
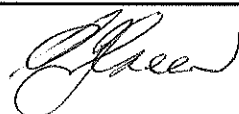


Independent Examiner's Report
on the accounts of Oadby Evangelical Free Church
(charity number 1030055)
for year ending 31st December 2024

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, Trustee & Interim Treasurer		8/5/25
Steven Green	Elder & Trustee		8 th May 2025

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of Oadby Evangelical Free Church for the year ended 31st December 2024 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)		7/5/25
Address:	7 Muston Gardens, Leicester, LE2 6FX		

<p>Oadby Evangelical Free Church Accounts & financial statement Period covered: 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2024</p>

**Summary of receipts and payments
(1st January – 31st December 2024)**

Receipts		
Unrestricted funds	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Donations	64,753.42	63,761.89
Bank interest (Deposit accounts)	2,011.35	605.22
Other income	5,135.00	23,720.25
Gift Aid/Gift Aid small donation scheme (GASDS)	7,674.80	8,155.73
Restricted funds		
Giving for missionary/specific causes	6,977.75	5,425.06
Other income	0.00	1,000.00
Total	86,552.32	102,668.15

Payments		
Unrestricted funds	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Employment	40,069.10	37,299.60
Events/activities	2,226.12	1,793.23
Equipment	712.64	313.87
Administration	7,051.85	6,371.39
Building	28,960.04	47,138.01
Utilities	5,828.45	5,316.64
Giving to missionary and other causes	7,545.00	5,975.89
Restricted funds		
Missionary giving	6,241.50	5,069.99
Gifts to other causes	586.25	0.00
Building Fund	0.00	7,830.60
Total	99,220.95	117,109.22

Surplus/(Deficit) of receipts over payments	(12,668.63)	(14,441.07)
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Breakdown of receipts
(1st January – 31st December 2024)

Unrestricted funds

		2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Donations		64,753.42	63,761.89
	Bank transfer	43,659.00	38,065.00
	Giving via Stewardship	12,677.16	14,090.73
Note 1	Offering box	8,417.26	11,606.16
Tax reclaim		7,674.80	8,155.73
Other income		5,135.00	23,720.25
	Church activities	105.00	0.00
Note 2	Miscellaneous	30.00	10.98
	Legacies	5,000.00	0.00
	Insurance claims	0.00	23,709.27
Bank interest		2,011.35	605.22
TOTAL		79,574.57	96,243.09

Restricted funds

		2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Missionary causes		6,391.50	5,425.06
	2022 Christmas offering	0.00	1,082.75
	2023 Easter offering	0.00	1,403.05
	2023 Harvest offering	0.00	2,222.50
Note 3	2023 Christmas offering	2,234.00	500.00
	TearFund	0.00	16.76
	VOCM Building Fund	0.00	200.00
Note 4	2024 Easter offering	3,457.50	0.00
Note 5	2024 Christmas offering	700.00	0.00
Other giving		586.25	1,000.00
	Contribution to travel expenses	0.00	1,000.00
Note 6	Christian Institute	255.00	0.00
Note 7	2024 Harvest offering	331.25	0.00
TOTAL INCOME TO RESTRICTED FUNDS		6,977.75	6,425.06
TOTAL RECEIPTS		86,552.32	102,668.15

Breakdown of payments
(1st January – 31st December 2024)

Unrestricted funds		2024	2023
		(£)	(£)
Employment		40,069.10	37,299.60
	Salaries, tax and pension contributions	39,925.78	35,171.90
	Book allowance	143.32	0.00
	Travel expenses	0.00	2,127.70
Events/activities		2,226.12	1,793.23
Note 6	Visiting preacher expenses	388.20	831.35
	Worship services	540.40	37.93
	Catering	306.31	215.21
	Outreach	542.06	365.70
	Youthwork	260.15	220.54
	Room hire	189.00	122.50
Equipment		712.64	313.87
	AudioVisual	40.56	39.98
	Computing	389.84	239.11
	Furniture	52.25	0.00
	Cleaning	229.99	0.00
	Health & safety	0.00	34.78
Missionary causes & other causes		7,545.00	5,975.89
	Carcassonne	1,560.00	1,440.00
	Latin Link	1,560.00	1,440.00
	Mandritsara	1,560.00	1,440.00
	Valathi	2,040.00	960.00
	Nelsons (via UFM)	0.00	445.89
	Cavills	675.00	0.00
	Local University CUs	0.00	100.00
	East Midlands Churches Day	150.00	0.00
	Bulkington Church renovation project	0.00	150.00
Administration		7,051.85	6,371.39
Note 8	Fees	2,565.00	2,285.66
	Printing and stationery	212.00	127.71
	Insurance	1,480.38	1,384.03
	Copyright licence	328.00	314.00
	FIEC membership	1,608.00	1,476.00
	Zoom subscription	183.48	172.68
	Child protection/safeguarding	251.99	145.00

Website	0.00	466.31
Conferences/training	423.00	0.00
Building	28,960.04	47,138.01
Rent	17,187.00	18,700.00
Building fabric	24.65	17.28
Cleaning	1,864.39	152.49
Gardening	13.98	2,916.00
Gas work	9,552.68	1,297.57
Health & safety	299.34	95.40
Keys	18.00	0.00
Drains	0.00	23,959.27
Utilities	5,828.45	5,316.64
Electricity	1,746.60	1,464.71
Gas	2,950.95	2,902.26
Phone/broadband	750.98	677.97
Water	379.92	271.70
Total payments from unrestricted funds	92,393.20	104,208.63

Restricted funds

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Missionary causes	6,241.50	5,069.99
2021 Christmas offering	0.00	440.00
2022 Christmas offering	0.00	767.50
2023 Easter offering	0.00	1,403.05
2023 Harvest offering	0.00	2,242.68
Note 3 2023 Christmas offering	2,734.00	0.00
Note 4 2024 Easter offering	3,507.50	0.00
TearFund	0.00	16.76
VOCM Building Fund	0.00	200.00
Gifts to other causes	586.25	0.00
Note 6 Christian Institute	255.00	0.00
Note 7 2024 Harvest offering	331.25	0.00
Building Fund		7,830.60
Building work	0.00	7,830.60
Total payments from restricted funds	6,827.75	12,900.59
TOTAL PAYMENTS	99,220.95	117,109.22

Notes on receipts and payments

1	Includes £215.05 collected by Art@Oadby group and £230.16 from Shining Stars group.
2	£29.99 refund and £0.01 test payment from PayPal.
3	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. Payment includes £500.00 collected in 2023 financial year.
4	2024 Easter offering was given to the church building project at Valathi Outreach Church Ministries. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations. £50.00 donation was double counted so more was sent than collected.
5	2024 Christmas offering was donated to work with people in Northern Israel. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
6	Visiting speaker expenses total includes £120.70 which speaker asked to be sent to the Christian Institute (CI). So total sent to CI was £375.70.
7	2024 Harvest offering was went towards the work of Open Hands in Leicester. Figure includes Gift Aid claimed on applicable donations.
8	Fees paid to independent examiner and solicitor.

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December

Assets	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Current account	10,136.99	19,809.23
Deposit accounts	108,286.86	111,275.51
Petty cash	14.53	22.27
Total	118,438.38	131,107.01
Funds		
Unrestricted (general) fund	104,068.98	116,457.61
Designated funds:		
Valathi	0.00	480.00
Restricted funds:		
Building fund	13,669.40	13,669.40
2023 Christmas offering	0.00	500.00
2024 Christmas offering	700.00	0.00
Total	118,438.38	131,107.01
Liabilities		
Amount due within 1 year	1,403.05	1,472.52

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.

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

Name:	Oadby Evangelical Free Church (common abbreviation: OEFC)
Charity Number:	1030055
Governing Document:	Church Constitution (last revised on 21st March 1997)
Minister:	Gary Prickett
Women's worker/Administrator:	Emese Carter-Whittley – since 1 st November
Trustees/Church Officers:	Lance Atter (Elder & Trustee) Stuart Glover (Elder, Trustee & Interim Treasurer) Steven Green (Elder & Trustee) Luke Carter-Whittley (Deacon) – from 6 th March Judith Chinnery (Deacon) Alejandro Joya (Deacon) – until 23 rd August
Charity Commission Correspondent:	Stuart Glover c/o Oadby Evangelical Free Church North Memorial Hall, Stoughton Road, Oadby Leicestershire LE2 4FL
Website :	www.oefc.org.uk
Banks:	Barclays Bank plc Nationwide Building Society
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, 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 (known collectively as Church Officers), 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 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 2024, the church held four business meetings for church members. At the end of the year, the church had an admitted membership of 49. 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 conversation club to help speakers of other languages improve their spoken English and a monthly walking group.

One-off events were also held including various craft events e.g. Easter craft evening and a Christmas wreath making event which were open to the local community.

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 property through 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 2024 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 2024 were able to pass on 63 shoeboxes, filled with simple Christmas gifts, for needy families in eastern Europe.

4. Financial Position

The church accounts for the year 2024 have been signed off by an independent examiner. They show that the church reported a deficit for the year of just over £12,600. This was largely, though not only, a product of atypical expenditure in 2024, including over £8,800 towards a new boiler for the North Memorial Hall. Due to the church having good reserves, the deficit reported in 2024 is of no immediate concern.

5. Outreach

In the autumn, the church membership approved the elders' proposal to employ a part time women's worker/administrator. In addition to taking on some administrative tasks, this post will seek to develop our ministry amongst women in the local community, including making new contacts and holding Bible studies.

The church also purchased some copies of the evangelistic LIFE magazines for church attendees to give out to their friends and neighbours.

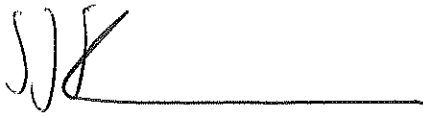
6. Future Developments

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. The trustees are still waiting for a copy of the draft lease.

The church is also committed to registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Work on this has started and it is hoped that it will conclude with the next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SJG', is written above a solid horizontal line that extends to the right.

Signed by Stuart Glover on behalf of Trustees of Oadby Evangelical Free Church

Date: 20/05/2025