BARROW BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1129860

Details

Other names	BARROW ON SOAR BAPTIST CHURCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-05-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Barrow Baptist Church Beveridge Street Barrow Upon Soar Loughborough Leicestershire LE12 8PL
Phone	01509416603
Email	office@barrowbaptist.org.uk
Website	www.barrowbaptist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Leicestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£198,087	£178,905	-	-
2023-12-31	£166,782	£168,999	-	-
2022-12-31	£170,640	£166,981	-	-
2021-12-31	£257,042	£282,591	-	-
2020-12-31	£153,930	£135,913	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Neil Jones	Chair	2020-09-01
David Sydney Knott		2023-11-16
Davina Lucy Smith		2022-11-17
Dominic Andrew Boston		2023-11-16
Edward Andrew Kendall Dring		2023-11-16
Reuben Sneller		2021-11-11
Sharon Bradwell		2021-11-11

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BARROW BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129860

Accounts

Barrow Baptist church



Church Report
Review of 2024

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1. Charity Information

Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Charity name:	Barrow upon Soar Baptist Church
Charity registration number:	1129860
Address:	Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street, Barrow Upon Soar, LE12 8PL
Property Trustees:	The East Midland Baptist Trust Company, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT
Bankers:	The Co-operative Bank p.l.c., 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M4 4BE
Independent Examiner:	Mr M. Clarke
Charity Trustees:	Rev Neil Jones (Chair) Reuben Sneller (Secretary) Ed Dring (Treasurer) Dominic Boston Sharon Bradwell Matthew Gudger David Knott Davina Smith Linda Wall (to February 2024)

Structure and management:

Barrow Baptist Church is an unincorporated association and is governed by its Constitution.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Members' Meetings currently take place in alternate months; the Members' Meeting has responsibility for the overall policy of the church.

The elected Trustees (listed above) are responsible for the overall governance of the church, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. Trustees are elected by the Church Meeting; details of the process for election of Trustees are described in the Constitution. The Trustees meet every month in order to assist in the smooth running of the charity.

The minister of the church, Rev Neil Jones, is responsible for the day to day running of the church, supported by the Trustees, also known as the Church Leadership Team (CLT), who are also responsible for the spiritual direction of the charity. There is also a small staff team of church worker and administrator.

Activities and objectives:

The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

Achievements and performance, including report on public benefit:

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally and as such is described as a community church. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

This report details the activities of Barrow Baptist Church during 2024 in fulfilment of its objectives; central to this is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship and times of prayer and also includes conducting Christian wedding services, funerals as well as running groups to support children and their parents / carers as well as seniors.

2. 2024 Synopsis

New Members	**1**
Baptisms	**4**
Deaths	**2**
Resignations	**1**
Transfer to other Baptist Churches	**1**

3. Minister's Report of 2024

2024: A Year of Growth, Blessing, and Anticipation

2024 has been an exciting and fruitful year for our church, culminating in the celebration of three baptisms during the season of Advent, in addition to one earlier in the year. These baptisms were powerful testimonies to God's transforming work in people's lives and were a fitting conclusion to a year filled with spiritual growth, outreach, and blessings.

Our Year Text: Psalm 25:4-5

We began the year by focusing on our new Year Text:

"Show me your paths, LORD, teach me your ways; guide me in your truth and teach me. For you are God, my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long" (Psalm 25:4-5).

This verse was chosen for its themes of worship, hope, and discipleship. It has reminded us throughout the year that our primary calling is to follow Christ, allowing Him to guide, change, and shape us into His likeness.

Ministries and Regular Activities

Our regular groups and ministries continued to thrive in 2024, including:

- **Sunday services**
- **Little Buds & Baby Buds**
- **Tuesday morning prayers**
- **Connect Café**
- **Restored**
- **The Harbour Wellbeing Café**
- **Food Bank**
- **Sports and Crafts**
- **Growth Groups**

Monthly activities included:

- **Messy Church** – A creative and interactive family-friendly worship service.
- **Evening Praise** – An extended time of worship, prayer and reflection.
- **Firepit Friday** – A relaxed outdoor gathering for fellowship and support.
- **Who Let the Dads Out** – A time for fathers, grandfathers and father-figures and their children to connect through fun and meaningful activities.
- **Thrive** – a group for people with memory loss and their carers. Attendees are encouraged to stay afterward and visit The Harbour Wellbeing Café.
- **Monday morning prayers** – 7am prayer for the activities and ministries of the church and our wider community.

In addition, we ran two Alpha Courses, resulting in the formation of two new Growth Groups. These ministries reflect our heart for worship and service, glorifying God as we support one another and reach out to our community.

Notable Highlights

This year brought many special events and milestones:

- **Guest Speakers**
    - **Carl Beech (CVM)**: Carl shared a moving testimony titled **"Facing Extreme Storms"** that highlighted how God's grace sustained him through personal trials. His honest and powerful message resonated deeply, inspiring us to trust God amid life's challenges.
    - **Lyn Green (General Secretary, Baptist Union)**: Lyn joined us in February and delivered a sermon on the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:16-20**), titled **"Growing and Going."** Her message emphasized the importance of discipleship and evangelism as we fulfil Jesus' mandate to share the Gospel.

- **Chris Duffett (Former Baptist Union President)**: In March, Chris preached a compelling message about evangelism and later led a workshop challenging us to step out in faith and share the good news of Jesus on the streets. His passion for outreach was both infectious and encouraging.
- **Mission India Representative**: We were blessed to host Brian, a representative from Mission India, twice this year. Through his visits, we heard firsthand how God is transforming lives in India through church planting, literacy programs, and children's Bible clubs. These updates inspired us to pray more intentionally and continue supporting this vital ministry.

- **Leadership Changes:**
  - **Linda Wall** stepped down from leadership after faithfully serving as an Elder and, more recently, as a member of the Ministerial Support Team. Her dedication and service over the years have been a blessing to the church.
  - **Neil** became a Governor at Humphrey Perkins School after a period of prayer and discernment.

- **Key Events:**
  - **Holy Week devotions** focused on John 17 and the crucifixion, with a powerful Tenebrae service on Good Friday.
  - **Neil** was commissioned as a Fully Accredited Minister with the Baptist Union at the Baptist Assembly, an occasion celebrated with a number the church.
  - **Download Festival chaplaincy team** involvement by Neil and Lilian
  - A number of guys attended **The Gathering**, a men's ministry event hosted by CVM.

- **Community Engagement:**
  - Children from Hall Orchard, as well as the Squirrels, Beavers, and Scouts, visited the church to learn about baptism and the food bank.
  - Our new MP, Jeevun Sandher, visited and received prayer for his work in the community.

Church Together and Outreach

Through Churches Together in Barrow (CTiB), we partnered in Lent Lunches, Good Friday services, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and Remembrance Day. Monthly joint prayer meetings continued to unite us with other local churches. Neil also led fortnightly assemblies at Hall Orchard as part of our work together.

Looking Back and Ahead

The year brought both joys and sorrows. While we celebrated baptisms and increased attendance at services, we also mourned the passing of three dear sisters, two of whom were church members. Though we grieve their loss, we rejoice that they are with the Lord.

In preaching, we explored:

- The final weeks of Jesus' life, crucifixion, and resurrection in John's Gospel.
- The work of the Holy Spirit and His gifts.
- Psalms quoted in the New Testament (summer series).
- The life of Abraham (autumn series).
- Key figures in the Advent story.

Finally, we discerned a fresh vision for the church, which we are excited to launch in 2025. We eagerly anticipate what God will do through us in the coming year.

4. Mission Support

We continued to support a variety of other mission groups and projects who are meeting needs and sharing the gospel in our area and around the world. In 2024 we gave 15% of our total income to mission groups.

Local

We contribute to 'Home Mission' which supports churches, projects and staff within the East Midlands Baptist Association and across the country. We have been involved in mission in Barrow upon Soar, including through our 'High Street Link'.

Global

We support the work of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), and are linked with Alan & Megan Barker and their work in Nepal. We also support three mission organisations on a rolling three-year basis. Mission India was our new mission partner and we continued with our support for MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). The year concluded our support for CBM (Christian Blind Mission) and we chose The International Minors Mission to be our new partner for 2025.

5. Fabric of the Building

This year, two key projects ensured our premises remained safe and welcoming:

- **Quinquennial Inspection:** A thorough five-year review of the church buildings was conducted to assess their condition and identify necessary maintenance.
- **Fire Alarm System:** A new fire alarm system was installed to enhance safety across the premises.

6. Finance

The Trustees are responsible for managing the church's finances. A financial summary for 2024 is on the following page.

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Trustees have reviewed the Reserves Policy, and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to 3 months staff costs and mortgage payments plus one month's running costs, to cover emergency situations which may arise.

Barrow Baptist Church

Statement of Financial Activity

For the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Opening monetary balance (bank accounts & cash)	2024	£	68,198.30

2023	£	75,161.47

	2024			2023		
Area of Ministry	**Income**		**Expenditure**	**Income**		**Expenditure**
Regular Giving (standing order & gift aid)	£ 139,424.46	*2*		£ 107,071.85	*2*	
Irregular giving incl. legacies	£ 18,192.92	*2*		£ 16,818.85	*2*	
Room Hire	£ 6,791.13			£ 10,979.50		£ 200.00
General Church	£ 6,195.37	*3*	£ 12,259.22	£ 8,640.13	*3*	£ 13,450.87
Church building costs	£ 352.75	*4*	£ 19,033.15		*4*	£ 18,664.62
Minister & Staff Costs	£ -	*5*	£ 72,185.35	£ 2.52	*5*	£ 65,931.00
Church Groups	£ 10,376.08	*6*	£ 5,205.65	£ 10,278.46	*6*	£ 4,766.99
Courses (e.g.) Alpha			£ 466.09			
Catering	£ 3,778.95	*7*	£ 4,592.00	£ 7,248.80	*7*	£ 6,664.04
Church camp	£ 3,262.65		£ 2,492.99	£ 1,562.50		£ 1,463.24
Practical Support & foodbank	£ 165.00		£ 241.20	£ 259.00		£ 449.96
Mission giving		*8*	£ 27,935.54		*8*	£ 22,204.66
Manse	£ 3,990.00	*9*	£ 27,838.57	£ 3,920.00	*9*	£ 32,285.58
Grant funding	£ 5,557.28		£ 3,991.84	£ -		£ -
Depreciation			£ 2,663.78	£ 0.10		£ 2,918.26
Total	**£ 198,086.59**		**£ 178,905.38**	**£ 166,781.71**		**£ 168,999.22**
Net gain / loss			**£ 19,181.21**			**£ (2,217.51)**

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2024

	2024		2023
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets			
Equipment	£ 6,460.03		£ 7,647.38
Tech & Computer Equipment	£ 5,292.87		£ 5,918.39
Total fixed assets	**£ 11,752.90**	*12*	**£ 13,565.77**
Current Assets			
Monetary balance			
Current Account	£ 42,841.88		£ 40,751.92
Baptists Together Deposit Account	£ 27,447.37		£ 26,307.29
Kingdom Bank savings account	£ 20,605.09		n/a
Cash in Hand	£ 890.26		£ 1,139.09
Total monetary assets	**£ 91,784.60**		**£ 68,198.30**
Accrued income	£ -		£ 321.00
Total current assets	**£ 91,784.60**		**£ 68,519.30**
Accrued expenses / liabilities	£ 2,871.80	*13*	£ 600.58
Net Assets	**£ 100,665.70**		**£ 81,484.49**
Capital and Reserves			
Current year earnings	£ 19,181.21		-£ 2,217.51
Retained Earnings	£ 81,484.49		£ 83,702.00
Total Capital and Reserves	**£ 100,665.70**	*14*	**£ 81,484.49**

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and in line with S130 Charities Act 2011.

2. Area of Ministry: Giving

Account	2024 Income	2024 Expenditure	2023	2023 Expenditure
Offering - Standing Order (excl. manse)	£ 114,240.03		£ 87,586.58	
Gift Aid (excl. manse)	£ 25,184.43		£ 19,485.27	
Offering - Cash, cqs & bank transfers	£ 16,320.08		£ 14,166.51	
Restored giving	£ 1,743.48		£ 1,524.40	
Thrive giving	£ 62.90		£ 75.70	
Donations - general	£ 66.46		£ 552.24	
Legacies	£ -		£ 500.00	
Total	**£ 157,617.38**	**£ -**	**£ 123,890.70**	**£ -**

3. Area of Ministry: Church - general

Account	2024 Income	2024 Expenditure	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure
Preaching Fees		£ 230.00		£ 300.00
Funeral Fees (& weddings)	£ 1,020.00		£ 1,306.00	
Leadership Development & CMD	£ 10.00	£ 799.18	£ 50.00	£ 1,171.33
Equipment		£ -		
Equipment (non asset register)		£ 397.12		£ 403.75
Tech & Computer Equipment		£ -		
Resources	£ 23.90	£ 1,154.27		£ 800.97
Admin	£ 18.00	£ 1,073.42		£ 1,207.51
Insurance		£ 2,043.37		£ 1,853.56
Marketing & Communication	£ 24.70	£ 1,127.83		£ 337.15
Travel expenses		£ 64.80		
Subscriptions / Membership / Licenses		£ 2,407.60		£ 2,143.08
Pensions Deficit		£ 10.00		£ 12.00
External Collections	£ 2,209.86	£ 2,209.86	£ 4,100.41	£ 4,000.41
Miscellaneous items (incl. solar panel income)	£ 1,143.74	£ 741.77	£ 2,108.28	£ 1,221.11
Interest	£ 1,745.17		£ 1,075.44	
Total	**£ 6,195.37**	**£ 12,259.22**	**£ 8,640.13**	**£ 13,450.87**

4. Area of Ministry: Church building costs

Account	2024 Income	2024 Expenditure	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure
Building Repairs & Maintenance	£ 352.75	£ 11,781.27		£ 5,884.53
Building running costs	£ -	£ 7,251.88		£ 12,780.09
Total	**£ 352.75**	**£ 19,033.15**	**£ -**	**£ 18,664.62**

5. Area of Ministry: Minister & Staff

Account	2024 Income	2024 Expenditure	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure
Ministers' stipend & pension		£ 33,710.76		£ 30,989.88
Ministers Housing Costs (council tax, water & phone)		£ 3,428.95	£ 2.52	£ 3,239.77
Other employees (C. Blain & H. Bostock)		£ 35,045.64		£ 31,701.35
Total	**£ -**	**£ 72,185.35**	**£ 2.52**	**£ 65,931.00**

6. Area of Ministry: Church Groups

Account	2024 Income	2024 Expenditure	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure
Little Buds	£ 2,406.95	£ 560.19	£ 2,580.33	£ 542.60
Baby Buds	£ 382.00		£ 441.40	
Messy Church	£ 751.41	£ 1,411.08	£ 883.50	£ 1,044.09
WLTDO	£ 696.00	£ 548.67	£ 624.00	£ 438.13
Sunday School & youth		£ 283.00	£ 70.00	£ 470.62
Restored		£ 384.76		£ 445.61
Sports & Crafts	£ 4,126.00		£ 4,308.90	£ 55.10
Thrive		£ 8.50		£ 23.99
The Harbour	£ 723.72	£ 286.37	£ 170.33	£ 215.29
Seniors' Events	£ 1,290.00	£ 1,236.65	£ 1,110.00	£ 982.56
Men's Work		£ 389.00	£ 90.00	£ 314.00
Ladies Work		£ 97.43	£ -	£ -

Other events / groups (Bicentenary / Christmas)						£	235.00
Total	**£**	**10,376.08**	**£**	**5,205.65**	**£**	**10,278.46**	**£** **4,766.99**

7. Area of Ministry: Catering

	2024			2023	
Account	**Income**	**Expenditure**		**Income**	**Expenditure**
General Church (refreshments, communion etc)		£ 2,417.60			£ 2,536.20
Connect Café	£ 3,314.70	£ 2,071.29	£	6,462.31	£ 3,567.88
Other Catering (S&C, summer café, funerals)	£ 464.25	£ 103.11	£	786.49	£ 559.96
Total	**£ 3,778.95**	**£ 4,592.00**	**£**	**7,248.80**	**£ 6,664.04**

8. Area of Mission

	2024		2023	
Mission giving	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Income**	**Expenditure**
Home Mission		£ 9,068.00		£ 7,580.00
Baptist Missionary Society (BMS)		£ 9,068.00		£ 7,855.00
Mission India		£ 2,700.00		£ 1,545.00
Mission Aviation Fellowship		£ 2,700.00		£ 1,545.00
CBM		£ 2,941.00		£ 1,545.00
Local Mission		£ 1,458.54		£ 2,134.66
Total	**£ -**	**£ 27,935.54**	**£ -**	**£ 22,204.66**

Mission Giving 2024:

To take out of total for mission giving:		
Manse giving & gift aid	£	3,990.00
Grant funding	£	5,557.28
Camp income	£	3,262.65
External collection incom	£	2,209.86
The Harbour income	£	723.72
	£	**15,743.51**
Income - above =	**£**	**182,343.08**
15%	**£**	**27,351.46**

9. Area of Ministry: Manse

	2024		2023	
Account	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Income**	**Expenditure**
Manse gifts	£ 3,360.00		£ 3,290.00	
Gift Aid Claimed	£ 630.00		£ 630.00	
Manse loan repayment		£ 1,426.20		£ 1,314.00
Manse mortgage repayments		£ 25,781.40		£ 23,921.70
Manse mortgage capital repayment				£ 5,000.00
Insurance		£ 244.60		£ 218.39
Manse running costs		£ 386.37		£ 1,831.49
Total	**£ 3,990.00**	**£ 27,838.57**	**£ 3,920.00**	**£ 32,285.58**

10. Assets held in Trust

The church is the beneficial owner of land and buildings on Beveridge Street, Barrow upon Soar, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. A value for the aforementioned is not included, because reliable cost information is not available and valuation would incur significant costs, which would be onerous compared to any additional benefit gained.

The church is also the beneficial owner of land and buildings at 70 Thirlmere Road, Barrow upon Soar, LE12 8QQ, for use as a manse, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. The value of this property in September 2021 was £410,000.

11. Manse Loan

In September 2021, the church took out a loan from the Baptist Union Corporation for the purpose of purchasing a manse. At 31/12/2024 the balance of the loan was £245,780.24.

Additional interest free loans totalling £23,000 were received from church members, of which £7,363.50 has been repaid or gifted, giving a balance of £10,528.80 at 31/12/2024.

12. Tangible Assets	2024	2023
Balance brought forward	£ 13,565.77	£14,849.14
Additional items	£ 850.91	£ 1,634.89
Less depreciation & disposals	£ 2,663.78	£ 2,918.26
Total	**£ 11,752.90**	**£ 13,565.77**

The depreciation method is as follows:
Appliances: reducing balance over ten years
Computer equipment: reducing balance over five years
General equipment: straight line over ten years
Sound equipment: straight line over ten years

13. Liabilities / Accrued expenses	2024	2023
Agency collections	£ -	£ -
Owed to suppliers	£ -	£ 155.44
Mission giving & collections to be paid	£ 2,871.80	£ 445.14
Total	**£ 2,871.80**	**£ 600.58**

14. Reserves

There are no restricted reserves.

15. Pension Costs

The church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as The Baptist Pension Scheme. The Baptist Pension Scheme fund has announced that they have signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. This agreement is referred to as a 'buy-in policy'. It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that Just are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan. The costs of such policies are largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee have agreed that deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan will reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022 until June 2026. UPDATE: The Baptists Together Pension Scheme announced on 19 November 2024 that they estimate the Scheme's DB Plan has a surplus. As a result, our £1 per month contributions to the DB Plan ceased after the October contribution and we no longer have any further responsibility towards the DB Plan. They were very pleased that this has been possible to achieve much earlier, and at a much lower cost, than they had anticipated.

Declaration

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out above, relating to the year ending 31 December 2024, are as approved by the Charity Trustees.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of Barrow Baptist Church:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Template for Independent Examiners report, (where independent examiner does not wish to highlight any issues)

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Barrow Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees 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 statement

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 the trustees 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.

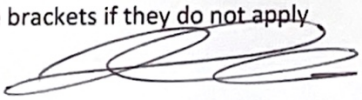
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do 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. (if accounts prepared on accruals basis*)

I 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.

*Delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply

Signed by the Examiner: 

Date 04/03/2025

Name MICHAEL CLARKE

Relevant Professional Qualification(s) or body (if any)

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		

Date	



Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street, Barrow Upon Soar, LE12 8PL

01509 416603 | www.barrowbaptist.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1129860

BARROW BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129860

Accounts

Barrow Baptist church



Church Report
Review of 2023

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1. Charity Information

Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Charity name:	Barrow upon Soar Baptist Church
Charity registration number:	1129860
Address:	Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street, Barrow Upon Soar, LE12 8PL
Property Trustees:	The East Midland Baptist Trust Company, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT
Bankers:	HSBC, Market Place, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3EJ
Independent Examiner:	Mr S. McDonald ACA
Charity Trustees:	Rev Neil Jones (Chair) Reuben Sneller (Secretary) Davina Smith (Treasurer to November 2023) Susan Graham to June 2023 Linda Wall Sharon Bradwell Matthew Gudger Ed Dring (Treasurer) from November 2023 Dominic Boston from November 2023 David Knott from November 2023

Structure and management:

Barrow Baptist Church is an unincorporated association and is governed by its Constitution.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Members' Meetings currently take place in alternate months; the Members' Meeting has responsibility for the overall policy of the church.

The elected Trustees (listed above) are responsible for the overall governance of the church, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. Trustees are elected by the Church Meeting; details of the process for election of Trustees are described in the Constitution. The Trustees meet every month in order to assist in the smooth running of the charity.

The minister of the church, Rev Neil Jones, is responsible for the day to day running of the church, supported by the Trustees, also known as the Church Leadership Team (CLT), who are also responsible for the spiritual direction of the charity. There is also a small staff team of church worker and administrator.

Activities and objectives:

The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

Achievements and performance, including report on public benefit:

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally and as such is described as a community church. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

This report details the activities of Barrow Baptist Church during 2023 in fulfilment of its objectives; central to this is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship and times of prayer and also includes conducting Christian wedding services, funerals as well as running groups to support children and their parents / carers as well as seniors.

2. 2023 Synopsis

New Members	**4**
Baptisms	**0**
Deaths	**0**
Resignations	**0**

3. Minister's Report of 2023

The year text for 2023 was:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

2023 was another busy year in the life of Barrow Baptist Church.

Our core groups and ministries continued and were added to by a new group, 'The Harbour'.

The Harbour exists as a place for people who are feeling 'all at sea', to come and 'offload, replenish, take stock and refresh'. It is aimed at anyone who would like a chat, a warm drink, a warm space, or some shelter. The aim is to help support mental health of those who may need gentle support and many of the leaders and helpers have received suicide prevention training. Alongside The Harbour our weekly food bank operates. Working with the Soar Valley Community Food Project we aim to support those who are in need with the basics. Each week we give out about 7 food parcels, which support about 20 people in the village.

At the beginning of 2023 we had two Warm Spaces slots. These were designed to help with those who needed to save some money on heating their homes. They were not well attended, so closed and did not re-open at the end of the year.

The other regular groups that continued were:

Little Buds and Baby Buds which are our toddler and baby groups respectively. These are very well attended groups where we see many parents, grandparents and other carers with the little ones in

their care. At Little Buds the morning ends with a Bible story and singing time. Baby Buds is more aimed at being a support group, especially for first-time mums.

Tuesday morning prayers run most weeks and are a time of praying for any needs that arise, as well as prayer for other churches in the Soar Valley Gospel Partnership, people in the church, situations in our world and general prayer for the church. Each prayer meeting begins with praise and worship.

Restored is a mid-week service, predominantly targeted at seniors. Traditional hymns are sung, alongside some more contemporary songs, and there is a talk each week, usually on a theme to do with faith. The service ends with tea and cake.

The **Connect Café** on a Monday and Tuesday lunchtime has reduced to being just a Tuesday. It is a place for connection and great value food. The café opens with a prayer of thanksgiving to God. Open to all.

Thrive is our monthly group for people with dementia and their carers. At Thrive, we have refreshments, a Bible story, prayer and games. The group is about 8 people with varying degrees of dementia.

Sports and Crafts is our Friday morning group, mainly targeted at seniors, to come and engage in various crafts such as knitting, needlework and crochet, alongside sports including pool, table tennis and dominoes. There is a simple café open throughout and each week there is a pause in proceedings for a 'thought for the day' which is based on an element of faith.

Firepit Fridays are a monthly gathering for men to sit around a fire pit and have a chat. Topics covered include faith, parenthood, and mental and physical health. No topic is off-limits for the group who seek to support each other in manhood.

Who Let The Dads Out is a monthly group for dads, grandads and other male role models to bring children up to 8 years old to a Saturday morning of play, crafts and food. The craft is faith-based and we aim to have conversations with the men who attend about their roles as dads and encourage attendance at Messy Church.

Messy Church is a monthly service for families and people of all ages to do some crafts and games, which is followed by a fun and interactive service and ends in a sit-down meal all together.

Growth Groups are weekly gatherings, usually in people's houses, of about 6 – 12 people to delve more deeply into the Bible, pray and support one another. Materials for the groups are usually produced in-house and follow the Sunday morning teaching series.

Sunday morning services continue to be well attended and are the highlight of the gathered Christian community. We sing songs and hymns of praise, have prayers and offer prayer ministry, share testimony of God's goodness, listen to a Bible-based sermon, and each month we share communion together. The services are streamed on YouTube and reach a number of people. During the service we have **Sunday School** and **Sunday Morning Youth** group. These groups give age-appropriate Bible teaching.

Sunday Evening Youth continued throughout 2023, though as some of the older ones had to leave the group (because of their age) it has proved harder to get a core of young people to attend. The group has games and activities and includes a Bible study, again held at an age-appropriate level.

Evening Praise is a monthly service which has a loose structure and is one where we seek God to lead us moment-by-moment. The time includes an extended period of sung worship, and we have time for sharing of testimony, prophetic words and prayer for anyone who asks for it. These services are not streamed online to allow greater freedom.

Alternate months we gather for a **Church Member's Meeting**. These meetings begin and end with praise and prayer and are a time for sharing what is happening in the church and for seeking God's guidance as a church body.

Each month there is also a **Churches Together in Barrow** (CTiB) prayer meeting where we gather to demonstrate unity between the Christian denominations and support one another. CTiB also arranges joint services and prayer gatherings for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, Lent Lunches (Fridays during Lent), Good Friday service and lunch, Remembrance Sunday and an Advent / Christmas service or event (the event in 2023 was a walking Nativity). There was an additional service put on by CTiB which was held in a local park.

Approximately alternate weeks Neil Jones, the minister, goes into the local CofE primary school to deliver **assembly.** He has built up a good rapport with staff and pupils alike.

In 2023 various events were held or attended by people from Barrow Baptist Church, these included:

We held a **24-hour prayer** event in 2023 which was well attended. Materials were produced as an aid to prayer. We would like to hold similar events going forward and encourage even greater levels of participation.

Holy week devotions took place each day during Holy Week and were well attended. Each devotion consisted of sung worship, prayer and a reflection on the events that unfolded during the last week of Christ's life leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection.

A group of men from the church attended the **CVM Gathering** event, which involved camping, fellowship, fun and times of sung worship, Bible teaching, encouragement to men and other activities. There was also a **Men's one-day Conference** which a number of men from the church attended at a nearby church.

Throughout the year ladies from the church attended **Refresh** which is a regular day of sung worship, Bible teaching and encouragement, exclusively for women.

Summer camp which was a weekend-long camp at a nearby Scout campsite. There were many activities for all ages and on the Sunday morning the regular church service was held at the campsite. A large number of people attended the camp and many more attended the service and lunch that followed. The camp is a time for deepening relationships and for enjoying fellowship.

The church also hosted a number of **Senior's events** which included fish and chip suppers and an afternoon of entertainment given by a 'vintage entertainer singer', who sang a number of hit songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s. At each senior's event a Christian message is shared.

During the school summer holidays the church normally pauses its regular activities, however, through the summer of 2023 we held **cafes**, on alternate weeks, when there would be either: Little Buds and Baby Buds; Restored; and Sports and Crafts. These were aimed at the usual target audience for that timeslot and were well attended and appreciated.

Through 2023 we held various **Christianity Explored** courses, both online and face-to-face. These were carried out on a 2:1 basis for those who wanted it.

In 2023 we had **mental health training (including suicide prevention)**, delivered by a specialist from Leicestershire County Council (this enabled us to be named Leicestershire's first 'Mental Health Friendly' organisation) and an **anti-fraud** event held by the local police.

Christmas is always a busy time for us at Barrow Baptist Church, and 2023 was no exception. This year we: delivered a Christmas card to every home in Barrow, had a stall at the local Christmas market and opened the church for free refreshments and had a fire pit for toasting marshmallows, hosted a 'Christmas Minus One' service for those who have been bereaved at some point and wish to remember their loved ones at Christmas; a seniors' Christmas event; Sing Christmas event at the

local Conservative Club, a well-attended Carol Service with choir, an all-age, interactive Nativity service, and Christmas Day service.

Other **notable** things during 2023 were:

A long-standing Elder (leader) within the church stepped down from their role; this included from catering and hosting the two weekly cafes (see above).

The formation of a new leadership structure called the Church Leadership Team and the calling of new leaders.

The introduction of a church app for formation of rotas and the sharing of information.

During 2023 we had a variety of **preaching** series, which included:

The year text (Philippians 4:6-7 – see above)
Prayer
The Sermon on the Mount
Selected Psalms
Suffering

Intertwined Church
The Gift (focussed on the gifts of the Magi and what they reveal to us about Jesus)

4. Mission Support

We continued to support a variety of other mission groups and projects who are meeting needs and sharing the gospel in our area and around the world. In 2023 we gave 15% of our total income to mission groups.

Local

We contribute to 'Home Mission' which supports churches, projects and staff within the East Midlands Baptist Association and across the country. We have been involved in mission in Barrow upon Soar, including through our 'High Street Link'.

Global

We support the work of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), and are linked with Alan & Megan Barker and their work in Nepal. We also support three mission organisations on a rolling three-year basis. MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) was our new mission partner and we continued with our support for CBM (Christian Blind Mission). The year concluded our support for Africa Inland Mission and we chose Mission India to be our new partner for 2024.

5. Fabric of the Building

In 2023, the main work undertaken was the repointing to the rear of the school room part of the building, along with many other smaller maintenance tasks.

A Quinquennial Inspection is planned for early in 2024, this is a detailed inspection of the building, from which a report will be produced. This will indicate where maintenance will be required in both the short and longer term.

6. Finance

The Trustees are responsible for managing the church's finances. A financial summary for 2023 is on the following page.

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Trustees have reviewed the Reserves Policy, and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to 3 months staff costs and mortgage payments plus one month's running costs, to cover emergency situations which may arise.

Barrow Baptist Church

Statement of Financial Activity

For the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Opening monetary balance (bank accounts & cash)	2023	£	75,161.47	2022	£	69,800.70

	2023			2022		
Area of Ministry	**Income**		**Expenditure**	**Income**		**Expenditure**
Regular Giving (standing order & gift aid)	£ 107,071.85	*2*		£ 101,736.37	*2*	
Irregular giving incl. legacies	£ 16,818.85	*2*		£ 24,562.16	*2*	£ 120.00
Room Hire	£ 10,979.50		£ 200.00	£ 12,120.00		
General Church	£ 8,640.13	*3*	£ 13,450.87	£ 4,936.26	*3*	£ 15,310.68
Church building costs		*4*	£ 18,664.62		*4*	£ 11,199.27
Minister & Staff Costs	£ 2.52	*5*	£ 65,931.00	£ 468.45	*5*	£ 59,695.42
Church Groups	£ 10,278.46	*6*	£ 4,766.99	£ 11,673.01	*6*	£ 6,868.33
Catering	£ 7,248.80	*7*	£ 6,664.04	£ 10,313.31	*7*	£ 7,714.46
Church camp	£ 1,562.50		£ 1,463.24			
Practical Support & foodbank	£ 259.00		£ 449.96			£ 352.19
Mission giving		*8*	£ 22,204.66	£ 30.00	*8*	£ 24,281.59
Manse	£ 3,920.00	*9*	£ 32,285.58	£ 4,800.00	*9*	£ 39,198.25
Depreciation	£ 0.10		£ 2,918.26			£ 2,240.68
Total	**£ 166,781.71**		**£ 168,999.22**	**£ 170,639.56**		**£ 166,980.87**
Net gain / loss			**£ (2,217.51)**			**£ 3,658.69**

We have recategorised some areas of income and expenditure to better reflect our activities. This has resulted in last year's comparatives being restated also. You will note however that the totals for income and expenditure and hence net gain are the same as reported in last year's financial statements.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2023

		2023			2022
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets					
Equipment	£	7,647.38		£	8,012.93
Tech & Computer Equipment	£	5,918.39		£	6,836.21
Total fixed assets	**£**	**13,565.77**	*12*	**£**	**14,849.14**
Current Assets					
Monetary balance					
Current Account	£	40,751.92		£	48,774.16
Baptists Together Deposit Account	£	26,307.29		£	25,231.85
Cash in Hand	£	1,139.09		£	1,155.46
Total monetary assets	**£**	**68,198.30**		**£**	**75,161.47**
Accrued income	£	321.00		£	799.00
Total current assets	**£**	**68,519.30**		**£**	**75,960.47**
Accrued expenses / liabilities	£	600.58	*13*	£	7,107.61
Net Assets	**£**	**81,484.49**		**£**	**83,702.00**
Capital and Reserves					
Current year earnings	-£	2,217.51		£	3,658.69
Retained Earnings	£	83,702.00		£	80,043.31
Total Capital and Reserves	**£**	**81,484.49**	*14*	**£**	**83,702.00**

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and in line with S130 Charities Act 2011.

2. Area of Ministry: Giving

Account	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	2022	2022 Expenditure
Offering - Standing Order (excl. manse)	£ 87,586.58		£ 84,333.63	
Gift Aid (excl. manse)	£ 19,485.27		£ 17,402.74	
Offering - Cash, cqs & bank transfers	£ 14,166.51		£ 14,916.55	£ 120.00
Restored giving	£ 1,524.40			
Thrive giving	£ 75.70			
Donations - general	£ 552.24		£ 924.11	
Legacies	£ 500.00		£ 8,721.50	
Total	**£ 123,890.70**	**£ -**	**£ 126,298.53**	**£ 120.00**

3. Area of Ministry: Church - general

Account	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure
Preaching Fees		£ 300.00		£ 600.00
Funeral Fees (& weddings)	£ 1,306.00		£ 923.00	
Leadership Development & CMD	£ 50.00	£ 1,171.33		£ 734.36
Equipment				
Equipment (non asset register)		£ 403.75		£ 834.94
Tech & Computer Equipment				
Resources		£ 800.97		£ 627.96
Admin		£ 1,207.51		£ 1,392.69
Insurance		£ 1,853.56		£ 1,680.69
Marketing & Communication		£ 337.15	£ 170.40	£ 253.66
Travel expenses				£ 283.70
Subscriptions / Membership / Licenses		£ 2,143.08		£ 2,300.22
Pensions Deficit		£ 12.00	£ 1.00	£ 2,810.28
External Collections	£ 4,100.41	£ 4,000.41	£ 3,235.54	£ 3,235.54
Miscellaneous items (incl. solar panel income)	£ 2,108.28	£ 1,221.11	£ 374.47	£ 556.64
Interest	£ 1,075.44		£ 231.85	
Total	**£ 8,640.13**	**£ 13,450.87**	**£ 4,936.26**	**£ 15,310.68**

4. Area of Ministry: Church building costs

Account	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure
Building Repairs & Maintenance		£ 5,884.53		£ 1,640.20
Building running costs		£ 12,780.09		£ 9,559.07
Total	**£ -**	**£ 18,664.62**	**£ -**	**£ 11,199.27**

5. Area of Ministry: Minister & Staff

Account	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure
Ministers' stipend & pension		£ 30,989.88	468.45	£ 28,038.98
Ministers Housing Costs (council tax, water & phone)	£ 2.52	£ 3,239.77		£ 3,285.56
Other employees (C. Blain & H. Bostock)		£ 31,701.35		£ 28,370.88
Total	**£ 2.52**	**£ 65,931.00**	**£ 468.45**	**£ 59,695.42**

6. Area of Ministry: Church Groups

Account	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure
Little Buds	£ 2,580.33	£ 542.60	£ 2,185.50	£ 282.56
Baby Buds	£ 441.40		£ 328.50	
Messy Church	£ 883.50	£ 1,044.09	£ 840.00	£ 1,428.23
WLTDO	£ 624.00	£ 438.13	£ 480.00	£ 363.81
Sunday School		£ 252.00		£ 260.50
Youth	£ 70.00	£ 218.62	£ 88.00	£ 276.64
Restored		£ 445.61	£ 10.00	£ 248.90
Sports & Crafts	£ 4,308.90	£ 55.10	£ 3,449.60	£ 92.47
Thrive		£ 23.99		£ 10.00
The Harbour	£ 170.33	£ 215.29		

	2023		2022	
Seniors' Events	£ 1,110.00	£ 982.56	£ 1,730.00	£ 1,842.39
Men's Work	£ 90.00	£ 314.00		£ 90.00
Ladies Work	£ -	£ -	£ 340.00	£ 238.09
Other events / groups (Bicentenary / Christmas)		£ 235.00	£ 2,221.41	£ 1,734.74
Total	**£ 10,278.46**	**£ 4,766.99**	**£ 11,673.01**	**£ 6,868.33**

7. Area of Ministry: Catering

Account	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure
General Church (refreshments, communion etc)		£ 2,536.20		£ 2,346.99
Connect Café	£ 6,462.31	£ 3,567.88	£ 7,891.15	£ 4,509.61
Other Catering (S&C, summer café, funerals)	£ 786.49	£ 559.96	£ 2,422.16	£ 857.86
Total	**£ 7,248.80**	**£ 6,664.04**	**£ 10,313.31**	**£ 7,714.46**

8. Area of Mission

Mission giving	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure
Home Mission		£ 7,580.00		£ 7,500.00
Baptist Missionary Society (BMS)		£ 7,855.00		£ 7,500.00
AIM		£ 1,545.00		£ 1,600.00
CBM		£ 1,545.00		£ 1,600.00
MAF		£ 1,545.00		£ 1,600.00
Local Mission		£ 2,134.66	£ 30.00	£ 3,215.34
Other mission partner				£ 1,266.25
Total	**£ -**	**£ 22,204.66**	**£ 30.00**	**£ 24,281.59**

9. Area of Ministry: Manse

Account	2023 Income	2023 Expenditure	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure
Manse gifts	£ 3,290.00		£ 3,920.00	
Gift Aid Claimed	£ 630.00		£ 880.00	
Manse loan repayment		£ 1,314.00		£ 5,899.50
Manse mortgage repayments		£ 23,921.70		£ 20,365.36
Manse mortgage capital repayment		£ 5,000.00		£ 12,000.00
Insurance		£ 218.39		£ 195.00
Manse running costs		£ 1,831.49		£ 738.39
Total	**£ 3,920.00**	**£ 32,285.58**	**£ 4,800.00**	**£ 39,198.25**

Mission Giving 2023:

To take out of total for mission giving:		
Manse giving & gift aid	£	3,920.00
Camp income	£	1,562.50
External collection incom	£	4,100.41
The Harbour income	£	170.33
	£	**9,753.24**

	£ 157,028.47
1%	£ 1,570.28
2%	£ 3,140.57
5%	£ 7,851.42
15%	**£ 23,554.27**

10. Assets held in Trust

The church is the beneficial owner of land and buildings on Beveridge Street, Barrow upon Soar, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. A value for the aforementioned is not included, because reliable cost information is not available and valuation would incur significant costs, which would be onerous compared to any additional benefit gained.

The church is also the beneficial owner of land and buildings at 70 Thirlmere Road, Barrow upon Soar, LE12 8QQ, for use as a manse, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. The value of this property in September 2021 was £410,000.

11. Manse Loan

In September 2021, the church took out a loan from the Baptist Union Corporation for the purpose of purchasing a manse. At 31/12/2023 the balance of the loan was £252,846.24.

Additional interest free loans totalling £23,000 were received from church members, of which £7,363.50 has been repaid, giving a balance of £15,636.50 at 31/12/2023.

12. Tangible Assets	2023	2022
Balance brought forward	£ 14,849.14	£ 13,365.78
Additional items	£ 1,634.89	£ 3,724.04
Less depreciation & disposals	£ 2,918.26	£ 2,240.68
Total	**£ 13,565.77**	**£ 14,849.14**

The depreciation method is as follows:
Appliances: reducing balance over ten years
Computer equipment: reducing balance over five years
General equipment: straight line over ten years
Sound equipment: straight line over ten years

13. Liabilities / Accrued expenses	2023	2022
Agency collections	£ -	£ 786.36
Owed to suppliers	£ 155.44	£ -
Mission giving & collections to be paid	£ 445.14	£ 6,321.25
Total	**£ 600.58**	**£ 7,107.61**

14. Reserves

There are no restricted reserves.

15. Pension Costs

The church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as The Baptist Pension Scheme. The Baptist Pension Scheme fund has announced that they have signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. This agreement is referred to as a 'buy-in policy'. It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that Just are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan. The costs of such policies are largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee have agreed that deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan will reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022 until June 2026.

Declaration

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities set out above, relating to the year ending 31 December 2023, are as approved by the Charity Trustees.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of Barrow Baptist Church:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Barrow Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner
The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees 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 statement
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 the trustees 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
• accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
• the accounts do 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. (if accounts prepared on accruals basis*)

I 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.

*Delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply

Signed by the Examiner:

Date 13th MAY 2024

Name STUART MCDONALD

Relevant Professional Qualification(s) or body (if any)

ACA

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		

Date	



Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street, Barrow Upon Soar, LE12 8PL

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Registered Charity Number: 1129860

BARROW BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129860

Accounts

Barrow Baptist church



Church Report
Review of 2022

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1. Charity Information

Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Charity name:	Barrow upon Soar Baptist Church
Charity registration number:	1129860
Address:	Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street, Barrow Upon Soar, LE12 8PL
Property Trustees:	The East Midland Baptist Trust Company, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT
Bankers:	HSBC, Market Place, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3EJ
Independent Examiner:	Mr S. McDonald ACA
Charity Trustees:	Rev Neil Jones (Chair) Andrew Boston (Treasurer) to November 2022 Susan Graham Linda Wall Reuben Sneller (Secretary) Sharon Bradwell Davina Smith (Treasurer) from November 2022 Matthew Gudger from November 2022

Structure and management:

Barrow Baptist Church is an unincorporated association and is governed by its Constitution.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Members' Meetings currently take place monthly, except in April, August and December; the Members' Meeting has responsibility for the overall policy of the church.

The elected Trustees (listed above) are responsible for the overall governance of the church, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. Trustees are elected by the Church Meeting; details of the process for election of Trustees are described in the Constitution. The Trustees meet every other month in order to assist in the smooth running of the charity.

The minister of the church, Rev Neil Jones (Trustee & Elder), is responsible for the day to day running of the church, supported by Elders (also elected by the Members' Meeting) who are responsible for the spiritual direction of the charity. There is also a small staff team of church worker and administrator.

Activities and objectives:

The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

Achievements and performance, including report on public benefit:

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally and as such is described as a

community church. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

This report details the activities of Barrow Baptist Church during 2022 in fulfilment of its objectives; central to this is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship and times of prayer and also includes conducting Christian wedding services, funerals as well as running groups to support children and their parents / carers as well as seniors.

2. 2022 Synopsis

New Members	**13**
Baptisms	**5**
Deaths	**2**
Resignations	**10**

3. Minister's Report of 2022

Verse for 2022 – Ephesians 4:4-6, 'There is one body and one Spirit; one hope; one Lord; one faith; one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all'

2022 was a very special year for us at Barrow Baptist Church, as we celebrated 200 years of this particular church. Therefore, the year contained a number of special ways in which to celebrate the Bicentenary.

The year started with joy and anticipation, as most restrictions from the pandemic had been removed. All of our groups had restarted and we hit the ground running. The groups that were running as we began 2022 were: Little Buds, Baby Buds, Connect Café (on a Monday and Tuesday), Restored, Growth Groups, Silver Sports and Who Let the Dads Out, as well as regular Sunday morning services and Messy Church and Evening Praise once a month. Church members' meetings continued to be held monthly.

During the year we had five baptisms and six infants were dedicated at special services. These events are a real encouragement and blessing to the church family as we rejoice with those involved.

Bicentenary celebrations kicked off after Easter and included a special service on 8th May, to which a number of guests, including old members, were invited. This service triggered a special reading challenge in which people agreed to read either the whole Bible or the New Testament only in 200 days. A couple of weeks later we had a church photograph. In June, we welcomed pupils from the local primary school, Hall Orchard, to special assemblies, which included prizegiving for artwork the children had produced for the bicentenary. Also, in June we had a church fete with many activities and musical performances. In August there was a well-attended family-camp in the New Forest. There was a special night of music in September at a proms-style event titled 'Worship Through the Centuries' and in November we hosted a concert by the Hope Community Gospel Choir. In addition to these events, we had an article published in the Barrow Voice local newspaper, a Christmas tree at the local Christmas Tree festival (this was December 2021, raising awareness of the bicentenary), a commemorative logo, coasters and large banner were produced, groups organised events to mark the bicentenary, and work began on updating the history of the church.

As enthusiasm and energy continued to flow, there were a number of changes to groups and new groups started up. A craft section has joined Silver Sports (which poses us with the search for a new

name, ‘Sports and Crafts’ seems to be sticking) which has increased numbers attending this group and the food bank which had been primarily done by delivery since the pandemic began, started to meet in the church premises once a week. Two new groups started in September, both meeting monthly. Thrive is a group for people with dementia and their carers; it seeks to connect with people who have memory problems and aims to have conversations about Jesus, as well as games and singing. Firepit Friday is a group for men which meets around a fire pit, which aims to enable men to have open and honest conversations about life, health and faith.

Additional events that took place were that there were two Refresh events specifically for women hosted by the East Midlands Baptist Association and Christian Vision for Men’s ‘The Gathering’. Both events were attended by a number of people.

During 2022 two dear church members died and were committed to the Lord until we meet them again in eternity.

The church is thriving and God is blessing us all richly as we wait on him and serve him in his mission to share the good news of his kingdom’s arrival here on earth.

Grace and peace in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,
Neil

4. Mission Support

We continued to support a variety of other mission groups and projects who are meeting needs and sharing the gospel in our area and around the world. In 2022 we gave 15% of our total income to mission groups, this target was reached by making additional ‘top-up’ payments at the end of the year.

Local

We contribute to ‘Home Mission’ which supports churches, projects and staff within the East Midlands Baptist Association and across the country. We have been involved in mission in Barrow upon Soar, including through our ‘High Street Link’. We also continued our support of the church plant in Castle Donnington.

Global

We support the work of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), and are linked with Alan & Megan Barker and their work in Nepal. We also support three mission organisations on a rolling three-year basis. CBM (Christian Blind Mission) was our new mission partner and we continued with our support for Africa Inland Mission. The year concluded our support for Open Doors and we chose MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) to be our new partner for 2023.

5. Fabric of the Building

In 2022 the carpets in both the sanctuary and Gap were professionally cleaned, and the Gap and fire escape were both repainted, along with many other smaller maintenance tasks.

There are several larger maintenance tasks planned for the next few years and additional finances have been budgeted for this, to ensure that we keep our buildings in good order, preventing further problems from arising or unexpected expenditure being required.

6. Finance

The Trustees are responsible for managing the church's finances. A financial summary for 2022 is on the following page.

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Trustees have reviewed the Reserves Policy, and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to 3 months staff costs and mortgage payments plus one month's running costs, to cover emergency situations which may arise.

Barrow Baptist Church

Statement of Financial Activity

For the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Opening monetary balance (bank account/s & cash in hand)			£	69,800.70		2021		£90,737.27
	2022					2021		
Area of Ministry	**Income**		**Expenditure**			**Income**	**Expenditure**	
Giving	£	116,652.92	£	120.00	*2*	£ 115,664.78	£ -	
General Church	£	27,170.40	£	88,053.15	*3*	£ 15,943.47	£ 108,730.52	
Church Groups	£	9,451.60	£	5,133.59	*4*	£ 3,690.66	£ 3,682.87	
Alpha Course	£	-	£	-		£ -	£ 141.41	
Christmas	£	431.08	£	185.09		£ 20.00	£ 438.66	
The Big Week	£	-	£	-		£ 3,506.60	£ 3,921.59	
Bicentenary	£	1,790.25	£	1,549.65				
Food Bank	£	-	£	80.00		£ -	£ 10.00	
Practical Support	£	-	£	272.19				
Connect Cafe	£	7,891.15	£	4,509.61		£ 2,913.70	£ 3,494.53	
Other catering	£	2,422.16	£	857.86		£ 809.61	£ 790.75	
Mission	£	30.00	£	24,281.59	*5*	£ 80.00	£ 20,786.76	
Manse	£	4,800.00	£	39,198.25	*6*	£ 114,413.18	£ 137,610.73	
Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD)	£	-	£	499.21		£ -	£ 68.30	
Depreciation			£	2,240.68	*9*		£ 2,914.84	
Total	**£**	**170,639.56**	**£**	**166,980.87**		**£ 257,042.00**	**£ 282,590.96**	
Net gain / loss			**£**	**3,658.69**			**£ (25,548.96)**	

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2022

		2022			2021
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets					
Equipment	£	8,012.93		£	7,387.21
Tech & Computer Equipment	£	6,836.21		£	5,978.57
Total fixed assets	**£**	**14,849.14**	*9*	**£**	**13,365.78**
Current Assets					
Monetary balance					
Current Account	£	48,774.16		£	67,681.39
Baptists Together Deposit Account	£	25,231.85			
Cash in Hand	£	1,155.46		£	2,119.31
Total monetary assets	**£**	**75,161.47**		**£**	**69,800.70**
Accrued income	£	799.00		£	903.00
Total current assets	**£**	**75,960.47**		**£**	**70,703.70**
Accrued expenses / liabilities	£	7,107.61	*10*	£	4,026.17
Net Assets	**£**	**83,702.00**		**£**	**80,043.31**
Capital and Reserves					
Current year earnings	£	3,658.69		-£	25,548.96
Retained Earnings	£	80,043.31		£	105,592.27
Total Capital and Reserves	**£**	**83,702.00**	*11*	**£**	**80,043.31**

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and in line with S130 Charities Act 2011.

2. Area of Ministry: Giving

Account	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure	2021 Income	2021 Expenditure
Offering - Standing Order	£ 84,333.63	£ -	£ 86,840.20	£ -
Offering - Bank Transfer	£ 3,137.20	£ -	£ 961.00	£ -
Offering - Cash	£ 5,879.35	£ -	£ 3,829.24	£ -
Offering - Cq regular	£ 3,500.00	£ 120.00	£ 2,570.00	£ -
Offering - Cq one-off	£ 2,400.00	£ -	£ 1,500.00	£ -
Donations - general	£ -	£ -	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Gift Aid Claimed	£ 17,402.74	£ -	£ 18,964.34	£ -
Total	**£ 116,652.92**	**£ 120.00**	**£ 115,664.78**	**£ -**

3. Area of Ministry: Church -

Account	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure		2021 Income	2021 Expenditure	
Donations - general	£ 924.11	£ -		£ 1,408.00	£ -	
Room Hire	£ 12,120.00	£ -		£ 3,752.50	£ -	
Preaching Fees	£ -	£ 600.00		£ -	£ 250.00	
Catering / refreshments	£ -	£ 2,346.99		£ -	£ 1,355.26	
Funeral Fees	£ 923.00	£ -		£ 1,423.00	£ 438.00	
Leadership Development	£ -	£ 235.15		£ -	£ 751.80	
Equipment	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	
Equipment (non asset register)	£ -	£ 834.94		£ -	£ 149.31	
Tech & Computer Equipment	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	
Resources	£ -	£ 627.96		£ -	£ 185.10	
Building Repairs & Maintenance	£ -	£ 1,640.20		£ -	£ 2,572.61	
Building running costs	£ -	£ 9,559.07		£ 1,916.04	£ 12,336.11	
Admin	£ -	£ 1,392.69		£ 20.00	£ 10,666.09	
Insurance	£ -	£ 1,680.69		£ -	£ 1,596.34	
Marketing & Communication	£ 170.40	£ 253.66		£ -	£ 708.62	
Travel expenses	£ -	£ 283.70				
Ministers' stipends & pensions	468.45	£ 28,038.98		£ 49.60	£ 45,170.03	
Ministers Housing Costs	£ -	£ 3,285.56		£ 1,819.16	£ 14,757.55	
Subscriptions / Membership / Licenses	£ -	£ 2,300.22		£ -	£ 2,061.03	
Other employment	£ -	£ 28,370.88		£ -	£ 9,595.29	*
Pensions Deficit	£ 1.00	£ 2,810.28	*12*	£ -	£ 3,946.32	
External Collections	£ 3,235.54	£ 3,235.54		£ 1,769.37	£ 1,678.58	
Miscellaneous items	£ 374.55	£ 556.64		£ 3,735.80	£ 472.48	
Legacies	£ 8,721.50	£ -		£ -	£ -	
Interest	£ 231.85	£ -		£ -	£ -	
Consulting (2021)				£ -	£ 40.00	
Ministry fees (2021)				£ 50.00	£ -	
Total	**£ 27,170.40**	**£ 88,053.15**		**£ 15,943.47**	**£ 108,730.52**	

** September to December 2021, wages were been attributed to the work areas, e.g. Connect Café, Little Buds, Messy Church & Silver Sports*

4. Area of Ministry: Church Groups

Account	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure	2021 Income	2021 Expenditure
Little Buds	£ 2,185.50	£ 282.56	£ 982.33	£ 508.87
Baby Buds	£ 328.50	£ -	£ 1,082.69	£ 205.58
Messy Church	£ 840.00	£ 1,428.23	£ 464.64	£ 1,316.69
WLTDO	£ 480.00	£ 363.81	£ 114.00	£ 136.72
Sunday School	£ -	£ 260.50	£ -	£ 273.00
Youth general	£ 88.00	£ 276.64	£ -	£ 176.45
Restored	£ 10.00	£ 248.90	£ -	£ 244.54
Silver Sports	£ 3,449.60	£ 92.47	£ 711.00	£ 400.04
Thrive	£ -	£ 10.00		
Seniors' Events	£ 1,730.00	£ 1,842.39	£ 336.00	£ 330.98
Men's Work	£ -	£ 90.00	£ -	£ 90.00
Ladies Work	£ 340.00	£ 238.09	£ -	£ -
Total	**£ 9,451.60**	**£ 5,133.59**	**£ 3,690.66**	**£ 3,682.87**

5. Area of Mission

Mission	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure	2021 Income	2021 Expenditure
Home Mission	£ -	£ 7,500.00	£ -	£ 7,200.00
Baptist Missionary Society (BMS)	£ -	£ 7,500.00	£ 70.00	£ 3,870.00
Castle Donington Community Church	£ -	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ 2,500.00
Africa Inland Mission	£ -	£ 1,600.00	£ -	£ 2,000.00
Open Doors	£ -	£ 1,600.00	£ -	£ 2,000.00
CBM	£ -	£ 1,600.00		
Local Mission	£ 30.00	£ 3,215.34	£ 10.00	£ 72.76
Tearfund			£ -	£ 2,000.00
Exaireo		£ 266.25	£ -	£ 1,144.00
Total	**£ 30.00**	**£ 24,281.59**	**£ 80.00**	**£ 20,786.76**

6. Area of Ministry: Manse

Account	2022 Income	2022 Expenditure		2021 Income	2021 Expenditure
Manse gifts	£ 3,920.00	£ -		£ 83,140.44	£ -
Gift Aid Claimed	£ 880.00	£ -		£ 8,272.74	£ -
Manse loans	£ -	£ -	*8*	£ 23,000.00	£ -
Manse purchase & associated costs	£ -	£ 40.00		£ -	£ 131,962.36
Manse loan repayment	£ -	£ 5,899.50	*8*	£ -	£ 150.00
Manse mortgage repayments	£ -	£ 20,365.36		£ -	£ 4,818.30
Manse mortgage capital repayment	£ -	£ 12,000.00			
Insurance	£ -	£ 195.00		£ -	£ 148.64
Manse running costs	£ -	£ 599.75		£ -	£ 221.90
Ministers Housing Costs	£ -	£ 98.64		£ -	£ 309.53
Total	**£ 4,800.00**	**£ 39,198.25**		**£ 114,413.18**	**£ 137,610.73**

7. Assets held in Trust

The church is the beneficial owner of land and buildings on Beveridge Street, Barrow upon Soar, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. A value for the aforementioned is not included, because reliable cost information is not available and valuation would incur significant costs, which would be onerous compared to any additional benefit gained.

The church is also the beneficial owner of land and buildings at 70 Thirlmere Road, Barrow upon Soar, LE12 8QQ, for use as a manse, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. The value of this property in September 2021 was £410,000.

8. Manse Loan

In September 2021, the church took out a loan from the Baptist Union Corporation for the purpose of purchasing a manse. At 31/12/2022 the balance of the loan was £263,245.61.

Additional interest free loans totalling £23,000 were received from church members, of which £6,049.50 has been repaid, giving a balance of £16,950.50.

9. Tangible Assets		2022		2021
Balance brought forward	£	13,365.78	£	14,855.00
Additional items	£	3,724.04	£	1,425.62
Less depreciation	£	2,240.68	£	2,914.84
Total	**£**	**14,849.14**	**£**	**13,365.78**

The depreciation method is as follows:
Appliances: reducing balance over ten years
Computer equipment: reducing balance over five years
General equipment: straight line over ten years
Sound equipment: straight line over ten years

10. Liabilities / Accrued expenses		2022		2021
Agency collections	£	786.36	£	838.58
Owed to suppliers	£	-	£	543.59
Mission giving & collections to be paid	£	6,321.25	£	2,644.00
Total	**£**	**7,107.61**	**£**	**4,026.17**

11. Reserves

There are no restricted reserves.

12. Pension Costs

The church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as The Baptist Pension Scheme. The Baptist Pension Scheme fund has announced that they have signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. This agreement is referred to as a 'buy-in policy'. It follows a similar agreement with Just in 2019 that covered most pensions in payment at that time. The combined agreements mean that Just are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan. The costs of such policies are largely driven by financial markets and these have moved substantially in the Scheme's favour, particularly over the course of the last few months. As a result, this transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Although risks remain, the Baptist Union and the Trustee have agreed that deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan will reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022 until June 2026.

Template for Independent Examiners report, (where independent examiner does not wish to highlight any issues)

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Barrow Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner
The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees 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 statement
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 the trustees 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do 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. (if accounts prepared on accruals basis*)

I 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.

*Delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply

Signed by the Examiner:

Date 12th April 2023

Name STUART McDONALD

Relevant Professional Qualification(s) or body (if any) ACA

Address
80 MAPLEWELL RD
WOODHOUSE EAVES
LOUGHBOROUGH LE12 8RA

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
Date		



Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street, Barrow Upon Soar, LE12 8PL

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BARROW BAPTIST CHURCH

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Accounts

Barrow Baptist church



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community church. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

This report details the activities of Barrow Baptist Church during 2021 in fulfilment of its objectives; central to this is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship and times of prayer and also includes conducting Christian wedding services, funerals as well as running groups to support children and their parents / carers as well as seniors.

2. 2021 Synopsis

New Members	**1**
Baptisms	**0**
Deaths	**2**
Resignations	**7**
Removed from membership (attending another church)	**1**
Transfer to other Baptist Churches	**1**

3. Minister's Report of 2021

Verse for 2021 – Romans 15:13, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

The text for the year focussed on 'hope' which is something that we felt we needed given the context of a pandemic. In the midst of great pressures, challenges & uncertainties, we are promised hope, joy and peace from God when we trust in him. It is hope in him that gets us through life's challenges and 2021 was no exception.

2021 began with a new lockdown and the suspension of church services (not legislative, but recommended), so Neil and Ben began live-steaming of Sunday morning content from a small studio; during this time, we had participation from viewers who were encouraged to write in answers to a variety of questions that were posed. Pre-recorded videos of songs, readings, prayers and interviews were used to ensure that people felt connected to the church. In addition to this, we held some live, online evening worship events, where people were given space to reflect, worship and meet with God.

Through these early months of 2021 Jen & Reuben continued to hold monthly quizzes, again, bringing the body of Christ together, despite not meeting. The only church group that continued to meet was Baby Buds, our support group for new parents, where limited numbers could attend and social distancing was maintained.

During the spring we also held an online Alpha Course and Deeper ran again. These ministries reach out to those who are not familiar with faith and those who want to grow in their faith respectively.

As winter turned to spring, the vaccines were roll out programme continued and cases came down. Which meant that at Easter, the restrictions were slightly eased. This meant that we were able to meet and sing worship together in our car park. It was such a blessing to be able to meet, have live music, sing and be together as a body – all outside in God's great creation.

This pattern of weekly carpark services continued every week from beginning of April until end of August, with the exception of one rained off Sunday. This was a wonderful demonstration of God's mercy and faithfulness. Over time, as we were permitted, we began coffee time with groups for conversation and on the late spring bank holiday we were able to have a BBQ and social gathering.

With being able to meet outside, we were able to re-start Messy Church again in-person. This enabled us to reconnect with many families, most of whom have struggled to have any kind of Christian input to their children with the restrictions of the pandemic.

The carpark services required a huge volunteer force to make them happen, and it is such a blessing that so many at Barrow Baptist Church pulled together and gave of themselves to ensure we could meet week-by-week.

In the summer, Little Buds, our toddler group, started up again on a Monday. Though numbers were restricted as it was indoors, we were able to welcome so many from our community who have little children.

Also in the summer, Tuesday Live restarted under new name of Restored. This is a mid-week gathering and service for predominantly retired folk where they sing songs of praise, hear a talk that is relevant to them and enjoy refreshments and time together.

During this time, it was wonderful to see the church re-open, like a perennial flower opening in spring. Though at the time it seemed like baby-steps and a slow process, we can look back and realise that we were **s**eeing God move in many and varied ways, to lead us out of the darkness of the preceding year.

With much enthusiasm, we were able to host the Big Week in August. This week is a week of reaching out into the community by putting on various events for all ages. This year's Big Week included a senior's entertainer and a fish & chip lunch; a Fayre in the car park and 'champing' (camping in the church). We were able to connect and reconnect with many people during this week.

As we moved into the autumn months we didn't slow down as a church. Earlier in the summer the church had voted to purchase a manse. This demonstrated the faith of the church, combined with faithfulness of God. Though there were mixed emotions, as the house was house from long-standing members moving on, it has proved a blessing to Neil and his family, and will ultimately serve the church and its ministry for years to come. The family moved in in mid-September.

At this time, the Sunday morning church gathering and Messy Church moved back into building and we sadly said goodbye to Ben as he moved on to pastures new at Bilston Baptist Church. We are grateful for Ben's ministry here in Barrow and pray that God will use him mightily in Bilston and that he would in turn be blessed there.

From September we increased the frequency of church members' meetings, to once per month. At these meetings we begin and end with sung worship and prayer and allow time for conversation and feedback on a variety of topics. During the last four months of 2021, we discussed a church mission statement and worked together to produce a budget for 2022, using a piece of computer software that enabled everyone to have a go at balancing the books. The church mission statement that was adopted is, 'Developing relationships with God, one another and our community.' This will be unpacked in the future.

During the last few months of 2021, we continued to see God at work in our lives and in his church. We held a Christianity Explored course, in person, which introduces people to the Christian faith and helps people to learn how to read the Bible. We opened the Connect Café on a Monday and Tuesday lunchtime. Little Buds, Baby Buds and Restored were back in operation and in full swing. We also restarted Silver Sports, Who Let The Dads Out, held a Superhero party on October 31st and celebrated Neil's ordination which had been postponed since 2020. Throughout this time, we were able to

welcome many new and returning people into the church premises and family. We could feel the presence of God moving among us and leading us to be bold and courageous.

At Christmas we were very busy telling, remembering and celebrating the story of God's salvation plan brought to us in the incarnation. We had stone painting (pictures of a baby to represent Jesus) to invite people to the Nativity service, there was a special Christmas Messy Church. We had two stalls at the Barrow upon Soar Christmas market – one with church materials and the Nativity display in the Round House and the other which was evangelistic in nature. We also ran Sing Christmas at the Conservative Club, did a Senior's Christmas lunch and held a Nativity service, Carols by candlelight service and a Christmas Day service.

Despite a very difficult year, we have seen God at work in, through and with us as a church. We have seen and experienced his blessings, even in the darkest of times and have plenty to look forward to, with great expectation, for 2022, during which we celebrate the bicentenary of this church and continued re-opening of various events throughout the year.

Grace and peace in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,
Neil

4. Mission Support

We continued to support a variety of other mission groups and projects who are meeting needs and sharing the gospel in our area and around the world. In 2021 we gave 15% of our total income to mission groups, this target was reached by making additional 'top-up' payments at the end of the year.

Local

We contribute to 'Home Mission' which supports churches, projects and staff within the East Midlands Baptist Association and across the country. We also continued our support of the church plant in Castle Donnington.

Global

We support the work of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), and are linked with Alan & Megan Barker and their work in Nepal. We also support three mission organisations on a rolling three-year basis. Africa Inland Mission was our new mission partner and we continued with our support for Open Doors. The year concluded our support for Tearfund and we chose CBM to be our new partner for 2022.

5. Fabric of the Building

The main work carried out in 2021 was to replace the lighting in the Gap, the old lighting would no longer pass the required checks and the new lighting is brighter and the configuration better covers the space.

Lots of other smaller works were carried out, including the re-lining of the car park spaces, installing ethernet cabling to all offices, repairing a broken pane of glass in the sanctuary and roofing repairs.

6. Finance

The Trustees are responsible for managing the church's finances. A financial summary for 2021 is on the following page.

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. During the year, the most significant event was the purchase of a manse, financed through gifts and loans from members and a loan from the Baptist Union Corporation.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Trustees have reviewed and updated the Reserves Policy, and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have reviewed and updated the reserves policy to maintain a separate balance on unrestricted funds which equates to 3 months staff costs and mortgage payments plus one month's running costs, to cover emergency situations which may arise.

Barrow Baptist Church

Statement of Financial Activity

For the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Opening monetary balance (bank account/s & cash in hand)				£90,737.27		2020		£72,720
		2021				2020		
Area of Ministry		**Income**		**Expenditure**		**Income**		**Expenditure**
Giving	£	115,664.78	£	-	*2*	£ 118,004	£	-
General Church	£	15,943.47	£	108,730.52	*3*	£ 30,244	£	108,266
Church Groups	£	3,690.66	£	3,682.87	*4*	£ 3,274	£	1,776
Alpha Course	£	-	£	141.41		£ -	£	-
Christmas	£	20.00	£	438.66		£ -	£	947
The Big Week	£	3,506.60	£	3,921.59		£ -	£	-
Food Bank	£	-	£	10.00		£ -	£	-
Community engagement	£	10.00	£	72.76		£ -	£	-
Connect Cafe	£	2,913.70	£	3,494.53		£ 1,433		
Other catering	£	809.61	£	790.75		£ 803	£	2,997
Mission	£	70.00	£	20,714.00	*5*	£ 172	£	21,927
Manse	£	114,413.18	£	137,610.73	*6*	£ -	£	-
Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD)	£	-	£	68.30		£ -	£	-
Depreciation			£	2,914.84	*8*			
Total	**£**	**257,042.00**	**£**	**282,590.96**		**£ 153,930**	**£**	**135,913**
Net gain / loss			**£**	**(25,548.96)**			**£**	**18,017**
Closing monetary balance (bank account & cash in hand)			**£**	**65,188.31**			**£**	**90,737**

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2021

		2021			2020
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets					
Equipment	£	7,387.21		£	7,998
Tech & Computer Equipment	£	5,978.57		£	6,857
Total fixed assets	**£**	**13,365.78**	*9*	**£**	**14,855**
Current Assets					
Monetary balance					
Current Account	£	67,681.39		£	90,488
Cash in Hand	£	2,119.31		£	249
Total monetary assets	**£**	**69,800.70**		**£**	**90,737**
Accrued income	£	903.00		£	-
Total current assets	**£**	**70,703.70**		**£**	**90,737**
Accrued expenses / liabilities	£	4,026.17	*10*	£	-
Net Assets	**£**	**80,043.31**		**£**	**105,592**
Capital and Reserves					
Current year earnings	-£	25,548.96		£	18,016.59
Retained Earnings	£	105,592.27		£	87,575.68
Total Capital and Reserves	**£**	**80,043.31**	*11*	**£**	**105,592.27**

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and in line with S130 Charities Act 2011.
The accounting software used in 2021 is different than the one used for 2020; to better serve the needs of the church, this has meant a change to some of the categories used, as can be seen in the notes below.

2. Area of Ministry: Giving

Account		Income		Expenditure		2020 Income		2020 Expenditure
Offering - Standing Order	£	86,840.20	£	-			£	-
Offering - Bank Transfer	£	961.00	£	-			£	-
Offering - Cash	£	3,829.24	£	-			£	-
Offering - Cq regular	£	2,570.00	£	-			£	-
Offering - Cq one-off	£	1,500.00	£	-			£	-
Donations - general	£	1,000.00	£	-			£	-
Gift Aid Claimed	£	18,964.34				£ 18,952	£	-
Regular offerings (2020)	£	-	£	-		£ 99,051	£	-
Total	**£**	**115,665**	**£**	**-**		**£ 118,004**	**£**	**-**

3. Area of Ministry: Church - general

Account		Income		Expenditure		2020 Income		2020 Expenditure
Donations - general	£	1,408.00	£	-		£ 3,430	£	-
Room Hire	£	3,752.50	£	-		£ 4,993	£	-
Ministry fees	£	50.00	£	-		£ -	£	-
Preaching Fees	£	-	£	250.00		£ -	£	100
Catering / refreshments	£	-	£	1,355.26		£ -	£	-
Funeral Fees	£	1,423.00	£	438.00		£ -	£	-
Consulting	£	-	£	40.00		£ -	£	-
Leadership Development	£	-	£	751.80		£ -	£	71
Equipment	£	-	£	-		£ -	£	-
Equipment (non asset register)	£	-	£	149.31		£ -	£	-
Tech & Computer Equipment	£	-	£	-		£ -	£	3,060
Resources	£	-	£	185.10		£ -	£	476
Building Repairs & Maintenance	£	-	£	2,572.61		£ -	£	2,342
Building running costs	£	1,916.04	£	12,336.11		£ -	£	8,073
Admin	£	20.00	£	10,666.09		£ -	£	1,485
Insurance	£	-	£	1,596.34		£ -	£	1,390
Marketing & Communication	£	-	£	708.62		£ -	£	-
Ministers' stipends & pensions	£	49.60	£	45,170.03		£ -	£	34,553
Ministers Housing Costs	£	1,819.16	£	14,757.55		£ -	£	11,922
Subscriptions / Membership / Licenses	£	-	£	2,061.03		£ -	£	1,818
Other employment	£	-	£	9,595.29	*	£ -	£	23,756
Pensions Deficit	£	-	£	3,946.32	*12*	£ -	£	2,909
External Collections	£	1,769.37	£	1,678.58		£ -	£	-
Miscellaneous items	£	3,735.80	£	472.48		£ 77	£	269
Legacies	£	-	£	-		£ 5,002	£	-
Special collection (2020)						£ 145	£	-
Bookstall sales (2020)						£ 37	£	-
Grant funding (2020)						£ 16,560	£	-
Pastoral vacancy						£ -	£	4,184
Minister's travel and expenses (2020)						£ -	£	353
Buildings upgrade (2020)						£ -	£	2,908

Christmas (2020)					£	-	£	947
Coronovirus response (2020)					£	-	£	8,597
Total	**£**	**15,943.47**	**£**	**108,730.52**	**£**	**30,244**	**£**	**109,213**

** From September 2021, wages have been attributed to the work areas, e.g. Connect Café, Little Buds, Messy Church & Silver Sports*

4. Area of Ministry: Church Groups

Account	Income		Expenditure		2020 Income		2020 Expenditure	
Little Buds	£	982.33	£	508.87				
Baby Buds	£	1,082.69	£	205.58				
Messy Church	£	464.64	£	1,316.69	£	-	£	181
WLTDO	£	114.00	£	136.72	£	127	£	-
Sunday School	£	-	£	273.00	£	-	£	-
Youth general	£	-	£	176.45	£	-	£	353
Restored (Tuesday Live 2020)	£	-	£	244.54	£	190	£	380
Silver Sports	£	711.00	£	400.04	£	561	£	25
Seniors' Events	£	336.00	£	330.98	£	534	£	630
Men's Work	£	-	£	90.00	£	-	£	83
Ladies Work	£	-	£	-	£	66	£	-
Little Buds & Baby Buds (2020)					£	1,702	£	92
Sparks (2020)					£	93	£	32
Total	**£**	**3,690.66**	**£**	**3,682.87**	**£**	**3,274**	**£**	**1,776**

5. Area of Mission

Mission	Income		Expenditure		2020 Income		2020 Expenditure	
Home Mission	£	-	£	7,200.00	£	-	£	7,200
Baptist Missionary Society (BMS)	£	70.00	£	3,870.00	£	172	£	3,200
Castle Donington Community Church	£	-	£	2,500.00	£	-	£	5,000
Africa Inland Mission	£	-	£	2,000.00	£	-	£	-
Open Doors	£	-	£	2,000.00	£	-	£	1,200
Tearfund	£	-	£	2,000.00	£	-	£	1,500
Exaireo	£	-	£	1,144.00	£	-	£	-
Turkic Belt (2020)					£	-	£	2,004
Missionary Account (2020)					£	-	£	1,823
Total	**£**	**70.00**	**£**	**20,714.00**	**£**	**172**	**£**	**21,927**

6. Area of Ministry: Manse

Account	Income		Expenditure			2020 Income		2020 Expenditure	
Manse gifts	£	83,140.44	£	-		£	-	£	-
Gift Aid Claimed	£	8,272.74	£	-		£	-	£	-
Manse loans	£	23,000.00	£	-	8	£	-	£	-
Manse purchase & associated costs	£	-	£	131,962.36		£	-	£	-
Manse loan repayment	£	-	£	150.00	8	£	-	£	-
Manse mortgage repayments	£	-	£	4,818.30		£	-	£	-
Insurance	£	-	£	148.64		£	-	£	-
Manse running costs	£	-	£	221.90		£	-	£	-
Ministers Housing Costs	£	-	£	309.53		£	-	£	-
Total	**£**	**114,413.18**	**£**	**137,610.73**		**£**	**-**	**£**	**-**

7. Assets held in Trust

The church is the beneficial owner of land and buildings on Beveridge Street, Barrow upon Soar, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. A value for the aforementioned is not included, because reliable cost information is not available and valuation would incur significant costs, which would be onerous compared to any additional benefit gained.

The church is also the beneficial owner of land and buildings at 70 Thirlmere Road, Barrow upon Soar, LE12 8QQ, for use as a manse, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. The value of this property in September 2021 was £410,000.

8. Manse Loan

In September 2021, the church took out a loan from the Baptist Union Corporation for the purpose of purchasing a manse. At 31/12/2021 the balance of the loan was £283,718.99.

Additional interest free loans totalling £23,000 were received from church members, of which £150 has been repaid.

9. Tangible Assets		2021		2020
Balance brought forward	£	14,855.00	£	19,794.00
Additional items	£	1,425.62	£	2,755.00
Less depreciation	£	2,914.84	£	7,694.00
Total	**£**	**13,365.78**	**£**	**14,855.00**

The depreciation method is as follows:
Appliances: reducing balance over ten years
Computer equipment: reducing balance over five years
General equipment: straight line over ten years
Sound equipment: straight line over ten years

11. Reserves

There are no restricted reserves.

10. Liabilities / Accrued expense		2021		2020
Agency collections	£	838.58	£	-
Owed to suppliers	£	543.59	£	-
Mission giving to be paid	£	2,644.00	£	-
Total	**£**	**4,026.17**	**£**	**-**

12. Pension Costs

The church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as The Baptist Pension Scheme. The Baptist Pension Scheme fund has a large deficit and each church is responsible for their share of the defecit. The church's share of the defecit at 20 December 2021 was £53,900.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Barrow Baptist Church		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2021	**Charity no (if any)**	1129860
Set out on pages	6-9 of the Church Report 2021		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2021**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

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 Charities 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.

Signed:	[signature]	**Date:**	25.4.22
Name:	STUART A.B. MCDONALD ACA		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	MEMBER OF THE ICAEW		

Address:	80 MAPLEWELL ROAD
	WOODHOUSE EAVES
	LOUGHBOROUGH LE12 8RA

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.



Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street, Barrow Upon Soar, LE12 8PL

01509 416603 | www.barrowbaptist.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1129860

BARROW BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1129860

Accounts

Barrow Baptist church



Church Report

Review of 2020

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1. Charity Information

Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

Charity name:	Barrow upon Soar Baptist Church
Charity registration number:	1129860
Address:	Barrow Baptist Church, Beveridge Street, Barrow Upon Soar, LE12 8PL
Property Trustees:	The East Midland Baptist Trust Company, Baptist House, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8RT
Bankers:	HSBC, Market Place, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3EJ
Independent Examiner:	Mr S. McDonald ACA
Charity Trustees:	Rev Neil Jones (Chair) Edward Dring (Secretary) Andrew Boston (Treasurer) Susan Graham Linda Wall

Structure and management:

Barrow Baptist Church is an unincorporated association and is governed by its Constitution.

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or following other modes of baptism to renew their public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Members' Meetings currently take place monthly, except in August and December; the Members' Meeting has responsibility for the overall policy of the church.

The elected Trustees (listed above) are responsible for the overall governance of the church, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. Trustees are elected by the Church Meeting; details of the process for election of Trustees are described in the Constitution. The Trustees meet every other month and in order to assist in the smooth running of the charity, a finance sub-committee has been set up; this group has no independent decision-making powers but reports in to Trustees meetings.

The minister of the church, Rev Neil Jones (Trustee & Elder), is responsible for the day to day running of the church, supported by Elders (also elected by the Members' Meeting) who are responsible for the spiritual direction of the charity. There is also a small staff team of cleaner, church worker and administrator.

Activities and objectives:

The advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

Achievements and performance, including report on public benefit:

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally and as such is described as a community church. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

This report details the activities of Barrow Baptist Church during 2020 in fulfilment of its objectives; central to this is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship and times of prayer and also includes conducting Christian wedding services, funerals as well as running groups to support children and their parents / carers as well as seniors.

2. Minister's Introduction

2020 was not the year we were hoping for, nor expecting. It was full of frustrations and apparently endless dead-ends. However, we are still able to see the work of God in and through us, despite the difficult circumstances we found ourselves in. God is faithful to his church; therefore, we can trust that he will look after and bless it in the months and years to come.

As you read the pages that follow, make sure to recognise the hand of God, and see what he has been doing.

Now that we are in 2021, we look forward to a return to normality, though things will look and be different. We are different, the world around us is different and society is different. But let us not forget that God's character never changes; he still loves us, cares for us, protects us, walks beside us and guides us in his ways. Therefore, let us keep our eyes fixed on him, observing his movements and then let's follow and join in.

God bless you,

Neil Jones
Lead Minister

3. January to mid-March

The year started off with various celebrations. Within the first five Sundays we had a joint service with the other churches in the village, Neil came to preach with a view and, very excitingly, we saw three of our family baptised!

We also held a games night in January, following the success of the one during the Big Week the previous summer. This was a relaxed evening and a good time of fellowship with one another. Another chance for building this social side came in March when we had a bring-and-share lunch after a service.

During this time, we continued our many and varied groups and activities, a summary of which can be seen below:

> Sunday School, Baby Buds, Little Buds, WLTDO (Who Let The Dads Out?), Sparks, Youth, Tuesday Live, Silver Sports, Tuesday Café, Growth Groups, Deeper, Messy Church, Evening Services, Prayer Meetings and, of course, our Sunday gatherings.

We rejoice in all that went on in that time, and give thanks for all the volunteers that invested time into these groups.

Seeing these activities is, of course, a reminder of what we have missed since then, however we were glad that we managed to fit so much in before the separation that was to follow. As well as the activities above, we held our AGM but, more significantly, we also had a special church meeting in February. This meeting was called to discern God's will concerning the appointment of Neil Jones as the new Lead Minister of Barrow Baptist Church. After due consideration, we agreed to call Neil to this role and he accepted with a view to start in the summer.

Let us remember with joy all that we saw happen in this short period, and we look ahead with anticipation for when we see more of this to come.

4. Mid-March to August

We are all aware of the major changes that occurred, not only in the life of the church, but in all our lives from the end of March. As we approached Mother's Day, it became clear that there was going to be a period where we wouldn't be able to meet with one another. This period has been longer than many of us may have thought but, while we are still longing to come back together, we are thankful for new ways of being church that have opened up during this time and enabled us to find connection in some way.

Services, Groups and Meeting Together

From that first Sunday, we needed to find ways we could provide for that sense of corporate worship. This took us online, and we had one busy week prior to lockdown in which we managed to record a number of songs to use in our worship. We quickly developed an online style, and it was lovely to see a number of faces in the interviews and prayers each week, as well as speakers coming to us from all sorts of locations around home, garden and beyond! This went alongside 12 weeks of daily services, followed by weekly services once things had eased a little. All of these were also made available in CD or DVD form for those unable to access online.

We also introduced a number of online activities to connect in different ways, and began a rhythm of prayer meetings, coffee mornings, worship nights, quiz nights, and many of our growth groups took to zoom. It has of course been a learning curve for most of us, and we may have sometimes felt screen-fatigue, but that sense of seeing and talking to one another, being disciples together, has been very beneficial. It was for this reason that we also began to join on zoom for communion – a chance to visually remember that we are together as God's body, with a bonus of a 'coffee time' catch-up afterwards.

Connection was also kept up with our Little Buds families through regular 'circle time' sessions live from the Dunn household. In addition, we began Messy Church services accompanied by packs delivered to the children beforehand. The youth continued to meet each week on zoom and provided support and prayer for one another.

Community Support

Upon entering lockdown, we saw the potential for huge needs across our community. Many were having to shield, some were facing job uncertainty and we had no idea the level to which people may get ill and need caring for. For these reasons we set up a response, coordinating with the newly formed 'Helping Hands' online community group. We provided a central support service which was used for linking those shielding or isolating with people who could shop for them, a food bank, provision of cooked meals for those that required it and phone befriending for those particularly struggling with isolation. All these services were used in some way, particularly the shopping links, but we were thankful that the demand for the foodbank was not as busy as first feared.

We began this work in faith and through making use of the existing resources. We were, however, very blessed to receive £18,620 towards this work of the church, in grants and direct donations. The majority of this was given through two grants of approximately £8,000 each, from Leicestershire County Council Communities Fund and Barrow Parish Council.

Pastoral Support

It was great to see many people picking up the phone to keep up with others in the church. Each growth group found the best way for them to continue to provide that mutual support, some meeting on zoom, others keeping a phone chain going. As well as all the informal support that was going on, an attempt was made to make sure each person had someone in touch with them every so often. It hasn't always been easy to keep up with how people are, but the response of the pastoral team, group leaders and individuals has been fantastic to see.

One way we gave some extra support when people needed it, was through the provision of a few cooked meals. This developed into everyone receiving a little treat as summer approached with a cream tea pack!

Volunteers and Leadership

In all these changes, many things happened quickly and all of it was very different. Everything we managed to do was helped by a number of people who offered their time and skills, and many more offered than we could actually use!

Behind the scenes, the trustees and elders met every week to keep up with what was going on and the staff team continued to work hard to deliver the support we were giving. Many others gave time to zoom meetings, making crafts, manning phones, copying DVDs, providing videos for our services and there are more than can be listed here. Along with the leadership and staff, special thanks must be given to Graham and Karen Dunn for all their work with the regular 'Circle Time' and Dom Boston for all his work editing services and providing tech support for many of our members.

5. September to December

In September, we were pleased to welcome Neil, Helen, Eliza and Joel to the village. It has obviously been strange for the family, and particularly for Neil, as there still hasn't been the chance to get to know everyone. Neil has, however, settled into his temporary role as minister-in-pandemic but looks forward to seeing the church back in full swing once again.

Summer also brought an easing of restrictions and we were pleased to be able to do some activities together. A summary of these can be seen below.

Baby Buds We were able to offer this ministry as a support group to new mums from in and around our village. The testimony of attendees has been that it is the highlight of their week and a real lifeline. Following legislation has proven to be challenging, but not insurmountable, and it has been wonderful to be able to offer this group to those who have connected.

Live Services were a blessing to those who attended, offering some degree of communal worship and fellowship. It was hard to not sing, shake hands or hug one another, and to limit our social interaction. Sadly, these only lasted until the end of October, as we entered a new lockdown.

Tuesday Live met in October at two services which were identical in content, with music and Neil sharing his testimony. It was wonderful to see each other after such a long hiatus. Again, it was with sadness that the meetings had to stop.

Christmas was a unique experience that was wonderful in many, unexpected, ways. There was carol singing in the car park, Advent displays in the church entrance and the Round House, online Nativity, Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Day service, and the usual distribution of Christmas cards around the village.

6. Mission Support

We continued to support a variety of other mission groups and projects who are meeting needs and sharing the gospel in our area and around the world. In 2020 we gave 14.2% of our total income to mission groups, for 2021 we will be using a new model to make sure that we achieve our aim of contributing 15% of our annual income.

Local

We contribute to 'Home Mission' which supports churches, projects and staff within the East Midlands Baptist Association and across the country. We also continued our support of the church plant in Castle Donnington, during 2020 they rejoiced in being able to celebrate a lockdown baptism!

Global

We support the work of the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), and have been linked with Alan & Megan Barker and their work in Nepal. Unfortunately, they weren't able to come and visit us, but it was great to hear about some of the work they do in their online interview. We also support three mission organisations on a rolling three-year basis. Open Doors was our new mission partner and we continued with our support for Tearfund. The year concluded our support for Turkic Belt and we chose Africa Inland Mission to be our new partner for 2021.

7. Practical & Building

Fabric of the building

While the building has been empty, an opportunity to tidy up has been taken. Largely, this has been in our main store cupboards which have been sorted, painted and cleaned out. In assessing how we may need to operate in the future, work has been undertaken in the GAP to provide a hatch from the creche/kitchenette into the main hall. This will allow food to be served in an easier way, and may allow a speedier return to some of our activities.

A number of small jobs have also been undertaken around the building, including the painting of the school room front entrance hall and interior cleaning of the big church windows.

Technical

Dom and Ben, in particular, have been kept very busy this year, adapting to online services. Whilst we long to return to meeting again, we also recognise the benefit to many of having services available online. For this reason, we have invested in a camera that can suitably film our church services, as well as upgrading our computer system to cope with the demands of running everything online.

Also, within the area of technical, we recognise the efforts of many who have adapted to new systems and learnt new skills, to engage better with others and access the church services and online activities. A highlight during the year was seeing a number of people part of the 'In Christ Alone' virtual choir, and many others in the worship group who have managed to be part of the home recordings.

8. Governance

Leadership & Trustees

Managing a vacancy and a pandemic response has, naturally, been very time consuming this year and we are very thankful for all the work the trustees and elders have put in. In April, Sue began a 3-month sabbatical following two terms as an elder. This turned out to be different to the sabbatical planned with a lot more time at home rather than travelling! We were very pleased to welcome Neil to the team in September and look forward to where we may be heading next. For the first few months of the pandemic, the team met every week, this was gradually eased back as things became more settled.

This year there have been many things for the trustees to grapple with, not least of which was how to make the church building 'Covid-safe'. Safeguarding and Health & Safety continued to be assessed throughout the year to provide a safe space and ensure we comply with the requirements of the law. The Trustees continue to seek prayerfully to act in accordance with God's will.

A major change in the trustee team came from Ian sensing that the time had come to step down from his formal roles within the church. We are extremely grateful for all that Ian has put into the church and the leadership during this time and will miss his wisdom and skills. As Ian was chair of trustees, treasurer and church secretary, these roles have needed to be shared out. Neil is currently sitting as chair of trustees, Andy is the treasurer and Ed is church secretary. They are joined on the trustee team by the other elders; Sue, Linda and Ben.

Finance

The Trustees are responsible for managing the church's finances. A financial summary for 2020 is on the following page. During the year, our contracts were reviewed, including for our phone and broadband, which resulted in a significant saving, with our utility provider due to be changed in 2021.

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. In 2020, a Covid19 support project, including setting up a food bank and the provision of cooked meals, was supported through grant funding.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy, and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have a policy to maintain a separate balance on unrestricted funds which equates to 3 months unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations which may arise.

Barrow upon Soar Baptist Church
Financial Statement for year ending 31 December 2020

		2019		2020	
Opening monetary balance (bank account/s & cash in hand)	**£**	**35,116**	**£**	**72,720**	
Income					
Regular offerings	£	104,668	£	99,051	
Donations, Grants and other income	£	13,605	£	25,252	*2*
Income tax recovered on gifts	£	19,549	£	18,952	
Church Groups	£	12,598	£	3,274	*3*
Catering	£	9,491	£	2,236	*4*
Bank Interest	£	-	£	-	
Building Hire and Event fees	£	4,152	£	4,993	
Mission	£	369	£	172	*5*
Total income	£	164,432	£	153,930	
Expenditure					
Church groups	£	6,907	£	1,776	*3*
Catering	£	13,838	£	2,997	*4*
Mission	£	21,473	£	21,927	*5*
Ministry	£	47,813	£	64,826	*6*
Upkeep of premises	£	19,932	£	20,078	*7*
Administration	£	11,511	£	11,588	*8*
Other Expenditure	£	5,354	£	12,722	*9*
Total expenditure	£	126,827	£	135,913	
Net gain / loss	**£**	**37,605**	**£**	**18,017**	
Closing monetary balance (bank account/s & cash in hand)	**£**	**72,720**	**£**	**90,737**	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at year end

		2019		2020	
Current Assets					
Monetary balance					
Current Account	£	72,383	£	90,488	
Cash in Hand	£	337	£	249	
Total	**£**	**72,720**	**£**	**90,737**	
Prepayments and other debtors	£	1,197	£	-	
Total current assets	£	73,917	£	90,737	
Other Assets					
Furniture & Equipment	£	19,794	£	14,855	*11*
Less Liabilities	£	265	£	-	*12*
Net Assets	£	93,446	£	105,592	

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and in line with S130 Charities Act 2011

2. Donations, Grants and other income

	2019	2020
General Donations	£ 200	£ 3,430
Grant Funding	£ -	£ 16,560
Legacies	£ -	£ 5,002
Building fund	£ 5,000	£ -
Fellowship Fund	£ 7,037	£ -
Other items	£ 183	£ 77
Special Collection	£ 1,042	£ 145
Bookstall sales	£ 143	£ 37
Total	**£ 13,605**	**£ 25,252**

3. Church Groups

	2019		2020	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Ignite	£ -	£ 537	£ -	£ -
Ladies Work	£ 612	£ 585	£ 66	£ -
Little Buds & Baby Buds	£ 4,574	£ 294	£ 1,702	£ 92
Marriage Courses	£ 30	£ 35	£ -	£ -
Mens Work	£ 21	£ 126	£ -	£ 83
Messy Church	£ 251	£ 305	£ -	£ 181
Senior Citizens Work	£ 1,324	£ 782	£ 534	£ 630
Silver Sports	£ 2,332	£ 144	£ 561	£ 25
Sparks	£ 315	£ 57	£ 93	£ 32
The Big Week	£ 2,578	£ 2,274	£ -	£ -
Tuesday Live		£ 247	£ 190	£ 380
Who Let the Dads Out	£ 300	£ 138	£ 127	£ -
Youth Work	£ 261	£ 1,383	£ -	£ 353
Total	**£ 12,598**	**£ 6,907**	**£ 3,274**	**£ 1,776**

4. Catering

	2019		2020	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
General Catering	£ 3,391	13326	£ 803	2997
Tuesday Café	£ 6,100	512	£ 1,433	0
Total	**£ 9,491**	**£ 13,838**	**£ 2,236**	**£ 2,997**

5. Mission

	2019		2020	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
BMS	£ 184	£ 3,384	£ 172	£ 3,200
Castle Donington		£ 5,000		£ 5,000
Compassion		£ 1,100		£ -
Home Mission		£ 7,200		£ 7,200
Missionary Account	£ 185	£ 2,785		£ 1,823
Tear Fund		£ -		£ 1,500
Turkic Belt		£ 2,004		£ 2,004
Open Doors				£ 1,200
Total	**£ 369**	**£ 21,473**	**£ 172**	**£ 21,927**

6. Ministry expenditure

	2019	2020
Ministers stipends	£ 30,577	£ 31,995
Ministers housing	£ -	£ 11,922
Church Worker Wages	£ 10,820	£ 12,000
National Insurance & pension contributions	£ 1,862	£ 2,558
Ministers travel and expenses	£ 381	£ 353
Books for church	£ 240	£ 240
Copyright licence	£ 990	£ 1,056
Courses and conferences	£ 950	£ 71
External preachers	£ 410	£ 100
Music	£ 225	£ 110
Pastoral Vacancy	£ 1,103	£ 4,184
Worship supplies	£ 255	£ 236
Total	**£ 47,813**	**£ 64,826**

7. Church premises expenditure

	2019	2020
Buildings upgrade	£ -	£ 2,908
Utilities	£ 5,775	£ 5,037
Cleaning supplies and wages	£ 6,065	£ 5,342
Insurances	£ 1,320	£ 1,390
Repairs and maintenance	£ 5,239	£ 2,342
Technical Supplies	£ 1,533	£ 3,060
Total	**£ 19,932**	**£ 20,078**

8. Administration Expenditure

	2019	2020
Accountancy Costs	£ 516	£ 540
Administration Wages	£ 6,400	£ 7,950
Card reader processing fee	£ 88	£ 38
Health & Safety	£ 498	£ -
Legal Expenses	£ 44	£ 35
Payroll Costs	£ 410	£ 410
Printing, stationery & postage	£ 764	£ 302
Subscriptions	£ 770	£ 652
Telephone & internet	£ 1,827	£ 1,501
Travel expenses	£ -	£ -
Treasurer expenses (finance package)	£ 194	£ 160
Total	**£ 11,511**	**£ 11,588**

9. Other Expenditure

	2019	2020	
Christmas	£ -	£ 947	
Pension deficit	£ 3,794	£ 2,909	13
Coronavirus response	£ -	£ 8,597	
Miscellaneous	£ 1,130	£ 269	
Fellowship Fund	£ 430	£ -	
Total	**£ 5,354**	**£ 12,722**	

10. Assets held in Trust

The church is the beneficial owner of land and buildings on Beveridge Street, Barrow upon Soar, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee; the East Midlands Baptist Trust Ltd. A value for the aforementioned is not included, because reliable cost information is not available and valuation would incur significant costs, which would be onerous compared to any additional benefit gained.

11. Tangible Assets

		2019	2020
Balance brought forward		£ 24,742	£ 19,794
Less depreciation	-	£ 9,682	£ 7,694
Additional items	+	£ 4,734	£ 2,755
Total		**£ 19,794**	**£ 14,855**

12. Liabilities

	2019	2020
Agency collections	£ 265	£ -
Owed to suppliers	£ -	£ -
Total	**£ 265**	**£ -**

13. Pension Costs

The church is an employer participating in a pension scheme known as The Baptist Pension Scheme. The Baptist Pension Scheme fund has a large deficit and each church is responsible for their share of the defecit. The church's share of the defecit at 31 December 2020 was £81,200.

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Barrow Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees 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 statement

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 the trustees 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do 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. (if accounts prepared on accruals basis*)

I 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.

*Delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply

Signed by the Examiner: S McDonald

Date 13.4.21

Name STUART A.B. McDONALD

Relevant Professional Qualification(s) or body (if any) A.C.A.

Address

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