

Trustees' Annual Report for 2022
(1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022)

Charity name	: Oadby Evangelical Free Church (common abbreviation: OEFC)
Charity registration number	: 1030055
Governing Document	: Church Constitution (original version 1974; revised version adopted 21 March 1997)
Minister	: Gary Stephen Prickett (in post from 1 October 2022)
Church leaders	: the minister, who also serves as an elder of the church : other elders, who also serve as the only trustees of the charity Lance Atter founder member of the church Stuart J. Glover acting treasurer of the church Steven J. Green from 25 May 2022 : former elders and trustees, who left office on 25 May 2022 Luke Carter-Whittlely Paul Whalley : deacons, who do not act as trustees of the charity Judith Chinnery from 25 May 2022 Alejandro Joya from 25 May 2022
Church property	: the church does not own any property
Charity Commission contact	: Stuart J. Glover, at the church's address
Website	: www.oefc.org.uk
Banks	: 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

1. Purpose/Object

The church was established in the mid-1970s to promote the advancement of the Christian faith, as is defined in its Basis of Faith, particularly but not exclusively in the Leicestershire town of Oadby.

The Basis of Faith is identical to that of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC), and comprises the basic truths of historic, Biblical Christianity.

2. Organisation

The Church's Constitution describes the rules governing the leadership and membership of the church, the conduct of its formal 'business' meetings, the two sacraments it observes (believers' baptism and communion) and the basic aspects of its financing (by means of freewill offerings, which are carefully recorded and independently examined).

The post of minister of OEFC is full-time and remunerated; other members of the church who serve as elders, deacons or in other ways do so on a voluntary basis and, unless agreed otherwise by members of the church at a formal meeting, without payment.

In 2022, the church held four business meetings for church members. At the end of the year, the church had an admitted membership of 49, with one application for membership to be considered at the church members' meeting to be held in March 2023.

The church is independent of any other organisation but maintains a positive interest in and links with other evangelical churches and Christian organisations. In particular, it is affiliated to the nationwide Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC).

3. Public Benefit Statement and Church Activities

The Trustees of the church have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. In particular, the church seeks to benefit the local community by pursuing its main purpose through a range of activities appealing to a wide cross-section of ages and interests.

Each Sunday, and normally twice on that day, the church meets for public worship; it also arranges special services at Christmas, Easter and on other occasions. The church no longer live-streams its services, but video recordings of most of them are released promptly on its YouTube channel.

Each week the church runs at least one mid-week meeting for Bible Study and prayer, sometimes with an invited missionary or other guest speaker. Other regular mid-week sessions include an Art group, a coffee morning with activities or presentations, a play session for pre-school children and their carers, a table-tennis session for men, an afternoon 'Knit and Knatter' session for older people and a walking group.

The church's various activities are well advertised in the church, on the web and by means of a weekly *Bulletin* which is issued both electronically and on paper. All of the church's activities, save its business meetings for members only, are open to the public, and several of them attract people who are neither formal members of the church nor regular members of its congregation.

Most of the church's activities and events are held at the North Memorial Hall, which is located on Stoughton Road in Oadby and forms the communal space for an estate of homes originally built in 1920s to house disabled warriors from the Great War. The church rents this historic property, which it has significantly improved and extended, under the terms of a 35-year exclusive lease granted to it by the Trustees of another local charity – the North Memorial Homes.

In addition to its concern for the people of Oadby, the church actively supports Christian outreach and missionary work, as well as humanitarian aid projects. Donations received for special collections taken up in 2022 were sent to local charities and foodbanks as well as to recognised Christian missions working in needy places around the world. As an example, we once again supported the 'shoebox appeal' organised by the Blythwood Care charity, and were able in November 2022 to pass on 53 shoeboxes, filled with simple Christmas gifts, for needy families in eastern Europe.

4. Ministerial Appointment

The church had been without a minister for a few years when, in February 2022, it was put in contact with a Canadian pastor who had undertaken theological training in Oxford and sensed a call to ministry in England. In due course – after a series of electronic and face-to-face meetings, interviews and the taking up of references – the church called Gary Prickett to the pastorate at Oadby; he accepted that call and assumed his work at the church, on a full-time basis, on 1 October 2022.

5. Financial Position

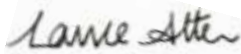
The church accounts for the year 2022 have been signed off by an independent examiner. They show that, including monies reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme, the church has maintained a surplus of income over expenditure. This means that the church's reserves have increased modestly, but this is considered prudent given that the fellowship now has a full-time minister to support and remains without a building of its own.

6. Future Developments

The church has occupied the North Memorial Hall in Oadby under the terms of a 35-year lease granted to it by the Trustees of the North Memorial Homes. That lease expired in mid-2022 but was extended to January 2023 to allow negotiations to take place regarding a possible new lease. Those negotiations had not concluded by the end of the calendar year 2022, but are of importance for the future physical location of the fellowship.

The church is minded to register as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, but 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 on behalf of the Trustees of Oadby Evangelical Free Church:





Lance Atter, 1 June 2023

Independent Examiner's Report
on the accounts of Oadby Evangelical Free Church
(charity number 1030055)
for year ending 31st December 2022

Church Officers' Report

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. In the opinion of the charity trustees the accounts are an accurate reflection of the financial position of the charity and comply with legal requirements and have our unanimous approval.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Name	Office held	Signature	Date
Stuart Glover	Elder & Interim Treasurer		9/5/23
STEVEN J GREEN	ELDER		9/5/23

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of Oadby Evangelical Free Church for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out below.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").


I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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 no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name	Relevant professional qualifications/body	Signature	Date
Heather Wells	Member of the Institute of Accountants and Bookkeepers (MIAB)		29/4/23

Address: 33 Acorn Way, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 3YA

<p>Oadby Evangelical Free Church Accounts & financial statement Period covered: 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2022</p>
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Summary of receipts and payments
(1st January – 31st December 2022)

Receipts		
Unrestricted funds	2022	2021
	(£)	(£)
Donations	60,136.87	57,771.70
Bank interest (Deposit accounts)	62.54	124.96
Other income	1,452.12	1,488.00
Gift Aid/Gift Aid small donation scheme (GASDS)	19,395.74	1,520.81
Restricted funds		
Giving for missionary/specific causes	8,286.00	18,647.22
Other income	0.00	50.00
Total	89,333.27	79,602.69

Payments		
Unrestricted funds	2022	2021
	(£)	(£)
Employment	16,936.38	2,879.74
Events/activities	5,961.00	8,712.57
Equipment	2,057.67	404.45
Administration	7,304.65	3,487.83
Building	27,259.99	12,241.56
Utilities	5,962.12	2,680.79
Giving to missionary and other causes	6,010.00	6,031.05
Miscellaneous	130.00	200.00
Restricted funds		
Missionary giving	5,357.35	5,006.22
Donations for Emmanuel Christian School Leicester	4,237.50	17,707.50
Total	81,216.66	59,351.71

Surplus/(Deficit) of receipts over payments	8,116.61	20,250.98
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**Breakdown of receipts
(1st January – 31st December 2022)**

Unrestricted funds		2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Donations		60,136.87	57,771.70
	Bank transfer	36,250.00	33,290.00
	Giving via CAF/Stewardship	14,941.21	17,669.32
Note 1	Offering box	8,945.66	6,812.38
Tax reclaim		19,395.74	1,520.81
Other income		1,452.12	1,488.00
	Hall use	150.00	100.00
	Refunds from suppliers	720.14	138.00
	Away day	581.98	0.00
	Youthwork	0.00	1,250.00
Bank interest		62.54	124.96
TOTAL		81,047.27	60,905.47
Restricted funds		2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Missionary causes		4,486.00	4,521.22
Note 2	2020 Christmas offering	0.00	1,745.00
Note 3	2021 Easter offering	0.00	1,470.62
Note 4	2021 Harvest offering	0.00	835.60
Note 5	2021 Christmas offering	940.00	470.00
Note 6	2022 Harvest offering	685.00	0.00
Note 7	2022 Christmas offering	2,861.00	0.00
Other giving		3,800.00	14,176.00
	Donations for Emmanuel Christian School Leicester	3,650.00	14,126.00
	Contribution to fees & expenses for visiting speakers	0.00	50.00
	Donation for Blythswood Care shoebox appeal	150.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME TO RESTRICTED FUNDS		8,286.00	18,697.22
TOTAL RECEIPTS		89,333.27	79,602.69

Breakdown of payments
(1st January – 31st December 2022)

Unrestricted funds		2022	2021
		(£)	(£)
Employment		16,936.38	2,879.74
	Staff worker contributions	7,004.70	2,879.74
	Minister salary, tax and pension contributions	8,800.53	0.00
	Book allowance	51.00	0.00
	Relocation costs	1,080.15	0.00
Events/activities		5,961.00	8,712.57
	Visiting preacher expenses	1,901.23	1,022.50
	Away day	579.00	0.00
	Worship services	121.91	50.00
	Catering	239.94	19.79
	Christian Union church fair	13.00	0.00
Note 8	Outreach	3,045.30	7,023.23
	Youthwork	60.62	597.05
Equipment		2,057.67	404.45
	AudioVisual	242.28	200.48
	Computing	1,781.44	0.00
	Telephony	33.95	0.00
	Covid safety	0.00	203.97
Missionary causes		5,760.00	6,031.05
	Carcassonne	1,440.00	1,440.00
	Latin Link	1,440.00	1,440.00
	Mandritsara	1,440.00	1,440.00
	Valathi	1,440.00	1,711.05
Gifts to other causes		250.00	0.00
	Leicester University CU	100.00	0.00
	Emmanuel Church Leftwich building project	150.00	0.00
Administration		7,304.65	3,487.83
Note 9	Fees	3,987.59	150.00
	Printing and stationery	85.00	40.99
	Insurance	1,293.38	1,203.44
	Copyright licence	293.00	259.33
	FIEC membership	1,344.00	1,518.00
	Zoom subscription	172.68	187.07
	Child protection/safeguarding	129.00	129.00

Building		27,259.99	12,241.56
	Rent	6,680.00	6,680.00
	Building fabric	1,317.25	3,368.00
	Cleaning	73.72	25.45
	Decorating	13,590.00	0.00
	Electrical work	1,002.08	0.00
	Fire safety	256.20	93.42
	Gardening	3,204.00	1,703.00
	Gas work	932.98	371.69
	Plumbing work	123.76	0.00
	Window cleaning	80.00	0.00
Utilities		5,962.12	2,680.79
	Electricity	814.79	0.00
	Gas	4,505.72	2,088.32
	Phone/broadband	492.46	446.59
	Water	149.15	145.88
Miscellaneous		130.00	200.00
Note 10	Gifts to individuals	100.00	200.00
	Training	30.00	0.00
Total payments from unrestricted funds		71,621.81	36,637.99

Restricted funds

		2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Missionary causes		5,357.35	5,006.22
Note 11	2020 Christmas offering	0.00	2,428.75
Note 12	2021 Easter offering	0.00	1,643.12
Note 13	2021 Harvest offering	0.00	934.35
Note 14	2021 Christmas offering	1,113.75	0.00
Note 15	2022 Harvest offering	867.35	0.00
Note 16	2022 Christmas offering	3,226.25	0.00
	Blythswood Care shoebox appeal	150.00	0.00
Gifts to other causes		4,237.50	17,707.50
	Emmanuel Christian School Leicester	4,237.50	17,707.50
Total payments from restricted funds		9,594.85	22,713.72

TOTAL PAYMENTS		81,216.66	59,351.71
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Notes on receipts and payments

1	Includes £110 collected by Art@Oadby group and £100 from Coffee Break group.
2	2020 Christmas offering was to SIM for Lydia King's work in Jos, Nigeria. Figure does not include Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
3	2021 Easter offering was to UFM for Brandon Nelson's work in the USA. Figure does not include Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
4	2021 Harvest offering was to SIM for their work in Jos, Nigeria. Figure does not include Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
5	2021 Christmas offering was to Barnabas Fund work for work in Afghanistan. Figure does not include Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
6	2022 Harvest offering was to SIM for the work of Matt & Lisa Wallis in Jos, Nigeria. Figure does not include Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
7	2022 Christmas offering was to European Missionary Fellowship for the Bibles and blankets for Ukraine appeal. Figure does not include Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
8	Purchase and distribution of LIFE magazine.
9	Fee to independent examiner (£150), Solicitor's fees (£3,755.60) and bank fees (£81.99).
10	Staff worker leaving gift.
11	2020 Christmas offering was to SIM for Lydia King's work in Jos, Nigeria. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
12	2021 Easter offering was to UFM for Brandon Nelson's work in the USA. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
13	2021 Harvest offering was to SIM for their work in Jos, Nigeria. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
14	2021 Christmas offering was to Barnabas Fund work for work in Afghanistan. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
15	2022 Harvest offering was to SIM for the work of Matt & Lisa Wallis in Jos, Nigeria. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations. Includes £53.60 visiting preaching fee donated to this cause by the speaker.
16	2022 Christmas offering was to European Missionary Fellowship for the Bibles and blankets for Ukraine appeal. Figure includes Gift Aid which will be claimed on applicable donations in following financial year. Includes £50.00 visiting preaching fee donated to this cause by the speaker.

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December

Assets	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Current account	55,877.79	47,823.72
Deposit accounts	89,670.29	89,607.75
Total	145,548.08	137,431.47
Funds		
Unrestricted (general) fund	123,918.08	115,931.47
Restricted funds:		
Building fund	21,500.00	21,500.00
2021 Christmas offering	440.00	470.00
2022 Christmas offering	130.00	0.00
Total	145,548.08	137,431.47
Liabilities		
Amount due within 1 year	1,669.28	

Fixed assets

The Church does not own any land, buildings or vehicles. Fixed assets held by the church includes books, office equipment and other fixtures and fittings which all belong to the general fund.