

Annual Report for 2021

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 2021.

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 have responsibility for the overall policy of the church, although during 2021, because of Covid restrictions the number of meetings were restricted. The meetings in the first half of the year, were held via Zoom, with the October meeting held in person. 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, due to Covid restrictions services continued via zoom for the first part of the year with the first face to face service in April. 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 until the church re-opened. During the first part of 2021 the normal activities and programmes for both children and adults have been severely curtailed.

Youth groups continued online during 2021 until restrictions ended. Following this ease restrictions youth groups initially met in the church garden then returned to the church building for both mid-week groups and Sunday morning worships. Time away from *normal* was used to explore all of our youth groups, and after consideration and consultation with young people and our volunteers we made a few changes to our offerings. Additionally, during 2021 our youth football group was able to resume. In the Summer, we took a group of 18 children and young people (aged 7 – 18) away for a Summer residential. Our relationship building and pastoral care continued throughout 2021 and we were able to remain in contact with approximately 30 young people. Contact with schools remained and where Covid allowed, we were able to support the schools, pupils and staff local to us. We ran a mentoring session for year 6s at a local primary school, focussing on the move to High School and with easing anxiety about this milestone. During this session we were able to give 30 young people a gift to help with this time. Throughout 2021 the priority was to remain in contact with young people and their families, to reach out into the community both as outreach and to offer support.

During 2021 in our work with Children and Families continued, children continued to be sent out packs weekly both for Kids Church, Whitton after school club and packs to the Toddler group and a Valentines/lent pack out to all groups at the beginning of the year. Family tables were added within the Church sanctuary when we were able to open, with bookings put in place. In the May half term, a family picnic event was arranged in the garden of the church for all our families and the Toddler group started again from June in the garden area and Kids Church from Easter to the end of term. Contact was made with families with care packs still going out. In September about 60 families went back into the building for Kids Church and Toddler Group. Small events took place for the October half term and Christmas Christingle service with packs going to families unable to make it.

Girls Brigade: It was good to keep in contact with the GB families by email during the first part of 2021. The girls and parents/carers enjoyed receiving the gift bags that were delivered by the Church. After intensive Risk Assessments for use at the Church we were able to have a very welcomed catch-up with the girls for outside activities for a few weeks before the summer holidays. In September we were able to meet indoors and begin our GB syllabus. As a Company we could also celebrate our 50th Birthday.

Boys Brigade: With Covid restrictions we were not able to meet until the Spring / Summer term. We were then able to enjoy the light evenings outside doing a wide range of activities, various games, lighting a Fire Pit with limited resources, make a small raft from twigs which floated in a bowl of water. After the summer holidays we were able to return inside, so as the darker colder nights came along, we did our normal range of indoor activities, Games, Group Badge work, Discussions, etc., etc.,

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 2021 was a positive year in the life of the church, we were glad to return to some sort of normality after the summer. We will be able to pursue our mission purposes in 2022 with renewed enthusiasm. Early in 2021 the membership agreed to a major refurbishment of the Sanctuary including removal of the organ. Early works were undertaken voluntarily by church members to remove the organ and prepare for the builders. A new prayer space was made where the organ was previously installed. During this time improvements to the pipe organ and steaming capabilities also took place. The Sanctuary was re-opened in September. During the year once we were able to use the sanctuary, we were delighted to baptise 12 people. Sadly, three church members died during the year. At 31st December 2021 the membership stood at 130. Four people joined the membership during the year.

During 2021 the Discipleship Program continued at first on Zoom and later in person within the bounds of the Covid regulations. The Alpha course that was run on Zoom was problematic mainly due to the lack of suitable equipment amongst those attending, the majority only having mobile phones. The Alpha courses were attended by mainly non church members and resulted in some of the group coming into a relationship with Jesus and being baptised. The Freedom in Christ was attended mainly by Church members and a second course is planned in the Autumn of 2022. In 2021 Chaplaincy resumed with a new look post lockdown. We started delivering breakfast to independent shops alternate weeks, regrouped in Shake and Cake Cafe, and began wellbeing walks and pop-up chaplaincies in Kirkley. We continue to meet lots of people and build relationships

Whitton Life was still very active within the community during 2021. We have seen a growth in numbers, including new families, old ones returning and our regulars that we see each week, some have come through from Church and they all love to be part of this community that we serve in. We are continuing to work with the local charities in the area and they have played a significant part in supporting us. We are looking into new ways of how we can support the community during what looks to be a difficult time coming up with the increase cost of living crisis.

We still have the challenges that come with working along-side a community that is in need but it is good and we are know that we are making a difference. We feel that we could offer a lot more support within the community and are looking into new ways to bring the community together. We are constantly reevaluating different ways in which we can serve.

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 continued to take advantage of the Government Furlough Scheme and Furloughed the Whitton Life staff, Chaplaincy and youth workers. 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 membership was particularly grateful to receive legacies of £49,338 which helped with the financial cost of the refurbishment. 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 £46,900 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 2021

	2021	2020
<u>Assets at the start of year</u>		
Staffing Fund	7676	9549
Maintenance Fund	8753	6592
Mission Funds	37509	32672
Legacy/Capital Fund	115793	119004
Youth Minister Fund	38230	50682
Total	207961	218499

Income

Suffolk County Council Grant	0	10000
HMRC Refunds		6906
Legacies	49338	0
Furlough Payments	7748	0
Weekly Offerings	27883	29411
Gift Aided Offerings	78227	80272
Income tax recovered on gift aids	21663	21078
Other income (Lettings etc.)	191	3041
Directed Income	24145	30900
Interest Received	346	1310
Total	209541	£ 182,918

Expenditure

Property	25269	27978
Admin	8274	7690
Staffing	102250	102104
Baptist Insurance Grant	0	1543
Capital Fund	55500	8211
External Mission	12928	15380
Mission Training	9908	5446
Internal Mission	13104	25103
Total	227233	£ 193,455

Total Cash Assets at start of year	207961	218499
Plus Income	209541	182918
Less Expenditure	227233	193455
Cash Assets carried forward	190269	£ 207,962

Non Monetary Assets

Insurance Values 2021	church buildings	3,933,182
	Pipe organ	0
	Church contents	146,541
	Manse	213,675
	Minibus	9,000
	Whitton Life Centre	343,187
	Whitton Life Contents	83,926
	Total	£ 4,729,511

Other Debts

Baptist Pension Trust Limited	Total	£ 46,900
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		2021	2020
Expenditure	Property		
	Property upkeep	9466	11393
	Church utilities	4509	4080
	Insurance	3735	3607
	Manse Maintenance	2656	3922
	Whitton Life utilities	3664	3560
	Minibus	1239	1416
	Total	25269	27978
	Administration		
	General Admin	7166	6789
	Computer Costs	279	70
	Bank Charges	98	60
	Affiliations	731	771
	Total	8274	7690
	Staffing		
	Salaries	83974	87966
	Staff support	3276	2030
	Advertising and interviews	0	0
	Youth Minister Fund	12000	12451
	Internal Mission Fund	3000	1200
	Total	102250	103647
	Capital		
	Asbestos and Heating	2000	0
	Sound System/PA	6500	0
	Sanctuary Refurbishment	45000	3211
	Skylight Repairs	0	5000
	Basement Refurbishment	2000	0.00
	Total	55500	8211
	External Mission		
	Smile International	0	150
	Leprosy Mission	0	60
	TWAM	350	0
	BMS Appeal	118	270
	BMS Birthday Scheme	410	410
	BMS	6200	6600
	Home Mission	5500	7000
	Open Doors	350	890
	Total	12928	15380
	Mission/ Training		
	Light Project	0	1599
	Ministry Training E Day	4258	847
	Ministry Training J Dorling	5650	3000
	Total	9908	5446
	Internal Mission	13104	25103
	Total Expenditure	£ 227,233	£ 168,352

Independent Examiners report

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of LONDON RD BAPTIST CHURCH
On the accounts for the year ended 31.12.2021

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

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of [*insert named of applicable listed body*], which is one of the listed bodies.

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.

Signed by or on behalf of the Examiner 

Date 3/5/22

Name R Golosov

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

Address 34 Holystone Way
Cowthorpe Colville Lowerthorpe