

## **Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**Name:** Oadby Evangelical Free Church  
(common abbreviation: OEFC)

**Charity Number:** 1030055

**Governing Document:** Church Constitution  
(last revised on 21st March 1997)

**Minister:** No minister currently employed

**Trustees/Church Officers:** Lance Atter  
Luke W. Carter-Whittley  
Stuart J. Glover  
Julian A. R. Mercik (honorary treasurer) [retired  
May 2021]  
Paul Whalley

**Charity Commission  
Correspondent:** Stuart J. Glover  
c/o Oadby Evangelical Free Church  
North Memorial Hall, Stoughton Road, Oadby  
Leicestershire LE2 4FL

**Website :** [www.oefc.org.uk](http://www.oefc.org.uk)

**Bank:** Barclays Bank plc  
25, The Parade  
Oadby  
LE2 5BB

Nationwide Building Society  
92, The Parade  
Oadby  
LE2 5BF

**Independent Examiner  
of Accounts:** Heather Wells MIAB  
(Heather's Bookkeeping Services)

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### **Purpose/Object**

The church was established to promote the advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith, primarily, but not exclusively, within Oadby (Leicestershire) and the surrounding neighbourhood.

### **Organisation**

Oadby Evangelical Free Church was formed in 1975 and consists of members who are Christians as defined in the Constitution. All members have responsibilities which include participation in the activities and decision making of the church. Leadership of the church is committed to Elders and Deacons (known collectively as Church Officers) each of whom is elected by the membership.

The Minister is appointed by church members and operates as one of the Elders. Members serve on a voluntary basis except for the non-trustee Minister who is full-time and remunerated.

The church is independent of any other organisation but maintains a positive interest in and links with numerous individuals and bodies, including affiliation to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC).

### **Public Benefit Statement**

OEFC seeks to benefit the local community by pursuing its main purpose as set out above, and through various activities (described below) serving a cross-section of ages and interests.

The church meets every Sunday, and on other regular occasions for Christian worship, and these events are open to the public. Several activities are also run during the week for specific groups such as children, youth and older people. Most often these events and activities are held at the North Memorial Hall (NMH), Stoughton Road, Oadby, being on an exclusive 35-year lease, due to end in mid-2022. These events are promoted to the general public in Oadby and the surrounding area. The church actively supports Christian outreach and missionary work, as well as humanitarian aid projects.

### **Review of 2021**

#### **1. Coronavirus Pandemic**

The changing face of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact on church life throughout 2021. The church leadership sought at all times to adhere to the government guidelines that were in place, and revise as necessary our own risk assessment and practices in relation to meetings and activities.

Copies of our risk assessment were circulated to members of the church and congregation, and regular updates about the precautions being taken were included in our weekly church bulletin sent out electronically and on paper. Numbers of attendees were limited due to the need to 'socially distance', and a booking system was utilised early in 2021 while it was necessary to maintain accurate records of attendance for track/tracing in the event of positive tests. Signs, sanitiser, and masks were also purchased and distributed through the building, and CO2 monitors were also used to ensure that the main hall was well ventilated.

## **2. Membership**

The number of members at the end of 2021 was 51.

The church held five business meetings during the year, including the Annual Church Meeting, some of which were conducted electronically.

## **3. Main services**

The church has continued to hold public worship and teaching services throughout the year on Sundays and other occasions, as was possible in relation to government Covid guidelines.

In the early part of 2021, during the third national lockdown, OEFC was able to broadcast services from the NMH following successful trials in December 2020. As restrictions were relaxed, it was possible to have congregations of increasing size.

Meetings for Bible study and prayer occurred weekly, either in the church building, members' homes, or via Zoom.

All meetings, save those for church members, are open to everyone, with the details being available in the church bulletin, and on the church website.

## **4. Children and Youth work**

A Sunday afternoon family service, held online via Zoom, continued to be a key component of the ministry to children during the first half of the year.

The meeting over Zoom has been open to all of the church, but is particularly designed for families with children; with singing, prayer, a Bible story, and a teaching slot exploring some of the questions set out in the 'New City Catechism'.

Later in the year, a creche has been able to run once again during the Sunday morning services, and the Sunday school classes were restarted in the autumn term.

## **5. Seniors**

Meetings for older people have been restarted in the autumn term, with the main thrust being the twice a month "Coffee Break" with guest speakers. This group would normally benefit from outings arranged during the year.

Details of Coffee Break are on the church website and people from the local community are welcome to attend. Most newcomers attend because of personal invitation.

## **6. Missionary work**

OEFC continued to support various missionary works, with interests spread across the continents and in the United Kingdom. Speakers from these groups were invited to the church from time to time in order for the church members to be better informed of the activities of the groups that are supported.

A quarterly missionary support meeting takes place and a review of missionary giving was completed during the year.

A 'Missions Policy' document was also drafted to 'ensure good stewardship in the allocation of OEFC funds to mission work.'

## **7. 'Bridge-building' activities**

The church was involved with a number of outreach activities during 2021.

There are a number of activities organised by members of the church aimed at meeting people who would not usually have any connection with the church and building friendships with a desire for the Gospel to be shared. These activities include a morning art class, morning table tennis sessions for men, and an afternoon 'knit and knatter' session.

Following a review of 'pre-pandemic' activities, these have also been restarted in the autumn term.

The monthly walking group continues to provide contact with non-churchgoers and further opportunity for friendships to develop.

These events were advertised through a variety of methods, via the church website, the church blog, personal invitation, leaflet distribution and on poster or banner displays.

## **8. LIFE Magazine**

Following an initial distribution of the 'Life' magazine (a magazine with wide-ranging content, but a distinctively Christian flavour) in 2020, the church repeated its partnership in the scheme organised by 10ofthose.com

The church paid for the distribution of the 'Life' magazine to around 8,500 homes in the vicinity of the church, twice during the year; around Easter, and in the lead-up to Christmas.

It was also planned to offer literature or an online 'Christianity Explored' course to any interested recipients. There have been several positive responses through email contact.

In connection with this initiative, OEFC had a stall at the Oadby 'Festive Lights Switch On' event, which is well attended by the local community.

Extra copies of the 'Life' magazine were given away, as well as other Christian literature, and invitations to the Christmas services of the church.

Craft activities were popular with children, and many free books were given away to children and families who visited the stall.

## **9. Contact with other churches**

OEFC has maintained its contact with other churches both locally and further afield. Members of OEFC preach at other churches from time to time, and we have been greatly blessed by the ministry of visiting speakers, especially while we have no full-time pastor.

The affiliation with the FIEC continues to be a blessing to the church - especially many of the online resources that have been produced during the pandemic; which were particularly useful to the church eldership.

Since September 2021, OEFC has employed a part-time staff worker to assist with ministry, effectively 'sharing' him with another local church - Knighton Free Church.

This has further strengthened the historic links between the two churches.

## 10. Finances & other Giving

The finances of the church are as recorded in the statement of accounts. Income came from regular freewill giving from the members and congregation. Under the goodness of God, the church was able to fulfil all of its commitments and to give a good percentage of income to missionary work.

The church treasurer retired during this calendar year, and we are grateful for his service over a number of years. Towards the end of the year, an interim treasurer was appointed until a permanent appointment can be made.

Special collections were again taken up at Easter, Harvest, and Christmas – each time for a different organisation or cause known to the church.

In addition, at Harvest, there was a collection of foodstuffs, which were donated to one of the local food banks.

OEFC continues to support the Blythwood Care 'Shoe Box Appeal'.

The charity coordinates the collection, transport and distribution of shoe boxes filled with Christmas gifts and essential items to needy communities in Eastern Europe and around the world, amongst other ministries.

## 11. Future developments

The current lease held by the church for the North Memorial Hall (NMH) is due to expire in the summer of 2022.

Initial communications have been received which indicate a new long-term lease will be offered to the church by the NMH trustees under terms to be agreed.

The Elders would like to set up a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), with the intention to transfer the activities, assets and liabilities of the current unincorporated charity into the CIO.

Work on this project will not be resumed until negotiations regarding a new lease on the North Memorial Hall have been concluded satisfactorily or alternative accommodation located.



Signed by [ *STUART GLOVER* ] on behalf of Trustees of Oadby Evangelical Free Church

Date *09/08/22*

Affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches  
O.E.F.C is a Registered Charity: Number 1030055



Oadby Evangelical Free Church

**ACCOUNTS & STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

for the year ended

**December 31, 2021**

**Church Officers' Report**

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. In the opinion of church officers (the trustees) the accounts comply with legal requirements and have our unanimous approval.

Signed on behalf of church officers .....  ..... Date 14/1/22  
(Julian Mercik, Treasurer)

**Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of the Oadby Evangelical Free Church for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

*Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

Church officers, in their capacity as trustees, are responsible for preparation of the accounts and they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

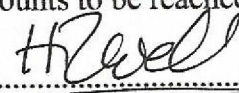
*Basis of independent examiner's report*

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 church 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 church officers concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

*Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  ..... Date 14/1/2022  
Heather Wells MIAB, 33 Acorn Way, Wigston, Leics

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

Liquid Assets as at 31st December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Current Account (Barclays)*	47,768.72	27,642.70
Deposit Account1 (Barclays)**	49,534.19	49,529.23
Deposit Account2 (Nationwide BS)	40,120.00	40,000.00
Sundry debtors	<b>137,422.91</b>	<b>117,171.93</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Building Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sundry creditors	0.00	0.00
	<b>-1,000.00</b>	<b>-1,000.00</b>
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>136,422.91</b>	<b>116,171.93</b>

\* The Current Account includes £1,000 designated as "Building Fund"

\*\* A further £20,500 is "ring-fenced", making £21,500 available for Building.

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The assets above are represented by

**Accumulated Funds**

Balance as at 1st January	<b>116,171.93</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	20,250.98
<b>Balance as at 31st December</b>	<b>136,422.91</b>

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Note: The Church does not possess any land or buildings. Equipment held by the Church comprises piano, computer and laptop, projector, chairs, teaching aids, sundry furnishings, office equipment and kitchen items.

<b>SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS</b>
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**Unrestricted Funds**

	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
General Receipts	59,292.51	60,310.42
Interest from Deposit Account	124.96	141.90
Running Costs Receipts	1,250.00	1,250.00
Property Maintenance	138.00	0.00
Designated and Missionary Giving	18,797.22	17,625.63
	<b>79,602.69</b>	<b>79,327.95</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Ministry	3,902.24	5,239.20
Running Costs	12,200.78	9,827.57
Property	14,303.92	25,444.19
Designated and Missionary Giving	28,944.77	28,799.76
	<b>59,351.71</b>	<b>69,310.72</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	<b><u>20,250.98</u></b>	<b><u>10,017.23</u></b>

**RECEIPTS**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>General Fund</b>		
Direct Giving	57,771.70	51,173.79
Income Tax Refund	1,520.81	9,136.63
	<b>59,292.51</b>	<b>60,310.42</b>
<b>Interest from Deposit Account</b>	<b>124.96</b>	<b>141.90</b>
<b>Running Costs Receipts</b>		
Young People's Activities	1,250.00	1,250.00
	<b>1,250.00</b>	<b>1,250.00</b>
<b>Property Maintenance</b>	138.00	0.0
Refund	<b>138.00</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Designated and Missionary Giving (see below)</b>	<b>18,797.22</b>	<b>17,625.63</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>79,602.69</b>	<b>79,327.95</b>

**Notes on Designated and Missionary Giving**

(please note that 'Payments' include Gift Aid where claimed)

	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
<i>Valathi Outreach (VOCM)</i>	1,440.00	
<i>Latin Link (Darkes)</i>	1,440.00	
<i>Mandritsara Hospital (Ted &amp; Rachel Watts, SIM)</i>	1,440.00	
<i>Hicham, Carcassonne</i>	1,440.00	
<i>Christmas Offering-Lydia King-Jos (SIM)</i>	2,428.75	1,745.00
<i>"Remainder" gift to VOCM (missionary)</i>	271.05	
<i>Tim Oglesby-retirement gift</i>	100.00	
<i>Easter Offering gifts for Brandon Nelson (UFM)</i>	1,643.12	1,470.62
<i>Anon Gift for visiting preacher (J Harris)</i>		50.00
<i>Private donations for Emmanuel Christian Sch</i>	17,707.50	14,126.00
<i>Gift for Jack Peet - Wedding</i>	100.00	
<i>Harvest gifts-Jos-sent to SIM</i>	934.35	835.60
<i>Gift re P Shrimpton funeral-receipt</i>		100.00
<i>Christmas Offering-Barnabas-Afghan</i>		470.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28,944.77</b>	<b>18,797.22</b>

**PAYMENTS**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Ministry</b>		
Minister's Salary etc.	0.00	0.00
Ministerial Claims	0.00	0.00
Manse	0.00	0.00
Visiting Preachers' Fees & Expenses	1,022.50	1,197.00
Staff Worker/Student Worker / Trainee	2,879.74	4,042.20
	<b>3,902.24</b>	<b>5,239.20</b>
<b>Running Costs</b>		
Cleaning	25.45	857.82
Gardener	1,703.00	2,666.20
Young People's Activities (Note 1)	597.05	63.70
Church Activities	0.00	223.01
Outreach and Publicity	7,064.22	4,017.07
Books	0.00	0.00
Conferences	0.00	0.00
Catering	19.79	83.97
Equipment Purchase and Repair (note 2)	734.94	88.60
Photocopying/printing	0.00	0.00
Postage and Stationery	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions (note 3)	1,906.33	1,827.20
Sundries (note 4)	150.00	0.00
	<b>12,200.78</b>	<b>9,827.57</b>
<b>Property</b>		
Rent	6,680.00	6,680.00
Insurance	1,203.44	1,161.82
Services : Electricity (note 5)	0.00	783.12
: Gas	2,088.32	2,489.42
: Water	145.88	284.05
: Telephone + Internet	446.59	872.52
Maintenance and Repairs (note 6)	3,739.69	13,173.26
Improvements	0.00	0.00
	<b>14,303.92</b>	<b>25,444.19</b>
<b>Total of Ministry / Running Costs / Property</b>	<b>30,406.94</b>	<b>40,510.96</b>
<b>Designated and Missionary Giving (see page 4)</b>	<b>28,944.77</b>	<b>28,799.76</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>59,351.71</b>	<b>69,310.72</b>

## NOTES ON PAYMENTS

### Payments

#### Note 1: Young Peoples' Activities:

Children's materials (Emese CW)	100.15
Children's stationary etc (Julia N)	93.92
TV+Stand/Cable etc for Sunday School (Luke CW)	402.98
	<b>597.05</b>

#### Note 2: Equipment Purchase and Repair

Zoom (Paul W)	187.07
Piano tuning etc (Michelle Atter)	50.00
Smiths Fire-service & tests	93.42
Audio and streaming (Stuart G)	200.48
CO2 Detectors (Stuart G)	203.97
	<b>734.94</b>

#### Note 3: Subscriptions

Thirtyoneeight (formerly CCPAS)	129.00
CCLI - music licence	259.33
FIEC-Annual Fee	1,518.00
	<b>1,906.33</b>

#### Note 4: Sundries

Accounts examiner - Heathers Book Keeping	<b>150.00</b>
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#### Note 5: Electricity **0.00**

*We began the year in credit as the previous bill was based on estimated usage – ie over-estimated. We also received compensation when the fitting of a new smart meter was unreasonably delayed by SSE – which also boosted the credit on our account.*

*2021 was a full Covid year, so our usage was down dramatically. All our electricity was paid for out of the accumulated credit. Usage durin the final months of 2021 should appear on the 2022 bill, but not the ones covered in these 2021 accounts.*

*As no money changed hands, our electricity invoices therefore totalled zero!*

#### Note 6: Property Maintenance amd Repairs

Roofline-building maintenance	138
Richard Currie - Repair Guttering	350
Wm Freer Ltd-gas boiler service+repair	371.69
ICS Rendering	2,880.00
	<b>3739.69</b>