	-	252,451	351,581
Investments	5	32,835	-	-	32,835	12,912
Other income	6	640,835	-	8,419	649,254	39,731
Total income		<u>930,307</u>	<u>6,651</u>	<u>11,485</u>	<u>948,443</u>	<u>431,344</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	7	553,763	57,626	7,397	618,786	530,934
Total expenditure		<u>553,763</u>	<u>57,626</u>	<u>7,397</u>	<u>618,786</u>	<u>530,934</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	<u>89,554</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>89,554</u>	<u>-</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>466,098</u>	<u>(50,975)</u>	<u>4,088</u>	<u>419,211</u>	<u>(99,590)</u>
Transfers between funds	24	(65,127)	(24,941)	90,068	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses:						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		-	-	-	-	53,765
Net movement in funds	10	<u>400,971</u>	<u>(75,916)</u>	<u>94,156</u>	<u>419,211</u>	<u>(45,825)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		<u>1,962,303</u>	<u>100,994</u>	<u>303,018</u>	<u>2,366,315</u>	<u>2,412,140</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		<u>2,363,274</u>	<u>25,078</u>	<u>397,174</u>	<u>2,785,526</u>	<u>2,366,315</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,000	-	26,120	27,120
Charitable activities	4	351,581	-	-	351,581
Investments	5	12,912	-	-	12,912
Other income	6	39,731	-	-	39,731
Total income		<u>405,224</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,120</u>	<u>431,344</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	462,560	39,656	28,718	530,934
Total expenditure		<u>462,560</u>	<u>39,656</u>	<u>28,718</u>	<u>530,934</u>
Net income		<u>(57,336)</u>	<u>(39,656)</u>	<u>(2,598)</u>	<u>(99,590)</u>
Transfers between funds	24	(38,266)	37,956	310	-
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		53,765	-	-	53,765
Net movement in funds	10	<u>(41,837)</u>	<u>(1,700)</u>	<u>(2,288)</u>	<u>(45,825)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		2,004,140	102,694	305,306	2,412,140
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		<u>1,962,303</u>	<u>100,994</u>	<u>303,018</u>	<u>2,366,315</u>

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	15		943,850		1,290,133
Investments	16		12,020		12,020
			<u>955,870</u>		<u>1,302,153</u>
Current assets					
Debtors falling due after one year	19	139,965		184,827	
Debtors falling due within one year	19	36,160		29,183	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,703,117		947,204	
		<u>1,879,242</u>		<u>1,161,214</u>	
Current liabilities	21	49,586		47,052	
Net current assets			<u>1,829,656</u>		<u>1,114,162</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>2,785,526</u>		<u>2,416,315</u>
Non-current liabilities	20		-		(50,000)
Net assets			<u>2,785,526</u>		<u>2,366,315</u>
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	24		397,174		303,018
Unrestricted funds - general			2,363,274		1,962,303
Unrestricted funds - designated	25		25,078		100,994
			<u>2,785,526</u>		<u>2,366,315</u>

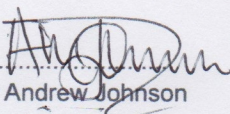
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15th July 2024.....



 Mr Andrew Johnson
 Trustee

Company registration number 04279837 (England and Wales)

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	30		334,331		(98,249)
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(449,979)		(501,652)	
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		347,936		-	
Proceeds from disposal of investment property		541,305		-	
Investment income received		32,835		12,912	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			472,097		(488,740)
Financing activities					
Repayment of borrowings		(50,000)		-	
Net cash used in financing activities			(50,000)		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			756,428		(586,989)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			946,689		1,533,678
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			1,703,117		946,689
Relating to:					
Cash at bank and in hand			1,703,117		947,204
Bank overdrafts included in creditors payable within one year			-		(515)

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Company information

The Southern Counties Baptist Association is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8XD.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 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)". 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. 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 - represent those funds which can be used in accordance with the Association's charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds - represent those funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted fund - can only be used for a particular restricted purpose within the charitable objects. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charitable Company has entitlement to the funds; any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met; it is probable that the income will be received; and that the amount can be measured reliably.

- Donations are accounted for gross when received.
- Grants receivable are accounted for in the year in which they are receivable.
- Investment income is included in the financial statements in the year in which it is receivable.
- Event and Conference fees are accounted for in the period the event was held

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once there is a legal constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

- Expenditure on charitable activities represents expenditure in the furtherance of the object of the Association
- Grants payable are agreed on an annual basis and accounted for in the year in which they are committed

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Expenditure under £2,000 on office furniture and computer equipment is written off as incurred. Expenditure over £2,000 on a single item will be written off over 4 years.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the association but do not directly represent the charitable activities and include governance costs.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the association and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs relating to the statutory accounts and independent examination.

Support costs have been 100% allocated to the charitable activity.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold land and buildings	Freehold Land - Nil, Freehold Buildings - Over 30 years
-----------------------------	---

Depreciation of buildings is based on an anticipated useful life of 30 years with a residual value equal to two thirds of the original cost.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

No depreciation is provided in the year of acquisition.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.9 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.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors

Loans are considered concessionary loans as they are made by the charity to further its purposes. Loans are initially measured at the amount paid, with the carrying amount adjusted subsequently to reflect repayments. There is no interest charged on the loan amounts. Where any loan made is considered to be irrecoverable an impairment loss is recognised.

Other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the association has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Accruals and other creditors are recognised at their settlement amount due.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability for the agreed pension scheme deficit plan has been included, in accordance with the Baptist Union Staff Pension Scheme Schedule of Contributions dated 16 December 2018.

1.11 Taxation

The charitable company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part II Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.12 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 Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Defined contribution pension plans

The Association operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the charity has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the charity in an independently administered fund.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

- Judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies
- Accounting estimates and assumptions
- Recoverability of loan
The recoverability of loans are assessed annually, and at the balance sheet date provisions for doubtful debts are provided based on prior year experiences.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	4,186	6,651	3,066	13,903	27,120
Donations and gifts					
Church of the Year gifts	-	-	2,866	2,866	3,962
Confidential Fund donations	-	-	200	200	190
Rural Ministry Grant	-	6,651	-	6,651	21,968
Loan Termination Gifts (SCBA Loan Fund)	4,001	-	-	4,001	-
Other donations	185	-	-	185	1,000
	<u>4,186</u>	<u>6,651</u>	<u>3,066</u>	<u>13,903</u>	<u>27,120</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Charitable activities		
Preaching and other fees	4,574	2,939
Leaders' Days & SCBA Event fees	1,500	1,921
SCBA Ministers' Conference Fees	19,792	16,437
Baptist Union grant for Operational Activities	216,689	296,370
Children youth & family retreat and safeguarding training	1,270	12,270
Charitable rental income	8,410	16,945
Other income	216	4,699
	<u>252,451</u>	<u>351,581</u>

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Rental income	4,909	-
Loan and General Funds on Deposit with BU	27,525	12,511
Baptist Insurance Co Ltd - Dividends	401	401
	<u>32,835</u>	<u>12,912</u>

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	8,419	8,419	-	-	-
Closure of Redundant Churches	640,835	-	640,835	39,731	-	39,731
	<u>640,835</u>	<u>8,419</u>	<u>649,254</u>	<u>39,731</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,731</u>

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities	Charitable activities
	2023	2022
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	343,012	283,533
Depreciation and impairment	4,994	7,283
Travel and Accommodation	32,105	22,537
Leaders Days and SCBA Event Costs	13,461	8,293
SCBA Ministers Conference	29,947	19,153
Community Learning Tutor	-	4,000
Confidential Fund	3,158	500
CYF Working group	2,421	3,021
Pioneer Mission Fund Expenses	12,729	1,309
	<u>441,827</u>	<u>349,629</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	135,301	152,204
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	33,266	20,722
Governance	8,392	8,379
	<u>618,786</u>	<u>530,934</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	553,763	462,560
Unrestricted funds - designated	57,626	39,656
Restricted funds	7,397	28,718
	<u>618,786</u>	<u>530,934</u>

8 Grants payable

	Charitable activities	Charitable activities
	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants to institutions:		
Home Mission Grant	118,565	128,520
Churches Together Grants	2,460	2,220
Church of the year	4,176	4,264
Warm spaces Grant	6,100	15,500
Educational and Sabbatical Grant	4,000	1,700
	<u>135,301</u>	<u>152,204</u>

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9 Support costs allocated to activities	2023 £	2022 £
Office Expenses and IT	1,094	1,349
Telephone	2,663	3,003
Volunteer Exp. and Fees	4,470	1,338
Staff Book & Study Allowance	3,490	1,052
Insurance	4,790	1,830
Building Hire	3,500	3,500
Baptist Union Subs	871	844
Interest on pension deficit	-	1,137
Other expenditure	12,388	6,669
Governance costs	8,392	8,379
	<u>41,658</u>	<u>29,101</u>
<u>Analysed between:</u>		
Charitable activities	<u>41,658</u>	<u>29,101</u>
	2023	2022
Governance costs comprise:	£	£
Legal and professional	1,759	1,566
Accountancy & IE	4,140	4,020
Bank Charges	521	350
Software and other subscriptions	845	1,325
Payroll fees	1,127	1,118
	<u>8,392</u>	<u>8,379</u>
	2023	2022
10 Net movement in funds	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned property, plant and equipment	4,994	7,283
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(8,419)	-
Profit on disposal of investment property	(89,554)	-
	<u>(89,554)</u>	<u>-</u>

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11 Trustees

Trustee Rev'd Dr C Norris was paid a salary of £3,312 (2022: £37,271) and benefitted from employer pension contributions totalling £420 (2022: £6,415) for his work as the Regional Ministry Team Leader.
Trustee Rev'd C Hooper was paid a salary of £27,375 (2022: £Nil) and benefitted from employer pension contributions totalling £2,522 (2022: £Nil) for her work as the Regional Ministry Co-Team Leader.
Trustee Rev'd H Young was paid a salary of £27,375 (2022: £Nil) and benefitted from employer pension contributions totalling £2,522 (2022: £Nil) for her work as the Regional Ministry Co-Team Leader.
The authority to employ Trustees is contained within the Charity's governing document.

During the year ten Trustees were reimbursed a total of £2,896 for travel and other expenses (2022: five Trustees were reimbursed a total of £1,215).

12 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Sale of investment properties	89,554	-

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Full time Regional Ministers	2	3
Part time Regional Ministers	3	2
Full time Administrator	1	1
Part time Support Staff (Admin Assistants)	2	1
Dorset Missional Listener	-	2
Pioneer Missioner	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	10
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	218,068	201,209
Social security costs	15,568	11,872
Other pension costs	22,764	15,198
Housing costs	86,612	55,254
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	343,012	283,533
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15 Property, plant and equipment

	Freehold land and buildings £
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	1,310,903
Additions	449,979
Disposals	(357,500)
Transfer to investment property	(451,751)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	951,631
	<hr/>
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2023	20,770
Depreciation charged in the year	4,994
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(7,944)
Transfer to investment property	(10,039)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	7,781
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	943,850
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 December 2022	1,290,133
	<hr/> <hr/>

16 Fixed asset investments

	Baptist Insurance Co PLC £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023 & 31 December 2023	12,020
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	12,020
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 December 2022	12,020
	<hr/> <hr/>

There are no Investments held outside the UK.

The equity investment relates to 2,404 ordinary £5 shares held in Baptist Insurance Company PLC (registered company number 00083597), a public company limited by shares. As these shares are not actively traded through Stock Markets, no Market Value can be obtained, resulting in the shares being valued at original cost.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

17 Investment property

	2023 £
Fair value	
At 1 January 2023	-
Transfers from owner-occupied property	451,751
Disposals	(451,751)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	-
	<hr/> <hr/>

Investment property comprises a former manse at 47 Valence Crescent, Witney. The property had been let following a vacancy for two years and was transferred from fixed asset property at its net book value (cost less depreciation). The property was subsequently sold with a gain of £89,554.

18 Borrowings

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank overdrafts	-	515
Other loans	-	50,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	50,515
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Payable within one year	-	515
Payable after one year	-	50,000
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

19 Trade and other receivables

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Loans to churches	21,052	26,462
Other receivables	4,194	-
Prepayments and accrued income	10,914	2,721
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	36,160	29,183
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Loans to churches	139,965	184,827
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total debtors	176,125	214,010
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

As at 31 December 2023 total loans to churches amounted to £161,017 (2022: £211,289). No new loans were advanced to churches during the year (2022: £43,550) and repayments of loans during the year amounted to £50,272 (2022: £27,271).

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

20 Non-current liabilities

2023
£

2022
£

Borrowings	-	50,000
------------	---	--------

21 Current liabilities

Notes
2023
£

2022
£

Bank overdrafts	18	-	515
Deferred income	22	7,718	5,795
Other payables		37,628	36,542
Accruals and deferred income		4,240	4,200
		49,586	47,052

22 Deferred income

2023
£

2022
£

Other deferred income	7,718	5,795
-----------------------	-------	-------

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

2023
£

2022
£

Deferred income is included within:

Current liabilities	7,718	5,795
---------------------	-------	-------

Movements in the year:

Deferred income at 1 January 2023	5,795	4,485
Released from previous periods	(5,795)	(4,485)
Resources deferred in the year	7,718	5,795

Deferred income at 31 December 2023	7,718	5,795
-------------------------------------	-------	-------

Deferred income relates to subscriptions received for the 2024 Minister and Leaders Conference prior to the balance sheet date.

23 Retirement benefit schemes

2023
£

2022
£

Defined contribution schemes

Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	45,528	30,396
---	--------	--------

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

23 Retirement benefit schemes (Continued)

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

24 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Confidential Fund	-	200	(1,014)	814	-
Church of the Year	3,462	2,866	(4,176)	-	2,152
Hill Street, Poole Property	299,556	8,419	(2,207)	89,254	395,022
	<u>303,018</u>	<u>11,485</u>	<u>(7,397)</u>	<u>90,068</u>	<u>397,174</u>
	<u><u>303,018</u></u>	<u><u>11,485</u></u>	<u><u>(7,397)</u></u>	<u><u>90,068</u></u>	<u><u>397,174</u></u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Confidential Fund	-	190	(500)	310	-
Church of the Year	3,764	3,962	(4,264)	-	3,462
Pioneer Mission Fund	-	21,968	(21,968)	-	-
Hill Street, Poole Property	301,542	-	(1,986)	-	299,556
	<u>305,306</u>	<u>26,120</u>	<u>(28,718)</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>303,018</u>
	<u><u>305,306</u></u>	<u><u>26,120</u></u>	<u><u>(28,718)</u></u>	<u><u>310</u></u>	<u><u>303,018</u></u>

Church of the Year Fund is to receive and distribute gifts received from churches for the annually nominated Church of the Year within the association.

Pioneer Mission is a fund designated to support new and exciting ways of mission across the association. In conjunction with the appointment of a regional minister.

Hill Street, Poole Property represents the net book value of a property passed to SCBA when the Church located at Hill Street, Poole, Dorset closed. The Church directed that the property should be used to facilitate pioneer mission in Hamworthy and thus has restricted use. During the year the original property was sold and a replacement purchased. The property is used to house a mission family currently undertaking this work.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

25 Unrestricted funds - designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the Charity's activities.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Education & sabbatical grants	17,878	-	(4,000)	-	13,878
Abraham Trust (Confidential)	11,200	-	-	-	11,200
Pension fund deficit reserve	71,916	-	-	(71,916)	-
Pioneer mission funds	-	6,651	(53,626)	46,975	-
	<u>100,994</u>	<u>6,651</u>	<u>(57,626)</u>	<u>(24,941)</u>	<u>25,078</u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Education & Sabbatical Grants	19,578	-	(1,700)	-	17,878
Abraham Trust (Confidential)	11,200	-	-	-	11,200
Pension Fund Debt Reserve	71,916	-	-	-	71,916
Pioneer Mission Fund	-	-	(37,956)	37,956	-
	<u>102,694</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(39,656)</u>	<u>37,956</u>	<u>100,994</u>

Abraham Trust / Confidential Fund is to be used to support those in need in churches which were part of the former OEGBA.

Educational and Sabbatical Grants Fund represents amounts set aside to support individuals from member churches through sabbaticals and participation in other educational opportunities relating to Christian service or ministry.

Pioneer Mission is a fund designated to support new and exciting ways of mission across the association. In conjunction with the appointment of a regional minister. Some restricted funds were received for this work in the year and so the movement on the fund was moved and shown as restricted. Monies assigned by the Trustees to the project held in this fund were transferred to the restricted fund to cover the deficit in the year,

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

26 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investment in Baptist Insurance Company	12,020	-	-	-	-	12,020
Loan Funds (including Alden Memorial)	636,215	-	-	-	-	636,215
General funds	1,314,068	930,307	(553,763)	(65,127)	89,554	1,715,039
	<u>1,962,303</u>	<u>930,307</u>	<u>(553,763)</u>	<u>(65,127)</u>	<u>89,554</u>	<u>2,363,274</u>
	<u><u>1,962,303</u></u>	<u><u>930,307</u></u>	<u><u>(553,763)</u></u>	<u><u>(65,127)</u></u>	<u><u>89,554</u></u>	<u><u>2,363,274</u></u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Investment in Baptist Insurance Company	12,020	-	-	-	-	12,020
Loan Funds (including Alden Memorial)	636,215	-	-	-	-	636,215
General funds	1,355,905	405,224	(408,795)	(38,266)	-	1,314,068
	<u>2,004,140</u>	<u>405,224</u>	<u>(408,795)</u>	<u>(38,266)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,962,303</u>
	<u><u>2,004,140</u></u>	<u><u>405,224</u></u>	<u><u>(408,795)</u></u>	<u><u>(38,266)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,962,303</u></u>

General Funds are held to support ongoing activities of the company.

Loan Funds are held to enable loans to be made to member churches to support projects, typically building projects.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

27 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:				
Property, plant and equipment	546,676	-	397,174	943,850
Investments	12,020	-	-	12,020
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,804,578	25,078	-	1,829,656
	<u>2,363,274</u>	<u>25,078</u>	<u>397,174</u>	<u>2,785,526</u>

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:				
Property, plant and equipment	940,577	-	349,556	1,290,133
Investments	12,020	-	-	12,020
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,009,706	100,994	3,462	1,114,162
Long term liabilities	-	-	(50,000)	(50,000)
	<u>1,962,303</u>	<u>100,994</u>	<u>303,018</u>	<u>2,366,315</u>

28 Home Mission Giving

The arrangements for making Home Mission Gifts from churches to the Baptist Union were changed during 2005. A new joint account, SCBA/Baptist Union, was set up so that churches and the SCBA can transfer their gifts to this account, but only the Baptist Union has authority to withdraw funds. As the SCBA is not beneficially entitled to retain any of the monies given by the churches for Home Mission, these gifts are transferred directly to the Baptist Union and do not need to be included in the SCBA's Statement of Financial Activities.

Giving to Home Mission by churches and groups within the SCBA area was £341,908 (2022: £337,987).

29 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

30 Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	419,211	(99,590)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(32,835)	(12,912)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(8,419)	-
Gain on disposal of investment property	(89,554)	-
Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	4,994	7,283
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	-	(7,333)
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	37,885	(15,957)
Increase in trade and other payables	1,126	28,950
Increase in deferred income	1,923	1,310
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	334,331	(98,249)

31 Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 January 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	947,204	755,913	1,703,117
Bank overdrafts	(515)	515	-
	946,689	756,428	1,703,117
Loans falling due after more than one year	(50,000)	50,000	-
	896,689	806,428	1,703,117