

Annual Report for 2020

Registered Charity Number 1131765

Address:

Kirkley Park Road

Lowestoft

Suffolk

NR33 0LQ

Trustees:

P Axon (Church Secretary)

M Dorling

R Dorling

W Graham

J Read

A Smith (Church Treasurer)

N Smith (Minister)

A Warner

N Webb

Bankers:

CAF Bank Limited

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2020.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document. 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.

The members meeting normally takes place six times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church, although during 2020, because of Covid restrictions the number of meetings were restricted. Those meetings which were held, were held via Zoom. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint the Trustees, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer (who are also appointed by the Members), are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective. Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the charity is 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. 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. 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. Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services normally take place each Sunday at 10.30 am. However, during 2020 normal services ceased in late March 2020 due to Covid restrictions.

Instead, an online service was made available, also recordings of the services were made for those not able to access the service online. Also, a 'Meet and Greet' zoom meeting was held each Sunday morning to keep members in touch with one another. During 2020 the normal activities and programmes for both children and adults have been severely curtailed.

In January 2020, a Youth Specialist was appointed by the Church. Members felt the guidance and inclusion of young people in the life of the Church was of the upmost importance. Usually during the year the leaders would meet with approximately 60 young people within our various church and outreach groups, during the lockdown however we had to adapt our offering and how we remained in contact with youth. We launched a Youth Online programme which met both on a Sunday afternoon for a bible study and a midweek Zoom Youth Group which ran for 40 weeks. We increased our social media presence specifically targeting the 13+ age group, including a weekly Sunday message. We concentrated on building relationships with local schools, and we ran an online transition session for youth starting High School in September 2020. During the last year we concentrated on delivering blessings to young people in small ways including Make your own pizza kits, bible encouragements, and treats. For events such as Summer holidays, Christmas, Easter, Lent and Halloween the church sent out parcels which included treats, bible readings, encouragements and videos posted on You Tube covering these themes. These were both inclusive for Youth known to the church and also used as an outreach opportunity within the community. The Church also runs a Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade Company, contact was maintained during the year by the leaders, also receiving parcels with treats and crafts etc.

During the year, parents and carers from the Parent and Toddler group were contacted at various times, with gifts and crafts sent to the children. Leaders of children's groups also sent out parcels to the children and their parents and maintained contact with parents and carers.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2020 was a positive if very difficult year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes in 2021 with renewed enthusiasm, especially as the Church Building will be given a complete refurbishment to improve and update the furnishings and to accommodate Live streaming of services. During the year we were not able to perform Baptisms due to the restrictions, however we intend to hold a Baptismal Service as soon as the rules allow. During 2020 sadly three church members died during the year. At 31st December 2020 the membership stood at 136 which was higher than the previous year. The Alpha course was full, with a large proportion of members continuing to do a growth course and now a prayer course. Chaplaincy ran online during covid with 100s of people listening to the daily thought for the day, and chaplains continued to leave messages of hope around the town. The year finished with running an outdoor fire pit mid-winter Christmas service

At our outreach Community centre, we continue to see a growth of people who just wished to be cared for. We have found that, especially over lockdown, that there is a real need for individuals and families to have place where they can come and be listened to. We continue to serve the whole community, along with its challenges, each day. Our groups were well attended, particularly our After School Club, which had a waiting list, and we are constantly reevaluating different ways in which we can serve. We recently did a Social media survey and the results said that they wanted to see the premises and the café open more.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year. The Church took advantage of the Government Furlough Scheme and Furloughed the Church Cleaner and a Whitton Life worker, all other staff remained fully employed during the year. 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 church is a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension scheme and has been making ongoing deficit payments to cover the costs of past service of its employees within the scheme under a recovery plan. The church understands that if it had left the scheme at the year-end, it would have to have made a one-off payment estimated to be £70,400 to meet its statutory obligations to the scheme. The church has no plan to leave the scheme and expects to continue to make payments to the scheme in line with the recovery plan.

LRBC Church Accounts for the Year 1st January - 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
<u>Assets at the start of year</u>		
Staffing Fund	9,549	6513
Maintenance Fund	6,592	11028
Mission Funds	32,672	21892
Legacy/Capital Fund	119,004	134304
Youth Minister Fund	50,682	51667
Total	218499	225404

Income

Suffolk County Council Grant	10,000	0
HMRC Refunds	6,906	0
Suffolk Community Foundation Grant	0	2745
Baptist Insurance Grant	0	2000
Weekly Offerings	29,411	33878
Gift Aided Offerings	80,272	77753
Income tax recovered on gift aids	21,078	21611
Other income (Lettings etc.)	3,041	11504
Directed Income	30,900	25983
Interest Received	1310	808
Total	182,918	£ 176,282

Expenditure

Property	27978	27607
Admin	7690	11041
Staffing	102104	82987
Suffolk Community Foundation Grant	0	2745
Baptist Insurance Grant	1543	457
Capital Fund	8211	15300
External Mission	15380	17637
Mission Training	5446	4874
Internal Mission	25103	20538
Total	193455	£ 183,186

Total Cash Assets at start of year	218499	225404
Plus Income	182918	176282
Less Expenditure	193455	183186
Cash Assets carried forward	£ 207,962	£ 218,500

Non Monetary Assets

Insurance Values 2020	church buildings	3,789,604
	Pipe organ	0
	Church contents	141,192
	Manse	193,202
	Minibus	9,000
	Whitton Life Centre	330,659
	Whitton Life Contents	80,862
	Total	£ 4,544,519

Other Debts

Baptist Pension Trust Limited	Total	£ 70,400
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		2020	2019
Expenditure	Property		
	Property upkeep	11393	8000
	Church utilities	4080	5016
	Insurance	3607	3548
	Manse Maintenance	3922	3237
	Whitton Life maintenance		1133
	Whitton Life utilities	3560	4803
	Minibus	1416	1870
	Total	27978	27607
	Administration		
	General Admin	6789	7098
	Computer Costs	70	3053
	Bank Charges	60	60
	Affiliations	771	830
	Total	7690	11041
	Staffing		
	Salaries	87966	81357
	Staff support	2030	3847
	Advertising and interviews	0	985
	Youth Minister Fund	12451	0.00
	Internal Mission Fund	1200	0.00
	Total	103647	86189
	Capital		
	Asbestos and Heating	0	7000
	Sound System	0	8300
	Basement Refurbishment	3211	0.00
	Skylight Repairs	5000	0.00
	Total	8211	15300
	External Mission		
	Smile International	150	520
	Leprosy Mission	60	40
	CAP	0	25
	TWAM	0	900
	MAF	0	900
	Tearfund	0	150
	LCMN	0	30
	BMS Appeal	270	220
	BMS Birthday Scheme	410	452
	BMS	6600	7200
	Home Mission	7000	7200
	Open Doors	890	0.00
	Total	15380	17637
	Mission/ Training		
	D Etherington	0	1600
	LRBC staff/ church training	0	40
	Light Project	1599	2834
	D Pierpoint	0	400
	Ministry Training E Day	847	0.00
	Ministry Training J Dorling	3000	0.00
	Total	5446	4874
	Internal Mission	25103	20538

Total Expenditure	<u>£ 193,455</u>		<u>£ 183,186</u>	

**Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of London Road Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 31st 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.

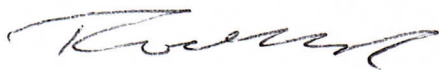
Independent examiner's statement

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. 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 or on behalf of the Examiner



Date 19/5/21

Name Richard Goldpink

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

Address 34 Holystone way
Norwich
Suffolk