

Annual Report for 2022

Registered Charity Number 1131765

Address:

Kirkley Park Road

Lowestoft

Suffolk

NR33 0LQ

Trustees:

P Axon (Church Secretary)

R Dorling

W Graham

J Read

A Smith (Church Treasurer)

F Tucker

I Davies Appointed January 2023

L Scott Appointed January 2023

Bankers:

CAF Bank Limited

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2022.

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 take place four to six times per year and have responsibility for the overall policy of the church. 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.

2022 saw a full return of youth groups in person following the Covid-19 restrictions. The Friday evening youth group welcomed approximately 20 young people every week, who enjoyed snacks,

activities, games and trips. Our Youth Football group, which shares faith through football welcomed many young people from within the community who would not usually attend church. During the transition to High School period, we gifted year 6's with a resource to help ease anxiety, this was well received. During the Summer, we took a group of 20 children and young people away on a residential. During October we welcomed young people in to our church building for a Light Party as an alternative to Halloween. In collaboration with our Children and Families team, we gifted back to school and advent packs to over 50 young people throughout the year. Relationship building and pastoral care remains important, and as a church we connected with 60 young people regularly through our usual weekly groups. Contact with schools increased, and we welcomed a local primary school into the building for their nativity play. As part of this outreach we were able to gift each child a Christmas story and chocolate. All-Age services were re-introduced which saw our young people taking responsibility of planning a delivering a Sunday morning service. It was a blessing to baptise one young person during 2022.

Girls Brigade: Sessions were held during spring and summer. Unfortunately, due to the retirement of the GB Captain and a helper and no successor available, it was decided to close the group at the end of the summer session.

Boys Brigade: Sessions were held during spring and summer. Efforts were made both within the Church and Boys Brigade community to recruit leaders for the forthcoming Autumn session. Sadly, there were no willing helpers to replace those current leaders who were retiring and so reluctantly the group closed in September.

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 2022 was a positive year in the life of the church, although early in the year our Minister, Rev Neal Smith announced he would be retiring from ministry with effect from 1st March 2022. The trustees were previously aware of the impending retirement and had made preparations for this interregnum period. Rev. Danny Pritchard was appointed as moderator to assist the Church and trustees during this period. Applications for a new Senior Minister were invited, and applications were scrutinised by the trustees. Following on from this several meetings between the Trustees, the moderator and Rev. Lou Webber took place. Rev. Webber met with the church family in November and following this a meeting of the Church membership voted overwhelmingly to invite Rev Webber to become new senior Minister. Rev Webber accepted the appointment and a start date during 2023 was agreed. During 2022 we were delighted to baptise five people. Five people joined the membership during the year and four people left. The membership stood at 125 people at the end of 2022

During 2022 we were able to work with Children and Families fully. We continued to give out packs for events and special days, such as Valentines, back to school and Mother's Day, whitton After School Club, Toddlers and Kidz Church were the main recipients. We held all age services with family tables in the Sanctuary and activities three times during the year with all groups invited. In October half- term, we held a family event inside the church for all our families and community with over 100 people attending. Our groups, two toddler groups, Kidz Church, After School Club and special

events started back in September with about 80 families. Contact continued with families via email and face to face. In the summer we had 3 family events in the garden with 140 people per session attending with games, crafts and food. We were also able to be involved in the county children's music festival with packs going out to children and staff, also Phoenix St. Peter school nativity event and The Grove school visit and talk. We held a party aided by the children and youth for all the helpers in December.

In 2022 Chaplaincy continued to visit independent shops offering breakfast alternate Mondays and Fridays, also local cafes and pop up Chaplaincy's on the alternate weeks. We also began to trial a new expression of Church community and have had friends and chaplaincy guests join with us. We ran a Chaplaincy tent at the First Light Festival offering hand-massage and prayer, supporting 100s of people over the couple of days. We also ran an Alpha course for 6 people which resulted in two people coming to faith

We loved 2022 at Whitton Life, this was the year of change for us. We finished 2022 by changing the sign on the front of the building. We changed the sign to Whitton Life Community Hub. This almost had an immediate impact for us, we saw lots of new people coming through the door in all of our groups. It has been great to see all of our groups grow through something so simple changing. All of the new people have really settled in well and enjoy coming along and have gone to some of the other groups we run too. We have also had some of these people come along to Church on a Sunday and it has been great to see them there. We have continued to work with FISH, which is alongside other Churches in the local area and it's been really good to see great relationships and trust forming within the families that we see. We have had more requests for prayer and answers to prayer from these families as they get to know the teams better. We have had people from the local authorities coming in and giving us advice which they have all found to be really helpful and beneficial.

We are continuing to work with individuals from the estate and we feel that our relationship with them has been better this year and we will work to continue to improve that as each year goes by. We want nothing more than to see them have a personal relationship with God.

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 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. Early in 2022 a new heating system was installed in the Church building at a cost of £54,000. The membership was particularly grateful to receive a legacy of £10,000 which helped with the financial cost of the replacement heating system together with gifts from the membership. The flat at the Whitton premises was refurbished largely funded by financial gifts with a view to renting it out during 2023 to create additional income for the Church. 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.

LRBC Church Accounts for the Year 1st January - 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
<u>Assets at the start of year</u>		
Staffing Fund	6,883	7676
Maintenance Fund	436	8753
Mission Funds	34,755	37509
Legacy/Capital Fund	121,964	115793
Youth Minister Fund	26,230	38230
Total	190268	207961

<u>Income</u>		
Legacies/Capital Gifts	21861	49338
Furlough Payments	0	7748
Weekly Offerings	39,093	27883
Gift Aided Offerings	69,468	78227
Income tax recovered on gift aids	19,456	21663
Other income (Lettings etc.)	1,450	191
Directed Income	30,160	24145
Interest Received	2,371	346
Total	183859	209541

<u>Expenditure</u>		
Property	30219	25269
Admin	7454	8274
Staffing	85065	102250
Capital Fund	63500	55500
Wider Mission	18131	12928
Mission Training	9632	9908
Local Mission	21618	13104
Total	235619	227233

Total Cash Assets at start of year	190268	207961
Plus Income	183859	209541
Less Expenditure	235619	227233
Cash Assets carried forward	138508	190269

Non Monetary Assets

Insurance Values 2022	Church buildings	£	4,424,882.00
	Church contents	£	164,861.00
	Manse	£	250,641.00
	Minibus	£	9,000.00
	Whitton Life Centre	£	386,090.00
	Whitton Life Contents	£	94,418.00
	Total	£	5,329,892.00

		2022	2021
Expenditure	Property		
	Property upkeep	9,950	9466
	Church utilities	5,965	4509
	Insurance	3,947	3735
	Manse Maintenance	3,754	2656
	Whitton Life utilities	5,547	3664
	Minibus	1,056	1239
	Total	30219	25269
	Administration		
	General Admin	6,480	7166
	Computer Costs	148	279
	Bank Charges	104	98
	Affiliations	722	731
	Total	7454	8274
	Staffing		
	Salaries	63,682	83974
	Staff support	5,783	3276
	Advertising and interviews	0	0
	Youth Minister Fund	12000	12000
	Internal Mission Fund	3600	3000
	Total	85065	102250
	Capital		
	Asbestos and Heating	53,600	2000
	Sound System/PA	0	6500
	Sanctuary Refurbishment		45000
	Whitton Flat Refurb	9900	0
	Basement Refurbishment	0	2000
	Total	63500	55500
	External Mission		
	Ukraine Refugees	519	0
	Leprosy Mission	750	0
	TWAM	0	350
	BMS Appeal (Ukraine 2022)	1,143	118
	BMS Birthday Scheme	405	410
	BMS	7,200	6200
	Home Mission	7,200	5500
	Open Doors	750	350
	Tearfund Pakistan Appeal	165	
	Total	18,132	12928
	Mission/ Training		
	Ministry Training E Day	5032	4258
	Ministry Training J Dorling	4600	5650
	Total	9632	9908
	Local Mission	21,618	13104
	Total Expenditure	£ 235,620	£ 227,233

Independent Examiners report

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of LONDON RD BAPTIST CHURCH
On the accounts for the year ended 31/12/22

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 16/5/23

Name RW GOLDSPIR

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

Address 34 HOLYSTONE WAY LOWESTOFT
SUFFOLK