

GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133324

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-12-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Grantham Baptist Church Wharf Road Grantham Lincolnshire NG31 6BA
Phone	01476576419
Email	g.b.c_ad@outlook.com
Website	www.granthambaptistchurch.co.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.

Activities: Grantham Baptist Church aims to make disciples and transform lives both in the church and in the community. Volunteers in the church serve many activities engaging both young and old from the cradle to the grave. There are outreaches to those who are disadvantaged through meals, advice for people in debt and a whole range of children's and youth activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£91,012	£93,845	-	-
2023-12-31	£101,970	£82,315	-	-
2022-12-31	£116,665	£120,760	-	-
2021-12-31	£109,333	£91,725	-	-
2020-12-31	£125,851	£123,323	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christiana Abimbola Durodola		2019-04-25
Christopher Dove		2017-04-27
Christopher John Thomas		2023-04-27
Dr MALCOLM HEWITSON		2019-04-25
Jennifer Hewitson		2024-07-13
Kevin Crawford		2025-04-27
Moira Palmer		2019-04-25
Rachel Megan Sanders		2023-04-27
Robert James McGibbon		2023-01-01
Ruth Crawford		2025-04-27
Virginia Leverton		2025-04-27

GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133324

Accounts

Minister's Report April 2025

'As I reflect on the last 12 months since the AGM in 2024, I cannot help but rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for all that he is doing in our midst. I can't help but give thanks for the amazing things He is doing in the lives of those who call this place their home. Over the last 12 months we have had the privilege of watching as the Holy Spirit invades hearts and starts an incredible transforming work in them.

I think one of the key indicators of determining whether a church is moving forward and gaining momentum is that it looks different when you look back and reflect. A church that is the same as it was 12 months ago shows that the church has been shackled by scaffolding that has prevented and restricted any movement. I thank God that as I look back to around this time 12 months ago and compare it with where we are now, we now look very different. The Lord has added new people to us, some brand-new Disciples (although not as many as I would like) but we have many new people who have joined us in the last 12 months, and those who have been here for many years have mostly strapped themselves in and joined the journey the Lord has taken us on. Whilst there is much for us to rejoice, this year has been clearer than perhaps previous ones that Church leadership usually runs on parallel tracks of blessing/or victories and battles. This last year there were different battles that were required to be negotiated with compassion, love, honesty and integrity. Praise the Lord, he has led us through those battles.

When we look back through the teaching series of the last 12 months - the second half of the Acts, looking at and thinking about the early Church and how it operated, Names of God - knowing God, Ezra and Nehemiah, thinking about how we build differently, Knowing Jesus as we have gone through John - and one of the unexpected outcomes I believe of this series on John, is that it has revealed why we need to build, particularly the earlier chapters and we thought about Jesus and the pharisees and how Jesus challenged the institutions of the day. So, when we look through these series as a whole, it becomes very clear that we the Lord has us on a very specific journey that I think can be summed up in one phrase.... 'Becoming an organic reproducing family' and that is most definitely the direction I fully believe the Lord is leading in. However, for us to get to that point, it is going to mean, and dare I say it, more change!

So, I want to begin to unpack what that might look like going forward, and I would say there are several areas that we need to investigate as we move forward over the next couple of months.

A. Spiritual Environment

We need to have a focus on Discipleship and enabling people to go on a journey of daily knowing Jesus better. We need people to take responsibility for their own discipleship as well. We need to be a community who multiplies what the Lord is doing in us. We need to be a church who looks outwards. We are only going to be able to multiply what is within us. Discipleship must be a priority for us now. Growth in understanding and practice of spiritual gifts needs to be a focus of ours. Providing safe places for those to be practiced. Understanding the gifts and anointing we have, and each person has is so important as we seek to grow the Kingdom of God has to be a focus.

We really believe the Lord is saying now is the time to begin sending out teams of missionaries to kick start teams of people to plant churches around the villages. The Lord is calling us to multiply.

We also need to love each other like we are family, we need to take that new command of Christ in Johns gospel to love each other like he has loved us.

B. Physical Environment

We need an environment that promotes that family feel, that allows relationships to be built, but also facilities encounter with the Holy Spirit. Right now, there isn't a family feeling in this church. There needs to be a warmer environment for people to be invited into. So, what needs to change? Well first off, where else would we go as family and sit in rows. The only places we go to sit in rows are when we go somewhere to be entertained. Church should not be and will not become a place of entertainment. So, what's the proposal? Well, it would be great to get rid of the rows, repurpose the tiered seating to being a more stable stage and buy tables. If you look at the screen, we believe we can fit 16 x 5ft tables, with 8 chairs around each table, meaning that we will have space for around 128 people. Yes, there is a cost that would be involved in this. BUT we have had anonymous donors come to us and say that the cost of these tables would be covered. We would also like to do something about the entrance foyer to make it look more welcoming and to the lower school room to make it look more inviting and more welcoming, this will include a change of flooring, potentially lowering the ceiling, painting and more. We would also love to invest in the Loft, or the upstairs room to make that more young people friendly. We have made an application to DIY SOS to see if they would be interested in helping us out.

C. Leading Environment

I am not yet convinced that we have the right leaders in the right place, I do believe that a greater shift needs to happen here. If we want to be an organic reproducing family, we desperately need the right leaders in the teams. This may mean needing to have serious conversation with people asking them to step down, it will mean asking unexpected leaders to step up. I would love to be in the position where I can say I believe the leaders we have now are the right leaders for this season, but I'm not quite there yet. I believe the new leaders we are about to vote on, those who haven't stood before today will take us one step closer.

Rob McGibbon
April 2025

Grantham Baptist Church

Income & Expenditure Summary (by Fund) - Quarterly

Fund: General Fund | Financial Year: 2024 | Date: 31/12/2024 | Transaction Group: No filtering | Projections: Shown | Categories Displayed: Category Groups Only

Income

	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Actual	Anticipated	Variance	Total Budget	Budget Received	Projected Total
Donations	16,163	20,907	19,975	20,482	77,528	93,076	-15,548	93,076	83%	77,528
Gift Aid	2,606	3,354	0	6,376	12,336	18,000	-5,665	18,000	69%	12,336
Other Income	56	96	746	250	1,148	4,000	-2,852	4,000	29%	1,148
Total	18,825	24,358	20,721	27,108	91,012	115,076	-24,064	115,076	79%	91,012
Budgeted	28,769	28,769	28,769	28,769						

Expenditure

	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Actual	Anticipated	Variance	Total Budget	Budget Spent	Projected Total
Admin	1,300	2,007	1,522	2,347	7,175	9,750	-2,575	9,750	74%	7,175
Church Building	8,147	2,440	3,598	2,423	16,608	24,500	-7,892	24,500	68%	16,608
Church causes	114	181	22	711	1,028	4,500	-3,472	4,500	23%	1,028
Comms	200	0	0	23	223	0	n/a	0	n/a	223
Manse	379	859	1,543	858	3,639	4,200	-561	4,200	87%	3,639
Other causes	4,330	2,866	5,250	6,796	19,242	18,200	+1,042	18,200	106%	19,242
Staffing	11,691	9,506	14,601	9,601	45,398	49,926	-4,528	49,926	91%	45,398
Teaching	107	177	89	160	533	4,000	-3,467	4,000	13%	533
Total	26,267	18,036	26,624	22,918	93,845	115,076	-21,231	115,076	82%	93,845
Budgeted	31,019	27,019	27,019	30,019						

Summary Totals

	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Total to Date
Opening Balance	44,113	36,671	42,992	37,089	44,113
Income	18,825	24,358	20,721	27,108	91,012
Expenditure	26,267	18,036	26,624	22,918	93,845
Surplus (Income - Expenditure)	-7,442	6,321	-5,903	4,190	-2,833
Fund Transfers	0	0	0	0	0
Closing Balance	36,671	42,992	37,089	41,280	41,280

Surplus Summary	Amount
Anticipated Surplus to Date	0
Actual Surplus to Date	-2,833
Budgeted Annual Surplus	0
Projected Annual Surplus	-2,833

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grantham Baptist Church
Registered Charity no: 1133324

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Faith Life Church for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Mrs Nicola L Whittaker

Date: 9TH June 2025

GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133324

Accounts

Ministers Report 2023/24

If I am completely honest, it only seems like two minutes ago that I was standing here at the last AGM giving a minister's report. We have had such a busy year with the usual mix of things to celebrate and challenges that we have been brought through. There definitely appears to be a parallel track that we walk in the path of the church. The parallel tracks of victory and battles. Our challenge is to focus on the victory's whilst not losing sight of the battles, knowing that the victory belongs to him. Since the last AGM we have launched our new vision – A Unified Community who: Proclaims Jesus, Raises Disciples, Equips the Saints and Sends into all the world. This is very much the direction the Lord has been leading us. The focus of Sunday gatherings and preaching has very much fallen in line with this vision. And I imagine it will continue to do so.

Since our last AGM we have had two baptism services (due to have another one next month) where we had the privilege of baptizing a number of our young people. We also had the joy of holding a joint baptism service with Faith Life Church. It was amazing to come together as two expressions of Gods family as siblings to celebrate what the Lord is doing in the life of different people. We are praying for many more baptisms over the course of the next year.

Outreach

Outreach over the last year has been both encouraging and challenging. We helped once again at the Family Fun Day in Dysart Park, which was a brilliant time. Areas to improve on, but generally went well. It was great to have the return of the puppets and was awesome to see Andy Masters doing what he is so gifted in, retelling the stories of scripture in a real, dramatized and engaging way.

We also had carols in the park, with a walking nativity, however the bad weather had a real impact on that day, and while a few people came and a local school choir sang, it was very limited, but a big thank you to everyone who was willing to get drenched and help. Our Christmas Carol service went well. However, it would have been good if more had attended. The planning for this year's carol service started pretty much the next day. For the events we really need to develop an invite culture.

Our final outreach of the last 12 months was at Finkins. We united with St Anne's church, and it was a brilliant night, with standing room only. Stories of fruit came in the next day. Conversations are being had about what we might be able to do next, and how many times a year we can do different things like this. Look out for different things this year. Please also note Mi7 is consistently going out every week for outreach. It has been disappointing to see the numbers of this group reduce. We are beginning to see fruit from this. Please continue to pray for the team and consider being part of the team in the future.

One Challenge

As well as all the excitement of the outreach stuff that we have done, people will also have been noticing that some people have decided its time to move on. Whilst this can be difficult and upsetting for people, our hearts need to have a posture of blessing and release, we are still siblings. A few years a friend was praying for me as I stepped into a new ministry and he one of the things he prayed was – there are no wrong people in the Kingdom of God, but there are right people at the wrong the time. Bring the right people at the right time.

Let us not get bogged down in those who have left but lift our eyes and let us get excited about the people the Lord is bringing to this expression of His family. Most weeks now we are seeing new people come through those doors, and they are coming back! Let us be excited about what the Lord is doing. Please let us also spend time getting to know the new people who are coming through the door. Build relationships and friendships, invite people over for food.

Pastoral Care

This is something that is massively important, and with all the great outreach we are seeing, we cannot forget about pastoral care. This is anything ranging from crisis situations that people find themselves into ongoing discipleship. Like safeguarding pastoral care is everyone's responsibility. However, our model for pastoral care is done through our LifeGroups. Lifegroup leaders are responsible for the pastoral care of the group they lead, so initially the lifegroup leader is your first port of call. Lifegroup leaders will then collaborate closely with elders and deacons and myself. I would also say that pastoral care must be done relationally.

Looking Forward

We are spending the next few months continuing our series on Acts. This has been a really challenging series I feel. There will need to be a response from us as a church at the end of the series. I am currently praying for what that might look like. But as I started off at the beginning of the series, changes will need to be made as a result of reading Acts so slowly. This is the same at the end of any series (but I'm a bit slow on the uptake) because we are preaching from the living word of God. It's time to make changes. It was these I words that I heard Jesus whisper at the start of 2024.

Moving forward, it is time to build on the prophetic group that was started a number of years ago, I will be working with Susie, Malcolm, Jenny and Moira to figure out what this looks like. We need to be a prophetic church, not just a church that has a prophetic group.

Linked with this is the foundational and fundamental need for us to be a church who prays and fasts together. I have to be honest the number of people coming to times of corporate prayer is largely disappointing. We have a great turn out to the termly Wednesday evening prayer, other than that attendance is disappointing. On the first Sunday of March, we are going to have an evening called 'Equipped to Pray', from that

we will have two Sunday evening gatherings where we come together with the sole purpose of praying. This will take us through the next season for GBC.

This year it is also important that we build on the outreach of the last 12 months. We are slowly beginning to see trickles of fruit; this is the drip before the flood. We need to be thinking in terms of multiplication. Currently we are not set up for multiplication – so over the next few weeks and months we will be seeking Jesus on what this looks like. Please join in as we pray into this.

Also, we are wanting to increase our focus on discipleship. We cannot rely on Sunday morning gatherings and mid-week LifeGroups to be sufficient for our discipleship and growth in Christ. As well our own time reading the bible and praying, we need to be spurring each other on in their faith in a deeper and more open way. We are wanting to launch triplets. So simply put, 3 (4 at stretch) people gathering monthly to go through some thought-provoking questions about our own faith and walk with Jesus and others.

Grantham Baptist Church
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. **Basis of accounts:** These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments' basis and in accordance with (c) 25, Part 8 (1) Charities Act 2011.

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Receipts:	Note	2023	2022
Offerings (weekly & monthly)	3.	65,348	60,454
Donations and other income	4.	21,980	4,247
Income tax recovered on gifts		12,884	10,858
Contributions for use of premises		1,758	1,107
Transfers (from Dep.a/c)		-	40,000
Interest		-	-
Receipts total --		101,970	116,665

Payments:	Note	2023	2022
Ministry	5.	34,023	78,513
Mission	6.	20,060	19,672
Maintenance	7.	17,764	10,762
Administration	8.	10,468	11,813
Transfers (to Dep. a/c)		-	-
Payments total --		82,315	120,760

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Assets:	Note:	2023	2022
Bank and other balances:	9.	17,656	14,342
Other church accounts:	10.	26,457	10,172
		44,112	24,514
Other monetary assets:			-
Non monetary assets:	11.		
Held for Churches own use		3,635,507	2,981,258

3. Offerings:-	
Weekly offerings including envelopes	6,738
Standing orders	58,609
	<u>65,348</u>
4. Donations and other income:-	
Church work:	18,493
	<u>18,493</u>
Other charitable causes:-	2,500
Other church reasons:-	987
	<u>21,980</u>
5. Ministry:	
Pastorate - Rob McGibbon	
Stipend	20,915.92
National insurance & tax	2,984.20
Representation duty	200.00
	<u>24,100</u>
Manse	
Council tax/ Water rates	2,697
Insurance	461
Repairs	2,870
	<u>6,028</u>
Teaching	
Teaching	

Training	1,173.80		
JAM	593.04		
Pulpit	150.00		
Community outreach	1,977.40		
	<u>3,894</u>		
	<u>34,023</u>		
6. Mission:			
Other causes-Baptist			
BMS Specific - B Francis	4,500.00		
BMS General	2,200.00		
	<u>6,700</u>		
Other causes-Other			
Compassion Fund	863.00		
Passage donation	2,500.00		
Other	575.10		
	<u>3,938</u>		
	<u>10,638</u>		
Support			
Moldovan Ministry (M McCormick)	3,000.00		
Wycliffe Bible Translators (M Pearce)	5,600.04		
Schools Ministry - Jennie Fytche	750.00		
bible society	72.00		
	<u>9,422</u>		
	<u>20,060</u>		
7. Maintenance			
Utilities	7,629		
Cleaning/ toiletries	316		
Insurance	3,125		
PA/AV	2,176		
Refurbishment	354		
Servicing	644		
Caretaking	1,358		
Catering/ kitchen supplies	812		
Copyright CCLI	1,350		
	<u>17,764</u>		
8. Administration:			
Stationary/printing	500.52		
Office supplies	400.54		
Telephone/internet/computers	490.68		
Advertising	-		
Subscriptions	968.62		
Worship	38.93		
Finance system	25.00		
Office Admin support	8,044.12		
	<u>10,468</u>		
9. Current Account reconciliation			
Balance as per Deposit book 01 Jan 2023			14,342
Receipts in 2023	101,970		
Transfers to Current a/c			
Payments in 2023		82,315	
Transfers to Deposit a/c		16,204	
	<u>101,970</u>	<u>98,519</u>	
			17,793
Receipts in 2024 belonging to 2023 (500034)	137		
Payments in 2024 belonging to 2023			
Calculated Current account balance at 31 Dec 2023			<u>17,656</u>
Actual current account* balances 31 Dec 2023			<u>17,656</u>

*Main & Credit Card account

10. Other Church accounts

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Savings accounts - Lloyds Bank			
Balance at 01 Jan 2023			10,172
Receipts in 2023	16,204		
Interest received	82		
Payments in 2023			
Transfer from current account			
Calculated deposit account balance at 31 Dec 2023			<u>26,457</u>
Actual deposit account balance 31 Dec 2023			<u>26,457</u>

11. Non monetary assets

(a) Held for investment purposes: -

(b) Held for Church's own use:

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held the church's custodian trustee [the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd]

Church premises (insured value March 2024) 3,057,569

Church Manse 405,000

The church also owns fixtures, furniture and

equipment (insured value March 2024) 172,938

3,635,507

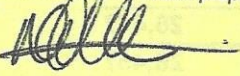
**Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by Abimbola Durodola, March 2024
Independently Examined by Nicci Whittaker and corrections made, April 2024**

The accounts and statements of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1&2 relating to the year ending 31 Dec. 2023 are approved by the Deacons. Signed: Abimbola Durodola Treasurer April 2024

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE DEACONS AND MEMBERS OF GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH (including Wharf Road)

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the receipts and payments accounts and statement of asset and liabilities of Grantham Baptist Church set out on pages 1 & 2 relating to the year ended 31 December 1997. This independent examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts or statement. I confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed:



Date: 10/07/2024

Nicci Whittaker

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grantham Baptist Church
Registered Charity no: 1133324

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grantham Baptist Church for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Mrs Nicola L Whittaker

Date: 10th July 2024

**Independent Examiners recommendations to the
Trustees of Grantham Baptist Church**

As per my independent examiners report states I have no concerns with the accounts prepared for your financial year ending 31st December 2023

However, I do have a recommendation that I suggest you seriously consider implementing to ensure more fluidity in how your accounting systems and processes run.

The full transition to an accounting package will ensure that accounts continue to be maintained to a high standard thus reducing risk going forward and enabling better reporting for your Leadership & Trustees.

That all expense paperwork is correctly labelled with the relevant payee details.

If you would like any more information on the above recommendation, then do get in touch.

Nicci Whittaker



10/07/2024

GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133324

Accounts

Ministers Report

It is difficult for me to comment on the past year, since the last AGM as I have only been in the post for the last nearly 4 months now. In all honesty though, it's been a great 3-4 months. We have settled in well, and it feels as though we have been here for years not months. Not sure if that's a good or bad thing though? I would like to thank the leadership, both the team of elders and team of deacons for all the hard work they have done to supporting the work of the church particularly during the time of the Interregnum. I would also like to thank everyone who calls this church their family and for being willing to journey with Jesus and follow his leading. And for stepping up to fill different roles that need to be filled.

We are a busy church that runs many mid-week groups. Are you ready for this list? Mi7, Oasis, The Passage, Catalyst Prayer Breakfast, Tiny tots, Knitting Group, Rainbows and Brownies, Lydia Group, Craft Group (not church group), Thursday Fellowship, Prophetic Group, Renew, Illuminate, Branches, Equipping Nights, Encounter Nights, 50-18, Youth Night, Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfast, this is all before even mentioning LifeGroups and ad hoc courses like Freedom in Christ. We are doing a lot. However, one of the things I am aware of is that we need to learn to just 'be' as well, just 'be' in relationship with others in church and others outside of the church. If I was to ask you how well you knew the person on the left or right of you, or how well you knew the people living to the left or right of you, how would you respond? Anyway, I digress! However, as we move forward, one of the things we need to be asking the Lord is...are these groups still working in the current format? Does something need changing? Or is it time to blow the whistle on these areas of church life. Important but sometimes difficult questions to ask. But again, this is showing an incredible effort from the church to put so much on through the week. This is something that we need to be asking ourselves over the next few weeks and months.

Sunday gatherings at the minute appear to be the pinnacle of our week, it needs to become the launchpad into the week and not the thing that is aimed for fellowship and community and 'topping-up'. Having said this there appears to be change on Sundays and we are aiming and hoping to see the Holy Spirit move and direct our meetings more on a Sunday morning as we together pursue Jesus. It is also good to mention how awesome it is to see people step

up and be involved in the worship group. We currently have 15 people serving in this way with 3 more potential people to be added in the future. We've also had different people step up in different ways to anchor services and preach over the last year. It has been wonderful to see our young people step up in preaching and leading of services.

I would also like to use this opportunity to look forward to the next 12 months or so. And I want to start this section with a couple of questions. What are dreaming of? What do you want to see happen at this church. While we are already doing lots of different things, there are still different things that could be implemented. So, what would you love to see in this church do/be involved with. Where can you step up? We need to remember that this is a journey the Lord is taking is on together.

In the last church meeting, we spoke about being taken on a journey of deconstruction and reconstruction of church. This is going to require some changes. But all that we do will be aimed towards full, whole life discipleship which goes beyond our Sunday gatherings and LifeGroups. Please note that everything we do will be geared towards the mission statement of the church – making disciples, transforming lives, changing the spiritual temperature. And whenever we start anything new, we need to ask ourselves 3 questions...1. Is it biblical? 2. Is it simple? 3. Is it easily reproducible?

There have been some small changes in the way that we do things, but this will continue to grow and develop. We are not yet in the place that we need to be in.

It has been great to see more people come and be part of us over the last few months, but in all honesty, I would be happier if that growth came through new disciples. Not that the aim is to develop bigger Sunday gatherings, but more will be revealed about this as together we move forward and follow Jesus and be obedient to His voice!

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grantham Baptist Church
Registered Charity no: 1133324

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grantham Baptist Church for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Mrs Nicola L Whittaker

Date: 7th July 2023

GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133324

Accounts



MINISTER'S REPORT 2020

The minister Revd David Judkins with the Leadership Team (Elders and Deacons) thank God for His help, presence & guidance among what has been the most challenging year that many of us can remember in our lifetime. As our Constitution states, the principle purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. In a time where the main church building has been closed to worship services for much of the year, the 'church' has not been closed and Christian faith has certainly been advancing,

Vision

Over the course of the pandemic, we have sought to remain faithful to the vision that God has given us as a church family, to 'make disciples, transforming lives... and increasing the spiritual temperature of the area'. The overall aim of GBC is to live out and make disciples of Jesus Christ i.e. to make those sort of people whose walk with Jesus is fundamental to who they are, and increasingly *shapes* how they live in the various aspects of life. No part of life is left untouched by the call to follow and learn from Jesus Christ. The number of people actively involved in the fulfilment of our vision and service in the church family & town is too great to mention each one by name but all are thoroughly appreciated.

This year, we have been forced reimagine different ways of living this out, and have increasingly been drawn to seeing smaller groups (lifegroups & others) as significant vessels for fulfilling this vision. During the year, the MI6 (Missional Intentional) group continued to thrive & grow, with another MI6 group being launched. Alison Dyer has continued to be employed on a part-time basis to grow and develop these groups had has been instrumental in equipping, challenging & encouraging many to step out in faith and try new things, to gain confidence in Christ and in themselves and to be more intentional in mission. We have also had input from various conferences, including the Fresh Streams conference & reaching the Unchurched network from the Catalyst family.

Over 30 people have also been trained on disciple-making principles via the 'Discipleship Squared' (D²) course. Several mission-focused groups were also started the year, in particular through a men's group and a ladies group that have both also provided an opportunity to grow in community and deeper relationships. We have appreciated the input & support from Big Life ministries, particularly the help & support from Peter Dunn (Big Life Europe) and Abi Francis in India with our young people.

We had the privilege of baptising three new people into faith in Jesus Christ. Several others had been planned but have been postponed due to the Covid restrictions.

A real encouragement has been to see the willingness of many people to develop new habits and seek to regularly share in conversation and in deed the love and good news of Jesus Christ: so several prayer initiatives have been carried out, many people have developed prayer-walking habits, reaching out to their neighbourhoods and praying blessings on schools, businesses and communities. Cards have been written and distributed, gifts handed out, services (shopping, cleaning, trips to the GP) have been organised and many conversations with neighbours, friends, relations, and colleagues have all been shared as a testimony to God's goodness and a way of staying accountable one to another.

Worship & Gathering

Along with all the other businesses, organisations, clubs & charities, we have had to significantly adapt the way that we have functioned as a church. As the national lockdown was announced in March, we resorted to recording audio messages, including daily devotionals for a season, prepared and recorded by different people. Sunday celebrations moved online using a 'podcast' format, with pre-recorded music, readings, testimonies & sermons. It was encouraging to see people accessing those from beyond our immediate church family, and some even who do not as yet profess to follow Jesus.

As the lockdown eased, the podcast format continued, but some groups chose to meet outside: the Family Life Group in particular enjoyed some fun & uplifting, socially-distanced gatherings in Wyndham Park which greatly helped a sense of belonging and togetherness, particularly for those that had only recently joined the life of the church.

We then trialled a period of gathering with COVID restrictions in the church building, with others attending on Zoom and Youtube. This continued to help face-to-face interaction. We even held a 'hybrid-AGM' with some in the building & others on Zoom: it was a real testimony to the spirit of adaptability & experimentation that has been present during the Covid pandemic, but brought its own challenges! Then as case numbers in particular with hospitalisations & deaths on the rise, the church continued to meet primarily on Zoom, with when & where permitted 1-to-1 conversations & exercise taking place. Huge thanks must go to the Chris Dove and the team for their willingness to adapt and support the church from a technical perspective. Thanks to Josh John for all his help on the website and other who have volunteered in different capacities.

For all of us, this year has come with significant mental health challenges, bereavements, a loss of old habits & in particular the ability to physically greet and hug. And yet, it has been a year when many have also experienced spiritual growth, found new ways of connecting with others, and discovered a stronger sense of community, both in the church and in their local area. The worship life has continued albeit in different formats, either on Zoom or with music provided by groups being recorded in the church building or using the Ising worship applications. The 'Let's Sing' initiative has also been a welcome opportunity to spend some time connecting with God and each other through music. We would like to thank Ken Dyer and the musicians who have served in different ways, and adapted to difficult situations.

The prayer life of the church has had also adapt & evolve with patterns of the past not being able to be followed through. However, there have been significant prayer initiatives (24hr prayer days, prayer stations in the building, weekly lunchtime prayers, daily prayers through Lent, etc...), online prayer breakfasts, etc.. Prayer continues to be at the centre of our life with God and the breath that sustains our relationship with Him.

The Prophetic group has also continued, albeit online, with a desire to grow in our ability to listen to God, to train up as many as possible in this area, and to continue to seek God's guidance for the life of the church; we are grateful to Malcolm & Jenny Hewitson, & Moira Palmer for their help in this area.

Children & Young People

Along with the momentous changes in education, our children & youth outreach has been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Several activities, such as Parents & Toddlers, Sunday groups, etc.. have had to be placed on hold. Nonetheless, we are extremely grateful to our dedicated team of children & youth leaders who have responded by handing out packs to our children, facilitated meetings outside, on Zoom or in the building under COVID-restrictions when appropriate. More than anything, the regular text messages, whatsapp groups, zoom and occasional 1-on-1 walks have all been instrumental in maintaining contact with our children & young people. It has also been exciting to see new initiatives begin, such as the Muddy Church-inspired 'Wondering & Wandering' initiatives in Dysart Park providing new ways of connecting with God in the wonder of nature, and opportunities to grow spiritually, especially for those who do not yet have a relationship with God. A youth-centred Training 4 Trainers disciple-making program has also been initiated on Sunday mornings, attended faithfully by a core group of young people.

We have also began conversations and planning with a view to helping recruit additional ministry support in this vital area of church life. But the GBC leadership would like to show all their gratitude & thanks to Karen Marlor, Abimbola Durodola, those who have given up of their time, energy, amidst challenging circumstances, to pour into the lives of our children & young people. A special commendation goes out to parents and carers who have been balancing work, home-schooling while seeking to grow and develop faith in a family context.

Pastoral Care

During the course of the pandemic, it was been heartening to see how many people have responded to the needs around us: from 'adopting' friends & family, choosing to regularly support by phone those who are the most in need, from transitioning Lifegroups to online encounters, it has been incredible to witness the motivation, creativity & perseverance of lifegroup leaders, of the pastoral team, and individual church members to ensure that none are left behind and that we grow in our love for each other, as Jesus has instructed us. We haven't always got it right, but it hasn't been due to a lack of intention or motivation. Thanks to those who have visited, provided meals for new families, those moving or struggling, all the cards, etc.. that have been handed out. Thank-you to Peter & Gae Ellis for their faithful administration of the effective & inspirational whatsapp Prayer Chain that has been a crucial link during this year.

Sadly during the year, we have lost three dear members: Margaret Bend, Barbara Perkins, & Marcus Pettman. The COVID restrictions have made it difficult for their family members & friends to grieve, but we were able nonetheless to give thanks for their lives and their service, and continue to lift up and to honour those who are left behind. Many of us will also have experienced bereavement and loss, and so our Remembrance service was particularly poignant in this challenging context.

Lifegroups have continued in various forms (some by telephone, some by occasional 1-on-1 visits, some on Whatsapp or Zoom), and we are grateful to all the leaders and co-leaders for their help & creativity. These groups provide that 'first-line' for pastoral support, and also for mission and have been a vital life-line when wider gatherings have been challenging.

Grantham & Surrounding Area Community involvement

With the pandemic unfolding, much of our community involvement evolved significantly. One highlight of the year was the birth of the Renew Wellbeing Café. Louise Lamb had has this on her heart for a number of years, so it was encouraging to see this come to fruition with a

dedicated team of people serving those who are struggling with their mental health. They have been restricted by covid regulations but have already provided significant relief and help to several people; we look forward to seeing this work grow, though of course mourn the need for such an organisation!

Another highlight of the year has been to see how the Grantham Poverty Concern (The Passage) have adapted to serve the ever-increasing needs of the community. Moving to a weekly food parcel distribution model, they moved from reaching out to 27 people in need to week 1, now supporting in excess of 35 families and over 60 children. 250 food parcels are being distributed, with over 8650 food parcels given out since the beginning of the pandemic. The GPC leadership via Chris Thomas and volunteers and Grantham Baptist Church leaders wish to place on record our thanks and gratitude to all those within GBC who have supported this initiative through prayer, support and the use of GBC building as a central hub. Special support particularly over Christmas (through the meal and Christmas message leaflets) as well as special gifts over Mothering Sunday and Easter has meant that the people receiving the food parcels have also had an opportunity to receive God's love and the good news of Jesus shared in word and action. We have been privileged to see incredible demonstrations of God's generosity and answers to prayer, as well as building links with others in the community. We pray this work continues, though the long-term desire is to see the need disappear!

The church, through its members, has also been active in supporting other community groups, such as the GRACE initiative, operating via a Facegroup community out of the St John the Evangelist building, that reaches thousands of individuals in Grantham and the Grantham Foodbank initiative. Both of these have made significant contributions to the wellbeing of thousands of individuals and families in our town and surrounding villages.

Our connection with other churches in area has been tested and challenged due to the covid circumstances. Nonetheless, several key initiatives were developed and maintained, such as twice-a-week ministers' prayer gatherings held for several months, and Churches Together services that were recorded and shared over Christmas & Easter. We remain committed to Churches Together in Grantham and to seeing God's Kingdom grow across our town & in surrounding villages. David Judkins continued to meet online with several ministers from the East Midlands Baptist Association (EMBA) cluster on a monthly basis.

Oversight - In his capacity as team leader, David has continued to oversee the continuing development of the church family known as Grantham Baptist Church including growing and shaping the vision, and associated activities. Over the last year the emphasis has been on

building families and building church. The vision can be summarised as “Making Disciples... Transforming Lives...Changing the Spiritual Temperature of the Area”. Mr Ken Matthews reduced his hours serving on the team in September, and stepped down altogether from church leadership in December 2020. We would like to place on record our appreciation and thanks for Ken’s heart, service and ministry, and both Ken & Sue continue to serve the church in different contexts (young people, pastoral care), while investing in the Life Bridging Works charity. Ken has also seized this opportunity to serve other churches in discipleship, growth & development, mentoring, and investing in groups that make disciples who will make other disciples. Ian Whittle joined the team as new trustee.

The Finance and treasury team have continued to serve in extremely difficult circumstances and we are grateful to God for all of those who have continued to give sacrificially in time and finances to the life of the church, and the many and varied ways in which God has been gracious and faithful in providing for needs. Thank-you especially to Abimbola Durodola and her team for their significant time investment and commitment to helping us steward God’s finances. We praise God that we have continued to meet our financial commitments (see attached). In particular, we are grateful to God for His guidance and provision in the selling of our manse, and we look forward to guidance as we seek to purchase another property over the coming months.

The year’s financial statement is posted below.

On the administration front, Louise Lamb transitioned from her role as Office Administrator to focus on her studies, and Chris Thomas was recruited in this role to replace her. We are grateful to Louise for her faithful & effective service in this area, and give thanks to Angela Sanders and others who help in volunteering in this area that is vital to the effective functioning of the church, particularly in distributing CDs, letters & correspondence to those who do not have access to the technical tools that the majority use.

Training - Louise Lamb is continuing in her second year at Moorlands (Applied Theology) and, is continuing her service in the life of the church on the pastoral team, heading up the Renew Wellbeing initiative, running a Sanctuary Mental Health course, and leading a Bible discovery group with a new believer

Aaron Thompson began studying at Moorlands in September 2020 (Applied Theology Degree). He is serving in the church, as a placement student with responsibility for overseeing pastoral care, and, as covid restrictions lift, helping to encourage and grow our work among seniors.

Chris Thomas, who, as well as being our Caretaker, took over as our new Office Administrator, completed a training module within the Urban Expression Crucible course.

Ken Dyer continued his training with the Catalyst network training forum in Milton Keynes which is validated by Moorlands Bible College.

Overseas Mission Links - The church has continued to grow its links with other Christian organisations that serve overseas such as, Wycliffe Bible Translation (through the sponsoring of Mary Pearce), serving the Churches in Moldova (through sponsoring Mark McCormick and in particular their Winter Food Distribution & Good news sharing program). We have also began an exciting new partnership via BMS Worldmission with Benjamin Francis in India, supporting significant church-planting movements and food distribution, medical help & relief to those on the margins of society. Due to travel restrictions, we have been unable to put in place short-term visits & missions, but hope that may continue as things open up.

Safeguarding – the church continues its commitment to a robust safeguarding policy applied to all areas of church life and especially protecting children’s work and vulnerable adults. Any incidents or concerns that have arisen, headed with support from Chris Edwards, and Annice Whittle.

The Future - As team leader, I want to say a HUGE thank you to the members of GBC for your on-going support and involvement in the life of the church and stepping up to the challenge of BEING and MAKING disciples through a global pandemic. There are too many to name here, but your devotion to Christ and the church family, and making Him known has been an inspiration. Thank-you for your patience and support when things go wrong and we grow through experimentation! Thank-you for positive & constructive feedback and much grace. I would also like to show huge appreciation to the other members of the Deacons and Elders, and our administrative support for their hard and selfless work on behalf of our church family.

We look forward to all that God has in store for us over the coming year, particularly with regards to the advancement of the Christian faith in making new disciples, baptisms, beginning new Bible Discovery groups. We believe the Holy Spirit can lead us in new ways and pour out his empowering gifts on us all. We pray that the Lord may also lead us through wisdom & guidance in seeing new ministry support in the area of supervising our Children & Young people’s work and new areas of reaching out into our community, as well as raising up new opportunities for service and leadership within the life of the church through mentoring and equipping.

GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Wharf Road, Grantham NG31 6BA

Registered Charity No. 1133324

Income and Expenditure

01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020

	2020 Budget £	2020 Actual £	difference £	
Income				
Offerings (weekly & monthly)	82,184	77,955	4,229	
Donations and other income	0	25,308	(25,308)	Includes £6.9k donation for DJ, a legacy gift of £11k from the estate of Steve De Visme, donation of £3.5k from within the fellowship and a refund of an overcharge on pensions of £3.6k
Income tax recovered on gifts	15,000	10,684	4,316	
Contributions for use of premises	2,400	1,904	496	Non use of premises due to lockdown
Transfers (from Dep.a/c)	25,000	10,000	15,000	No requirement for additional transfer in Q3 or Q4
Total Income	<u>124,584</u>	<u>125,851</u>		
Expenditure				
Ministry	62,884	75,184	(12,300)	Increase cost due to housing for DJ
Mission	20,800	16,906	3,894	Payment to Ashleigh Gibs not made
Maintenance	29,100	13,282	15,818	Reduced costs due to pandemic
Administration	11,800	10,081	1,719	
Transfers (to Dep. a/c)	0	1,000		
Donations to other causes	0	6,870		Payment of housing gift to DJ
Total expenditure	<u>124,584</u>	<u>123,323</u>		
Surplus/(deficit) income over expenditure		<u><u>2,528</u></u>		
Balances at Bank as at 31/12/2020				
Current Account		7,839		
Savings Accounts		38,001		
Total funds		<u><u>45,840</u></u>		

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grantham Baptist Church

Registered Charity no: 1133324

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grantham Baptist Church for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Mrs Nicola L Whittaker

Date: 7th July 2021

Grantham Baptist Church
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. **Basis of accounts:** These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments' basis and in accordance with (c) 25, Part 8 (1) Charities Act 2011.

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Receipts:	Note	2021	2020
Offerings (weekly & monthly)	3.	71,630	77,955
Donations and other income	4.	19,410	25,308
Income tax recovered on gifts		18,135	10,684
Contributions for use of premises		158	1,904
Transfers (from Dep.a/c)		-	10,000
Interest		-	-
Receipts total --		109,333	125,851

Payments:	Note	2021	2020
Ministry	5.	51,221	82,054
Mission	6.	20,165	16,906
Maintenance	7.	6,657	13,282
Administration	8.	8,523	10,081
Transfers (to Dep. a/c)		5,160	1,000
Payments total --		91,725	123,323

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABLITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

Assets:	Note:	2021	2020
Bank and other balances:	9.	18,447	7,839
Other church accounts:	10.	50,161	38,001
		<u>68,608</u>	<u>45,840</u>
Other monetary assets:			
Held by BU Trust from sale of Manse		236,170	-
Non monetary assets:	11.		
Held for Churches own use		2,581,258	2,960,305

3. **Offerings:-**

Weekly offerings including envelopes	9,885
Standing orders	61,745
	<u>71,630</u>

4. **Donations and other income:-**

Church work:	
Hope into action	250
Donations - Other	4,000
Donation GPC	3,000
Donation B Perkins	7,000
	<u>14,250</u>

Other charitable causes:-

-

Other church reasons:-

 Ministry: Toward Youth worker

5,160

-

-

5,160

19,410

5. **Ministry:**

Pastorate

D Judkins pension - church	3,000
Alison Dyer	2,331
David Judkins	23,017
Aaron Thompson	3,935
	<u>32,283</u>

Manse	
Utilities - Croft drive	201
Repairs	-
Servicing	-
Rent	13,245
Council tax/ Water rates/Phone	2,233
	-
	<u>15,679</u>
Teaching	
Teaching	863
Training	490
JAM	1,253
Pulpit	550
Community outreach	102
	<u>3,259</u>
	<u>51,221</u>
6. Mission:	
Other causes-Baptist	
BU home mission	4,500
BMS Specific - B Francis	2,200
BMS General	634
	<u>7,334</u>
Other causes-Other	
Compassion Fund	1,057
Hope into Action	850
Life Bridging Works	500
Schools Ministry - Jenny	750
Bible Society	72
	<u>3,229</u>
Support	
Moldovan Ministry (M McCormick)	2,500
Wycliffe Bible Translators (M Pearce)	6,600
Churches together	45
	<u>9,145</u>
Church activities	
Youth Weekend	457
	-
	-
	<u>457</u>
	<u>20,165</u>
7. Maintenance	
Utilities	2,540
Cleaning/ toiletries	-
Insurance	2,797
Repairs	50
PA/AV	461
Refurbishment	-
Servicing	809
	<u>6,657</u>
8. Administration:	
Stationary/printing	487
Office supplies	103
Telephone/internet/computers	1,239
Advertising	-
Subscriptions	-
Worship	175
Copyright CCLI	1,102
Office Admin support	5,417
	<u>8,523</u>

9. Current Account reconciliation

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Balance as per Deposit book 01 Jan 2021			7,839
Receipts in 2021	102,333		
Transfers to Current a/c		-	
Payments in 2021		91,725	
Transfers to Deposit a/c		5,160	
	102,333	96,885	
			13,287
Receipts in 2021 belonging to 2022	Nil		
Payments in 2021 belonging to 2022		Nil	
Calculated Current account balance at 31 Dec 2021			<u>13,287</u>
Actual current account* balances 31 Dec 2021			<u>18,447</u>

*Main & Credit Card account

10. Other Church accounts - balance at 31 Dec 2021

Savings accounts - Lloyds Bank

Balance at 31 Dec 2020	38,001
Transfer from current account	5,160
Deposit - donation BP	7,000
	<u>50,161</u>

11. Non monetary assets

(a) Held for investment purposes:	-
(b) Held for Church's own use:	
The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held the church's custodian trustee [the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd]	
Church premises (insured value 2021)	2,443,076
The church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment (insured value 2021)	138,182
	<u>2,581,258</u>

Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by Abimbola Durodola, January 2022

Independently Examined by Nicci Whittaker and corrections made, March 2022

The accounts and statements of assets and liabilities set out on pages 1&2 relating to the year ending 31 Dec. 2021 are approved by the Deacons. Signed: Abimbola Durodola Treasurer April 2022

Abimbola Durodola 22/04/2022

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE DEACONS AND MEMBERS OF GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH (including Wharf Road)

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the receipts and payments accounts and statement of asset and liabilities of Grantham Baptist Church set out on pages 1 & 2 relating to the year ended 31 December 1997. This independent examination did not extend to a comprehensive audit of such accounts or statement. I confirm that the accounts and statement accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed: _____ Date: _____ Nicci Whittaker

Nicci Whittaker 25/04/2022

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grantham Baptist Church

Registered Charity no: 1133324

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Signed:



Name: Mrs Nicola L Whittaker

Date: 20th April 2022

Independent Examiners recommendations to the Trustees of Grantham Baptist Church

As per my independent examiners report states I have no concerns with the accounts prepared for your financial year ending 31st December 2021

However, I do have a few recommendations that I suggest you consider implementing to ensure more fluidity in how your accounting systems and processes run.

1. Adopting an accounting package that will enable you to record all transactions, group together income and expenditure based on category / fund and control budgets. This will reduce errors and the misreporting of data as well as enabling better reporting for your Leadership & Trustees. In addition, this will prepare you for growth should the value of your accounts suddenly increase.
2. Ensure all spreadsheets used have fully working formulas that link correctly and have the correct values entered. There were several errors and confusing of data that had to be corrected for the independent examination to be completed. A full accounting package would remove the need for such spreadsheets and thus reduce errors.
3. Consider having a cash flow / budget in place for the coming few years to future proof and prepare funds for increasing overhead costs.

If you would like any more information on the above recommendations, then do get in touch.



Nicci Whittaker

20/04/2022

GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1133324

Accounts



MINISTER'S REPORT 2020

The minister Revd David Judkins with the Leadership Team (Elders and Deacons) thank God for His help, presence & guidance among what has been the most challenging year that many of us can remember in our lifetime. As our Constitution states, the principle purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. In a time where the main church building has been closed to worship services for much of the year, the 'church' has not been closed and Christian faith has certainly been advancing,

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Over the course of the pandemic, we have sought to remain faithful to the vision that God has given us as a church family, to 'make disciples, transforming lives... and increasing the spiritual temperature of the area'. The overall aim of GBC is to live out and make disciples of Jesus Christ i.e. to make those sort of people whose walk with Jesus is fundamental to who they are, and increasingly *shapes* how they live in the various aspects of life. No part of life is left untouched by the call to follow and learn from Jesus Christ. The number of people actively involved in the fulfilment of our vision and service in the church family & town is too great to mention each one by name but all are thoroughly appreciated.

This year, we have been forced reimagine different ways of living this out, and have increasingly been drawn to seeing smaller groups (lifegroups & others) as significant vessels for fulfilling this vision. During the year, the MI6 (Missional Intentional) group continued to thrive & grow, with another MI6 group being launched. Alison Dyer has continued to be employed on a part-time basis to grow and develop these groups had has been instrumental in equipping, challenging & encouraging many to step out in faith and try new things, to gain confidence in Christ and in themselves and to be more intentional in mission. We have also had input from various conferences, including the Fresh Streams conference & reaching the Unchurched network from the Catalyst family.

Over 30 people have also been trained on disciple-making principles via the 'Discipleship Squared' (D²) course. Several mission-focused groups were also started the year, in particular through a men's group and a ladies group that have both also provided an opportunity to grow in community and deeper relationships. We have appreciated the input & support from Big Life ministries, particularly the help & support from Peter Dunn (Big Life Europe) and Abi Francis in India with our young people.

We had the privilege of baptising three new people into faith in Jesus Christ. Several others had been planned but have been postponed due to the Covid restrictions.

A real encouragement has been to see the willingness of many people to develop new habits and seek to regularly share in conversation and in deed the love and good news of Jesus Christ: so several prayer initiatives have been carried out, many people have developed prayer-walking habits, reaching out to their neighbourhoods and praying blessings on schools, businesses and communities. Cards have been written and distributed, gifts handed out, services (shopping, cleaning, trips to the GP) have been organised and many conversations with neighbours, friends, relations, and colleagues have all been shared as a testimony to God's goodness and a way of staying accountable one to another.

Worship & Gathering

Along with all the other businesses, organisations, clubs & charities, we have had to significantly adapt the way that we have functioned as a church. As the national lockdown was announced in March, we resorted to recording audio messages, including daily devotionals for a season, prepared and recorded by different people. Sunday celebrations moved online using a 'podcast' format, with pre-recorded music, readings, testimonies & sermons. It was encouraging to see people accessing those from beyond our immediate church family, and some even who do not as yet profess to follow Jesus.

As the lockdown eased, the podcast format continued, but some groups chose to meet outside: the Family Life Group in particular enjoyed some fun & uplifting, socially-distanced gatherings in Wyndham Park which greatly helped a sense of belonging and togetherness, particularly for those that had only recently joined the life of the church.

We then trialled a period of gathering with COVID restrictions in the church building, with others attending on Zoom and Youtube. This continued to help face-to-face interaction. We even held a 'hybrid-AGM' with some in the building & others on Zoom: it was a real testimony to the spirit of adaptability & experimentation that has been present during the Covid pandemic, but brought its own challenges! Then as case numbers in particular with hospitalisations & deaths on the rise, the church continued to meet primarily on Zoom, with when & where permitted 1-to-1 conversations & exercise taking place. Huge thanks must go to the Chris Dove and the team for their willingness to adapt and support the church from a technical perspective. Thanks to Josh John for all his help on the website and other who have volunteered in different capacities.

For all of us, this year has come with significant mental health challenges, bereavements, a loss of old habits & in particular the ability to physically greet and hug. And yet, it has been a year when many have also experienced spiritual growth, found new ways of connecting with others, and discovered a stronger sense of community, both in the church and in their local area. The worship life has continued albeit in different formats, either on Zoom or with music provided by groups being recorded in the church building or using the Ising worship applications. The 'Let's Sing' initiative has also been a welcome opportunity to spend some time connecting with God and each other through music. We would like to thank Ken Dyer and the musicians who have served in different ways, and adapted to difficult situations.

The prayer life of the church has had also adapt & evolve with patterns of the past not being able to be followed through. However, there have been significant prayer initiatives (24hr prayer days, prayer stations in the building, weekly lunchtime prayers, daily prayers through Lent, etc...), online prayer breakfasts, etc.. Prayer continues to be at the centre of our life with God and the breath that sustains our relationship with Him.

The Prophetic group has also continued, albeit online, with a desire to grow in our ability to listen to God, to train up as many as possible in this area, and to continue to seek God's guidance for the life of the church; we are grateful to Malcolm & Jenny Hewitson, & Moira Palmer for their help in this area.

Children & Young People

Along with the momentous changes in education, our children & youth outreach has been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Several activities, such as Parents & Toddlers, Sunday groups, etc.. have had to be placed on hold. Nonetheless, we are extremely grateful to our dedicated team of children & youth leaders who have responded by handing out packs to our children, facilitated meetings outside, on Zoom or in the building under COVID-restrictions when appropriate. More than anything, the regular text messages, whatsapp groups, zoom and occasional 1-on-1 walks have all been instrumental in maintaining contact with our children & young people. It has also been exciting to see new initiatives begin, such as the Muddy Church-inspired 'Wondering & Wandering' initiatives in Dysart Park providing new ways of connecting with God in the wonder of nature, and opportunities to grow spiritually, especially for those who do not yet have a relationship with God. A youth-centred Training 4 Trainers disciple-making program has also been initiated on Sunday mornings, attended faithfully by a core group of young people.

We have also began conversations and planning with a view to helping recruit additional ministry support in this vital area of church life. But the GBC leadership would like to show all their gratitude & thanks to Karen Marlor, Abimbola Durodola, those who have given up of their time, energy, amidst challenging circumstances, to pour into the lives of our children & young people. A special commendation goes out to parents and carers who have been balancing work, home-schooling while seeking to grow and develop faith in a family context.

Pastoral Care

During the course of the pandemic, it was been heartening to see how many people have responded to the needs around us: from 'adopting' friends & family, choosing to regularly support by phone those who are the most in need, from transitioning Lifegroups to online encounters, it has been incredible to witness the motivation, creativity & perseverance of lifegroup leaders, of the pastoral team, and individual church members to ensure that none are left behind and that we grow in our love for each other, as Jesus has instructed us. We haven't always got it right, but it hasn't been due to a lack of intention or motivation. Thanks to those who have visited, provided meals for new families, those moving or struggling, all the cards, etc.. that have been handed out. Thank-you to Peter & Gae Ellis for their faithful administration of the effective & inspirational whatsapp Prayer Chain that has been a crucial link during this year.

Sadly during the year, we have lost three dear members: Margaret Bend, Barbara Perkins, & Marcus Pettman. The COVID restrictions have made it difficult for their family members & friends to grieve, but we were able nonetheless to give thanks for their lives and their service, and continue to lift up and to honour those who are left behind. Many of us will also have experienced bereavement and loss, and so our Remembrance service was particularly poignant in this challenging context.

Lifegroups have continued in various forms (some by telephone, some by occasional 1-on-1 visits, some on Whatsapp or Zoom), and we are grateful to all the leaders and co-leaders for their help & creativity. These groups provide that 'first-line' for pastoral support, and also for mission and have been a vital life-line when wider gatherings have been challenging.

Grantham & Surrounding Area Community involvement

With the pandemic unfolding, much of our community involvement evolved significantly. One highlight of the year was the birth of the Renew Wellbeing Café. Louise Lamb had has this on her heart for a number of years, so it was encouraging to see this come to fruition with a

dedicated team of people serving those who are struggling with their mental health. They have been restricted by covid regulations but have already provided significant relief and help to several people; we look forward to seeing this work grow, though of course mourn the need for such an organisation!

Another highlight of the year has been to see how the Grantham Poverty Concern (The Passage) have adapted to serve the ever-increasing needs of the community. Moving to a weekly food parcel distribution model, they moved from reaching out to 27 people in need to week 1, now supporting in excess of 35 families and over 60 children. 250 food parcels are being distributed, with over 8650 food parcels given out since the beginning of the pandemic. The GPC leadership via Chris Thomas and volunteers and Grantham Baptist Church leaders wish to place on record our thanks and gratitude to all those within GBC who have supported this initiative through prayer, support and the use of GBC building as a central hub. Special support particularly over Christmas (through the meal and Christmas message leaflets) as well as special gifts over Mothering Sunday and Easter has meant that the people receiving the food parcels have also had an opportunity to receive God's love and the good news of Jesus shared in word and action. We have been privileged to see incredible demonstrations of God's generosity and answers to prayer, as well as building links with others in the community. We pray this work continues, though the long-term desire is to see the need disappear!

The church, through its members, has also been active in supporting other community groups, such as the GRACE initiative, operating via a Facegroup community out of the St John the Evangelist building, that reaches thousands of individuals in Grantham and the Grantham Foodbank initiative. Both of these have made significant contributions to the wellbeing of thousands of individuals and families in our town and surrounding villages.

Our connection with other churches in area has been tested and challenged due to the covid circumstances. Nonetheless, several key initiatives were developed and maintained, such as twice-a-week ministers' prayer gatherings held for several months, and Churches Together services that were recorded and shared over Christmas & Easter. We remain committed to Churches Together in Grantham and to seeing God's Kingdom grow across our town & in surrounding villages. David Judkins continued to meet online with several ministers from the East Midlands Baptist Association (EMBA) cluster on a monthly basis.

Oversight - In his capacity as team leader, David has continued to oversee the continuing development of the church family known as Grantham Baptist Church including growing and shaping the vision, and associated activities. Over the last year the emphasis has been on

building families and building church. The vision can be summarised as “Making Disciples... Transforming Lives...Changing the Spiritual Temperature of the Area”. Mr Ken Matthews reduced his hours serving on the team in September, and stepped down altogether from church leadership in December 2020. We would like to place on record our appreciation and thanks for Ken’s heart, service and ministry, and both Ken & Sue continue to serve the church in different contexts (young people, pastoral care), while investing in the Life Bridging Works charity. Ken has also seized this opportunity to serve other churches in discipleship, growth & development, mentoring, and investing in groups that make disciples who will make other disciples. Ian Whittle joined the team as new trustee.

The Finance and treasury team have continued to serve in extremely difficult circumstances and we are grateful to God for all of those who have continued to give sacrificially in time and finances to the life of the church, and the many and varied ways in which God has been gracious and faithful in providing for needs. Thank-you especially to Abimbola Durodola and her team for their significant time investment and commitment to helping us steward God’s finances. We praise God that we have continued to meet our financial commitments (see attached). In particular, we are grateful to God for His guidance and provision in the selling of our manse, and we look forward to guidance as we seek to purchase another property over the coming months.

The year’s financial statement is posted below.

On the administration front, Louise Lamb transitioned from her role as Office Administrator to focus on her studies, and Chris Thomas was recruited in this role to replace her. We are grateful to Louise for her faithful & effective service in this area, and give thanks to Angela Sanders and others who help in volunteering in this area that is vital to the effective functioning of the church, particularly in distributing CDs, letters & correspondence to those who do not have access to the technical tools that the majority use.

Training - Louise Lamb is continuing in her second year at Moorlands (Applied Theology) and, is continuing her service in the life of the church on the pastoral team, heading up the Renew Wellbeing initiative, running a Sanctuary Mental Health course, and leading a Bible discovery group with a new believer

Aaron Thompson began studying at Moorlands in September 2020 (Applied Theology Degree). He is serving in the church, as a placement student with responsibility for overseeing pastoral care, and, as covid restrictions lift, helping to encourage and grow our work among seniors.

Chris Thomas, who, as well as being our Caretaker, took over as our new Office Administrator, completed a training module within the Urban Expression Crucible course.

Ken Dyer continued his training with the Catalyst network training forum in Milton Keynes which is validated by Moorlands Bible College.

Overseas Mission Links - The church has continued to grow its links with other Christian organisations that serve overseas such as, Wycliffe Bible Translation (through the sponsoring of Mary Pearce), serving the Churches in Moldova (through sponsoring Mark McCormick and in particular their Winter Food Distribution & Good news sharing program). We have also began an exciting new partnership via BMS Worldmission with Benjamin Francis in India, supporting significant church-planting movements and food distribution, medical help & relief to those on the margins of society. Due to travel restrictions, we have been unable to put in place short-term visits & missions, but hope that may continue as things open up.

Safeguarding – the church continues its commitment to a robust safeguarding policy applied to all areas of church life and especially protecting children’s work and vulnerable adults. Any incidents or concerns that have arisen, headed with support from Chris Edwards, and Annice Whittle.

The Future - As team leader, I want to say a HUGE thank you to the members of GBC for your on-going support and involvement in the life of the church and stepping up to the challenge of BEING and MAKING disciples through a global pandemic. There are too many to name here, but your devotion to Christ and the church family, and making Him known has been an inspiration. Thank-you for your patience and support when things go wrong and we grow through experimentation! Thank-you for positive & constructive feedback and much grace. I would also like to show huge appreciation to the other members of the Deacons and Elders, and our administrative support for their hard and selfless work on behalf of our church family.

We look forward to all that God has in store for us over the coming year, particularly with regards to the advancement of the Christian faith in making new disciples, baptisms, beginning new Bible Discovery groups. We believe the Holy Spirit can lead us in new ways and pour out his empowering gifts on us all. We pray that the Lord may also lead us through wisdom & guidance in seeing new ministry support in the area of supervising our Children & Young people’s work and new areas of reaching out into our community, as well as raising up new opportunities for service and leadership within the life of the church through mentoring and equipping.

GRANTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Wharf Road, Grantham NG31 6BA

Registered Charity No. 1133324

Income and Expenditure

01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020

	2020 Budget £	2020 Actual £	difference £	
Income				
Offerings (weekly & monthly)	82,184	77,955	4,229	
Donations and other income	0	25,308	(25,308)	Includes £6.9k donation for DJ, a legacy gift of £11k from the estate of Steve De Visme, donation of £3.5k from within the fellowship and a refund of an overcharge on pensions of £3.6k
Income tax recovered on gifts	15,000	10,684	4,316	
Contributions for use of premises	2,400	1,904	496	Non use of premises due to lockdown
Transfers (from Dep.a/c)	25,000	10,000	15,000	No requirement for additional transfer in Q3 or Q4
Total Income	<u>124,584</u>	<u>125,851</u>		
Expenditure				
Ministry	62,884	75,184	(12,300)	Increase cost due to housing for DJ
Mission	20,800	16,906	3,894	Payment to Ashleigh Gibs not made
Maintenance	29,100	13,282	15,818	Reduced costs due to pandemic
Administration	11,800	10,081	1,719	
Transfers (to Dep. a/c)	0	1,000		
Donations to other causes	0	6,870		Payment of housing gift to DJ
Total expenditure	<u>124,584</u>	<u>123,323</u>		
Surplus/(deficit) income over expenditure		<u><u>2,528</u></u>		
Balances at Bank as at 31/12/2020				
Current Account		7,839		
Savings Accounts		38,001		
Total funds		<u><u>45,840</u></u>		

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grantham Baptist Church

Registered Charity no: 1133324

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Grantham Baptist Church for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Mrs Nicola L Whittaker

Date: 7th July 2021

