

**Annual report of the Trustees of Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church, Hedgefield Grove,
Halesowen, West Midlands. B63 2HJ
Year Ending 31 December 2023**

The Church is governed by the Trust Deed and its Basis of Faith and Constitution. It is registered with the Charity Commission under registration number 518320.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Mr Christopher M Adams (Appointed 23 March 2023)
Mr Alan Cutler
Mr Wesley R Erpen
Mr Alan J Harborne (Chairman)
Mr Richard J Mansell
Mr Paul D Vanden Branden
Mr Robert J Warner (Treasurer and Secretary)

Trustees are appointed after receiving unanimous approval by the other trustees.

Bankers

HSBC UK Bank plc
31 Church Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY10 2AY

Independent Examiner

Mrs G Morton
11 Abbey Crescent
Halesowen B63 2HP

The aims of the Charity are to provide a meeting place for its members and others who are interested in the Christian faith. We seek to reach out to those in the community with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. A summary of the achievements in these activities is set out below. The Trustees are satisfied that these achievements clearly demonstrate that the Charity has throughout the year fulfilled its responsibility to meet the requirement of providing a Public Benefit and has thereby complied with its duty to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Church is led by Elders and supported by Deacons who are elected by the Church membership in accordance with the constitution. The Church does not employ anyone, all roles are done by volunteers.

There have not been any related party transactions during the year.

The policy of the Trustees is to try and keep at least £1,500 in cash for the General Fund, as reserves for contingencies. In planning for the future we will also need to increase funds for possible building alterations. During the year this has been maintained and funds retained for the possibility of making improvements to the Church building.

The Church does not have any specific investment powers.

The trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed. These are making sure that there are sufficient leaders to look after the Church when others are absent or if any should leave. The Elders and Deacons make any needs known at a Church members meeting and nominations are invited. There is also a need to make sure that the various activities are adequately staffed by appropriate volunteers, again requests

are made to the Church as the need arises. The Trustees are satisfied that any risks have been mitigated.

Review of Activities and Future Plans

Once again, we can give thanks to God for bringing us through another year and for all that He has done in us and through us on Fatherless Barn estate.

Church Ministries

We can thank God that the numbers of people attending our Sunday morning Service has continued to increase slightly throughout the year. It has also been encouraging to see that those who have recently joined are beginning to feel part of the FB family. We are grateful to our worship group who give so much of their time to practice for all our Services and make such a positive difference to our worship. It was great that in July Paul Vanden Branden was confirmed as an Elder. Most of the ministry has once again been delivered by members of our Leadership Team. At the beginning of the year, we concluded our study of the book of Romans. It has also been helpful to have a number of visiting speakers, bringing variety to our Services.

In January, our Encounter Service restarted on a Friday evening and at the first meeting there were over forty people who attended. This Service has continued throughout the year with similar numbers attending. It has been great to have such a wide selection of speakers at this event, from those within and without the church.

In the autumn, our '60 Plus' restarted on a Monday. The team of volunteers do a great job, and they have close on twenty folks attending, all enjoying their meal and time together. One of our ladies had the vision of starting a 'Knit & Natter' group on a Friday morning and although the numbers have fluctuated between about six and ten, it has been appreciated by all. It has been good to have people attend who have had nothing to do with our church.

Our children's and youth work has continued, and we are thankful that so many people volunteer either in teaching in Sunday School, helping with JAM Club, or running Ignite. Ignite is our teenager's group, and on one occasion they took sixteen young people to BCM's Fulfil event in Birmingham. They have also taken a group to Alton Tours as well as local visits to the tenpin bowling in Dudley and walks up Clent. At our JAM Club the numbers have been less than last year with around the fifteen mark. Everyone enjoys it including the leaders who love the opportunity of teaching the children the Word of God. The 'Little Sunbeams,' our parent and toddler group, has continued to run on a Wednesday morning. Some Wednesdays there have been up to thirty children and lots of positive conversations take place with the parents. The Christmas Craft Day saw around ten of these moms call in with their children.

Some of the men of the church once again went to Snowdon for the weekend and as on other occasions had a great time. Some climbed Snowdon and others enjoyed the local amenities, but the highlight was just being together. It was great having some younger men attend. In the autumn, a men's breakfast took place and around twenty-five men attended. Our Candlelit Carol Service saw the church more-or-less full, and it was great to have such a clear challenge from the speaker.

Our House Groups have continued on a Tuesday evening meeting in homes in Halesowen and Stourbridge. We also meet monthly for our church prayer meeting in the church.

During June we had an outreach event with Searchlight drama company. It was a worthwhile event with around sixty people attending. We plan to organise other similar outreach events in the future. Our annual visit to Bromsgrove Baptist Church for the Saltmine Pantomime took place again, and around eighty people went from our church.

Church Building

In April we had the car park resurfaced with block paving it has made a massive improvement to the look of the church and perhaps more importantly, to the safety of people walking over the car park. The old slabs that we had had for decades were way past their sell by date. Towards the end of the year, we also had the old carpet replaced in the main hall and smaller hall, the stage taken down to give more flexibility. The main hall

was repainted, and new curtains fitted. The porch on the Church House, which was in poor condition, was replaced.

Finance

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 have been independently examined. The accounts show a very healthy position. We give thanks again to God for His provision and for all who give to the work of the Church.

Principal Funding Sources

Donations and gifts are our main source of income and we are most appreciative of the continued support of church members and others who give in various ways. We do not make appeals for funding to people outside of Church membership other than through collections made at our Sunday morning family service. We do not use professional fundraisers or commercial participators.

Future Plans

In May we had a visit from a representative of the FIEC (Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches) who spoke about what joining the FIEC would look like. He was very clear and helpful as we consider the way ahead. The leadership of the church are prayerfully considering whether the church should join. The Church members will also be asked how they would feel about linking up with the FIEC.

We are still exploring the possibility of appointing a part-time Pastor or Community Outreach Worker.

Together with our solicitors, we are looking at the possibility of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

A number of times during the year we have reminded ourselves of the need to keep praying that the Lord will guide us regarding whether we employ a part-time worker or a full-time Pastor.

We are exploring the possibility of improving our audio-visual system, as we have had some problems with it. Quotes are been obtained. We are also considering ways of how to make the rear of the church look better and be more useful.

Dudley Council have used the building for one of their local Councillor meetings and on the back of that requested that they could use our building for the voting as there is a desire to stop disrupting children's education by using schools. We have agreed that they can use the building in the future.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees
On 9th October 2024

.....A J Harborne.....
Alan J Harborne
Chairman



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Fatherless Barn Evangelical Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

518320

Set out on pages

One to three

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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


I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed: 

Date: 14 October 2024

Name: Gillian Morton

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

11 Abbey Crescent
Halesowen
West Midlands B63 2HP

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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FATHERLESS BARN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u> £	<u>Total</u> <u>2022</u> £
Donations and Legacies	24,463	4,113	28,576	26,434
Charitable Activities	0	0	0	0
Other Income	0	0	0	4,660
Investments	650	0	650	95
TOTAL INCOME	25,113	4,113	29,226	31,189
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	0	0
Charitable Activities	59,283	3,413	62,696	24,850
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	59,283	3,413	62,696	24,850
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE	-34,170	700	-33,470	6,339
Fund Balances at Beginning of Year	60,680	796	61,476	55,137
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	26,510	1,496	28,006	61,476

FATHERLESS BARN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2023

<u>2022</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2023</u>
6,743.22	Offerings & Donations	8,369.19
12,235.00	Gift Aid Donations	12,648.00
5.77	Offertory Box	4.93
3,349.54	HMRC Tax Refund	3,441.25
	Gifts for Maintenance Fund	2,915.03
	Gifts for Missionary Fund	297.61
	Gifts for PA Fund	580.00
3000.00	Gifts for Ciechenow City Mission	
94.60	Interest Received	649.68
5,761.50	Quinta 2022	
	Quinta 2024	320.00
<u>31,189.63</u>	Total Income	<u>29,225.69</u>
<u>55,136.76</u>	Opening Balance	<u>61,475.91</u>
<u>86,326.39</u>		<u>90,701.60</u>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
1,001.59	Gas	2,963.58
393.20	Electricity	1,456.24
174.99	Water Rates - Church	186.76
1,050.00	Insurance - Church	1,125.00
500.00	Speakers Expenses and Gifts	620.00
3,100.00	Gifts to Missionaries	3,400.00
3,000.00	Gift for Ciechenow City Mission	
2,760.00	Gifts to Birmingham City Mission	2,760.00
1,391.34	Building Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements	44,024.31
6,476.50	Church Weekend Quinta	
43.75	Youth Expenses	540.73
129.00	Thirty one eight (Formerly CCPAS)	145.00
255.60	Training	252.00
251.39	Outreach Expenses	1,063.41
743.17	CCLI - Copyright Licence	820.70
	Quinta 2024	200.00
369.11	Other Miscellaneous Expenditure	611.71
97.60	Bank Charges	71.20
399.10	Insurance - Church House	427.78
584.40	Water Rates - Church House	
730.68	Church House Repairs and Maintenance	396.19
<u>1,399.06</u>	Church House Council Tax	<u>1,631.07</u>
<u>24,850.48</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>62,695.68</u>
<u>61,475.91</u>	Balance Carried Forward	<u>28,005.92</u>
<u>86,326.39</u>		<u>90,701.60</u>
	Represented By:	
1,375.91	Current Account	1,507.55
59,409.72	Savings Account	25,725.47
690.28	Cash in Hand	772.90
<u>61,475.91</u>		<u>28,005.92</u>

In addition to the cash balances held above the charity owns the freehold Church buildings and the Church house in the unrestricted fund.

Liabilities

There were no liabilities outstanding at the year end.

FATHERLESS BARN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Hedgefield Grove, Halesowen

Restricted Funds

	<u>Missionary</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Maintenance</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>PA Fund</u>	<u>Quinta</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>60+</u> <u>Group</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balances as at 31 December 2022	0	0	0	0	796	796
Income for the year	298	2915	580	320	0	4,113
Expenditure for the year	-298	-2915		-200	0	-3,413
Balances as at 31 December 2023	0	0	580	120	796	1,496

Unrestricted Funds

Balance as at 31 December 2022	60,680
Net movement in year	-34,170
Balance as at 31 December 2023	<u>26,510</u>

Total Funds

Restricted Funds	1,496
Unrestricted Funds	26,510
	<u>28,006</u>