

## **Trustees' Annual Report for 2023** **(1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023)**

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 : deacons, who do not act as trustees of the charity Judith Chinnery Alejandro Joya
Church property	: the church does not own any property
Charity Commission contact	: Stuart J. Glover, at the church's address
Website	: <a href="http://www.oefc.org.uk">www.oefc.org.uk</a>
Banks	: Barclays Bank plc Nationwide Building Society
Independent Examiner of Accounts	: Heather Wells MIAB

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## 1. Purpose/Object

The church was established in the mid-1970s to promote the advancement of the Christian faith, and such other charitable purposes as are consistent with that aim, particularly but not exclusively in the Leicestershire town of Oadby.

The church's understanding of the Christian faith is set out in its Basis of Faith. This is identical to the Doctrinal Basis 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 ordinances 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 work of the church is overseen by elders and supported by deacons, all of whom are active in the church and are appointed by church members. One of the elders is appointed as the minister of the church and is a full-time employee of it; the other elders serve also as the Trustees of the charity.

With the exception of the minister, all members of the church who serve as its 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 2023, the church held six business meetings for church members. At the end of the year, the church had an admitted membership of 48. Morning congregations are routinely larger than this, and many other children and adults attend one or more of the church's mid-week activities.

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 maintains its affiliation 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; special services are also held at Christmas, Easter and at other times. The church does not generally live-stream its services, but video recordings of most of them are released promptly on its YouTube channel. Those who attend the Sunday morning service are invited to send their younger children out of the meeting to a crèche or to Sunday-School classes held in the extension to the Hall in which we worship.

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. Smaller groups, meeting in the Hall or in private homes, meet twice a month; there are also regular prayer meetings, including one held on-line early each Saturday morning. 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, and a monthly walking group.

The church's activities are very well advertised in the church, on the web and via a weekly *Bulletin* which is issued both electronically and on paper. All of the church's activities, save for its business meetings for members and some of its small-group sessions, are open to the public; several of them attract people who are not formal members of the church or 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 the 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 an 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 2023 were sent to local charities and foodbanks as well as to recognised missions working overseas. Regular donations were made to Christian organisations and churches working in Latin America, Madagascar, southern France and Tamil Nadu; once again we contributed to the

'shoebox appeal' organised by the Blythwood Care charity, and in November 2023 were able to pass on 56 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. He remains in post and has a particular role as the church's primary teaching elder.

#### 5. **Financial Position**

The church accounts for the year 2023, attached separately, have been signed off by an independent examiner. They show that, notwithstanding the monies it reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme, the church had a deficit of receipts over payments. This is largely a product of atypical expenditure in 2023 on the building, particularly to fulfil end-of-lease conditions. Buildings-related expenditure under the terms of a new lease (see below) will be less onerous and, because the church has good reserves, the deficit reported in 2023 is of no immediate concern.

#### 6. **Future Developments**

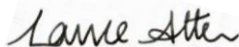
The church has occupied the North Memorial Hall in Oadby under the terms of a 35-year lease granted to it by the Trustees of the North Memorial Homes. That lease expired in mid-2022, but was extended to mid-2023 to allow negotiations to take place regarding a possible new lease.

Heads of Terms for a new lease were agreed between the Trustees of OEFC and the Trustees of the North Memorial Homes in July 2023. Solicitors for the latter are drawing up a lease document, based on the agreed Heads of Terms, for twenty years running from 1 October 2023. The new lease will be an Internal Repairing and Insuring (IRI) lease, rather than a Full Repairing and Insuring (FRI) lease as before, so the church will have fewer maintenance and repair costs in future.

The church is committed to registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Work on this will be done after negotiations regarding the new lease have been concluded satisfactorily.

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*Signed on behalf of the Trustees of Oadby Evangelical Free Church:*



*Lance Atter, 1 June 2024*



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**Independent Examiner's Report**  
**on the accounts of Oadby Evangelical Free Church**  
**(charity number 1030055)**  
**for year ending 31st December 2023**

**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		21/5/24
STEVEN GREEN	Elder		21/5/24

**Independent Examiner's Report**

I report on the accounts of Oadby Evangelical Free Church for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 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)		21/5/24

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

Oadby Evangelical Free Church Accounts & financial statement Period covered: 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023
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### Summary of receipts and payments (1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023)

<b>Receipts</b>		
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>2023 (£)</b>	<b>2022 (£)</b>
Donations	63,761.89	60,136.87
Bank interest (Deposit accounts)	605.22	62.54
Other income	23,720.25	1,452.12
Gift Aid/Gift Aid small donation scheme (GASDS)	8,155.73	19,395.74
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Giving for missionary/specific causes	5,425.06	8,286.00
Other income	1,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,668.15</b>	<b>89,333.27</b>

<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>2023 (£)</b>	<b>2022 (£)</b>
Employment	37,299.60	16,936.38
Events/activities	1,793.23	5,961.00
Equipment	313.87	2,057.67
Administration	6,371.39	7,304.65
Building	47,138.01	27,259.99
Utilities	5,316.64	5,962.12
Giving to missionary and other causes	5,975.89	6,010.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	130.00
<b>Restricted funds</b>		
Missionary giving	5,069.99	5,357.35
Building Fund	7,830.60	0.00
Donations for Emmanuel Christian School Leicester	0.00	4,237.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,109.22</b>	<b>81,216.66</b>

<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of receipts over payments</b>	<b>(14,441.07)</b>	<b>8,116.61</b>
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**Breakdown of receipts**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023)**

**Unrestricted funds**

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Donations</b>	<b>63,761.89</b>	<b>60,136.87</b>
Bank transfer	38,065.00	36,250.00
Giving via CAF/Stewardship	14,090.73	14,941.21
Note 1      Offering box	11,606.16	8,945.66
<b>Tax reclaim</b>	<b>8,155.73</b>	<b>19,395.74</b>
<b>Other income</b>	<b>23,720.25</b>	<b>1,452.12</b>
Hall use	0.00	150.00
Refunds from suppliers	10.98	720.14
Away day	0.00	581.98
Note 2      Insurance claims	23,709.27	0.00
<b>Bank interest</b>	<b>605.22</b>	<b>62.54</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96,243.09</b>	<b>81,047.27</b>

**Restricted funds**

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Missionary causes</b>	<b>5425.06</b>	<b>4,486.00</b>
Note 3      2021 Christmas offering	0.00	940.00
Note 4      2022 Harvest offering	0.00	685.00
Note 5      2022 Christmas offering	1,082.75	2,861.00
Note 6      2023 Easter offering	1,403.05	0.00
Note 7      2023 Harvest offering	2,222.50	0.00
Note 8      2023 Christmas offering	500.00	0.00
TearFund	16.76	0.00
Note 9      VOCM Building Fund	200.00	0.00
<b>Other giving</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>3,800.00</b>
Donations for Emmanuel Christian School Leicester	0.00	3,650.00
Contribution to travel expenses	1,000.00	0.00
Donation for Blythwood Care shoebox appeal	0.00	150.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME TO RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>6,425.06</b>	<b>8,286.00</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>102,668.15</b>	<b>89,333.27</b>

**Breakdown of payments**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023)**

**Unrestricted funds**

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Employment</b>	<b>37,299.60</b>	<b>16,936.38</b>
Staff worker contributions	0.00	7,004.70
Minister salary, tax and pension contributions	35,171.90	8,800.53
Book allowance	0.00	51.00
Travel expenses	2,127.70	1,080.15
<b>Events/activities</b>	<b>1,793.23</b>	<b>5,961.00</b>
Visiting preacher expenses	831.35	1,901.23
Away day	0.00	579.00
Worship services	37.93	121.91
Catering	215.21	239.94
Christian Union church fair	0.00	13.00
Outreach	365.70	3,045.30
Youthwork	220.54	60.62
Room Hire	122.50	0.00
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>313.87</b>	<b>2,057.67</b>
AudioVisual	39.98	242.28
Computing	239.11	1,781.44
Telephony	0.00	33.95
Health & safety	34.78	0.00
<b>Missionary causes</b>	<b>5,725.89</b>	<b>5,760.00</b>
Carcassonne	1,440.00	1,440.00
Latin Link	1,440.00	1,440.00
Mandritsara	1,440.00	1,440.00
Valathi	960.00	1,440.00
Nelsons (via UFM)	445.89	0.00
<b>Gifts to other causes</b>	<b>250.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>
Local University CUs	100.00	100.00
Emmanuel Church Leftwich building project	0.00	150.00
Bulkington Church renovation project	150.00	0.00
<b>Administration</b>	<b>6,371.39</b>	<b>7,304.65</b>
Note 10		
Fees	2,285.66	3,987.59
Printing and stationery	127.71	85.00
Insurance	1,384.03	1,293.38
Copyright licence	314.00	293.00
FIEC membership	1,476.00	1,344.00
Zoom subscription	172.68	172.68

	Child protection/ safeguarding	145.00	129.00
	Website	466.31	0.00
<b>Building</b>		<b>47,138.01</b>	<b>27,259.99</b>
	Rent	18,700.00	6,680.00
	Building fabric	17.28	1,317.25
	Cleaning	152.49	73.72
	Decorating	0.00	13,590.00
	Electrical work	0.00	1,002.08
	Fire safety	95.40	256.20
	Gardening	2,916.00	3,204.00
	Gas work	1,297.57	932.98
	Plumbing work	0.00	123.76
	Window cleaning	0.00	80.00
Note 2	Drains	23,959.27	0.00
<b>Utilities</b>		<b>5,316.64</b>	<b>5,962.12</b>
	Electricity	1,464.71	814.79
	Gas	2,902.26	4,505.72
	Phone/broadband	677.97	492.46
	Water	271.70	149.15
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>130.00</b>
	Gifts to individuals	0.00	100.00
	Training	0.00	30.00
<b>Total payments from unrestricted funds</b>		<b>104,208.63</b>	<b>71,621.81</b>

**Restricted funds**

		2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Missionary causes</b>		<b>5,069.99</b>	<b>5,357.35</b>
Note 3	2021 Christmas offering	440.00	1,113.75
Note 4	2022 Harvest offering	0.00	867.35
Note 5	2022 Christmas offering	767.50	3,226.25
Note 6	2023 Easter offering	1,403.05	0.00
Note 7	2023 Harvest offering	2,242.68	0.00
	TearFund	16.76	0.00
	Blythswood Care	0.00	150.00
Note 9	VOCM Building Fund	200.00	0.00
<b>Gifts to other causes</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,237.50</b>
	Emmanuel Christian School	0.00	4,237.50
<b>Building Fund</b>		<b>7,830.60</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	Building work	7,830.60	0.00
<b>Total payments from restricted funds</b>		<b>12,900.59</b>	<b>9,594.85</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>117,109.22</b>	<b>81,216.66</b>

## Notes on receipts and payments

1	Includes £65 collected by Art@Oadby group and £222.34 from Shining Stars group.
2	Insurance money received for work to be done on drainage system. Money paid for this work includes £250 excess.
3	2021 Christmas offering was to Barnabas Fund work for work in Afghanistan.
4	2022 Harvest offering was to SIM for the work of Matt & Lisa Wallis in Jos, Nigeria.
5	2022 Christmas offering was to European Missionary Fellowship for the Bibles and blankets for Ukraine appeal.
6	2023 Easter offering was to the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
7	2023 Harvest offering was to the expansion of the maternity unit at the Good News Hospital in Mandritsara, Madagascar. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations. Includes £20.18 expenses from the Harvest meal which was donated to the collection.
8	2023 Christmas offering was split equally between the work of the International Mission to Jewish People and Reach Across. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
9	This gift was not for a cause being directly supported by the church and was returned to the giver.
10	Fees paid to independent examiner and solicitor.

## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December

Assets	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Current account	19,809.23	55,877.79
Deposit accounts	111,275.51	89,670.29
Petty cash	22.27	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,107.01</b>	<b>145,548.08</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
<b>Unrestricted (general) fund</b>	116,457.61	123,918.08
<b>Designated funds:</b>		
Valathi	480.00	0.00
<b>Restricted funds:</b>		
Building fund	13,669.40	21,500.00
2021 Christmas offering	0.00	440.00
2022 Christmas offering	0.00	130.00
2023 Christmas offering	500.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,107.01</b>	<b>145,548.08</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Amount due within 1 year	1,472.52	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.