

Aims and Purposes

The principle aim of Preston Baptist Church is the advancement of the Christian faith in general and within our local area in particular. We are an open and accessible community that is committed to welcoming and assisting all who wish to worship and learn more about God. We offer spiritual help and support and find opportunities for service within the church fellowship and local community. We support missionary and charitable works in the U.K. and various parts of the world.

Activities

The church is open throughout the week to the community, and hosts a variety of activities for all ages —including. For example, Sunday worship, Monday lunches, Bible study groups, ladies fellowship, a Mums & Toddlers group, along with quarterly Church meetings, monthly Leaders' meetings and Messy Church. Holy Communion is observed once a month and weddings, baptisms, dedications and funerals are conducted on request. Our local M.P. holds regular surgeries on site and our rooms are used regularly by a variety of local community groups. Christian festivals are celebrated and attended by many who do not normally worship regularly. Our halls are used every weekday by Preston Community Pre-school which operate as a separate charity and pays a commercial rent to the church for the hire of the halls. We continue to enjoy close ties with the Pre-school.

Achievements

(from the church secretary's report at the 2023 AGM)

Well, another year has passed and here we are sitting at the AGM. I am sure many of us will say, where did that year go?

So what over the last year has PBC been doing.

Firstly PBC has been:

A place where we have come to Worship God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It been a place where we can learn and understand more and so grow our faith .

A place where we have discovered what our vision is. I am sure James has reminded us of this in his report. (Priesthood , Body and Community)

A place of welcome to the community. Do you remember the Harvest community day last year- our first one. More recently Easter community day. I am sure we were all surprized how many turned up for that event. 160 burgers and 300 sausages where not enough!

A place where prayer is foremost.

A place of generosity.

A place where we welcomed new people into membership.

A place where we have seen many new people coming to explore faith.

A place where we have celebrated with the country a jubilee and a coronation.

A place where we have come together to get to know each other better

A place where we have kept people warm and offered food.

A place where we see saw a need amongst those suffering with the cost of living crisis in our community so have offered food via our food club.

A place where we have seen our children's work grow on a Sunday and a Friday at messy church.

A place where groups have been formed, bereavement support group, Trinity discipleship.

A place where we have seen our grounds and community garden have developed onto a productive and beautiful areas.

A place where other communities feel happy to hire our halls for their event.

And this is only small part of our church life.

As I said at the start of this report where did the last year go. Well we have all been so busy in working within the church we have not noticed the year passing.

I know PBC means many different things to many people. Many have been part of PBC for years but many have come more recently. As a community it's great to acknowledge the joys but there are also sorrows. We remember Neil and Peggy who were called home.

We also remember those who are unable to attend as often as they would like too. This being due to ill health and dare I say ageing.

But holding us all together as a church has been James and Tricia.

James has and is showing us many new things and challenging us to think about change. He is encouraging PBC to be the heartbeat of the community where all are welcome. He has been leading us on a Sunday morning in different styles of worship. If you had missed this, he is passionate to reach the community of Preston with the love of God. He never misses an opportunity to talk to anyone, about Jesus even in Franx's! Thank you, James, for being such an encourager.

As they say, behind every good man is a supportive women. Louise has been there as James's encourager, wife and mother to his children. Louise not only works fulltime but she is involved with the music and children's church. Thank you Louise for all you do in the background as a minsters wife but also in the life of the church

As we all know Tricia is in the final weeks of her ministry here with us. When Tricia announced that she would be retiring this year I think the whole of Preston must have heard the "oh no".

Tricia was ordained and inducted into the ministry here on 8th April 2017. "Where has that time gone!" Over the last year Tricia has been at the forefront of pastoral care in the church. I also know she loves preaching which many have appreciated. I will not say any more about Tricia retiring as that still 6 weeks away and she is still very much part of the ministry team. I am sure that there will be many "thankyou's" over the next few weeks but as you will not be at the next church meeting we as the church meeting say thank you and thanks to God for sending you to us. He had a plan for this church and knew you were the person to fulfil part of His plan. As Tricia steps back Ian is stepping down. They both plan to take a period of time away for PBC reflecting on what is the next step in their lives.

I am sure you will agree with me – God has really been blessing us over the past year. Do you find it exciting – hopefully yes- some of us might find it scary as it is unknown. God is doing might works here at PBC. He has entrusted us with so much, that it's our responsibility to take care of all that he has given.

I want to end by reading from 1 Corinthians 15 v 58/59

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves to the work of the Lord because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain"

God is fulfilling his word through us being obedient.

God Bless.

Marion Harper

Messy Church

This popular event reaches out to families with young children on a Friday after school once a month. Crafts, games and activities are themed on a particular story from the bible and parents are invited to take part. Following a brief act of worship, a hot meal is provided and we all eat as a family. This event is free and serviced by volunteers from the church, It is attended by 30-40 people and greatly appreciated as it allows time, space and facilities for families to enjoy doing creative things together in a Christian environment free from domestic pressures.

Community Garden

This outreach is well used and provides pleasure to people in the community —many of whom are flat dwellers without gardens. The individual raised planters are appreciated by people in wheel chairs and those finding it hard to bend. This project, started 9 years ago, is a recognised success as it has become a meeting place where friendships are formed and loneliness avoided. The gardeners share a common interest and the garden provides a pleasant spot, just to sit and relax.

Befriending

Church members are encouraged to make a difference in our community by personally reaching out to family, friends and work colleagues, and strangers, with the Christian Gospel. This can be a costly thing to do —in terms of time and energy—but has the potential to be hugely rewarding. Financial support of missions and community groups The church members decide at the start of each financial year which mission agencies and community groups to support financially, from 10% of our church offerings. In addition, the church will occasionally have a Retiring Offering - special opportunities for church members and friends of the church to give to a particular cause. We also look to financially support members and friends of the church who are going through difficult times. To fund such gifts, the church takes up a special offering at our monthly communion service and members are also invited to give to this Pastoral Fund as and when they are able to.

Financial Accounts

Our offerings increased over the previous year and the claim for the arrears of gift aid was submitted and this resulted in a surplus on the general fund of £29,148.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have a policy to maintain reserves of at least three months overhead expenditure, At the end of the year the church had free reserves of £75,981 which would more than cover expected expenditure for three months.

Church Trustees

To be eligible for election, Trustees must be church members nominated by other members. Church leaders were called deacons, but, during the year were renamed as members of the church leadership team. Each leader's period of service is for a three year term, which may be extended for a further term, if nominated, but they may serve no longer than two terms before stepping down for at least a year. The Church Officers (Secretary and Treasurer) are elected annually at the AGM and can serve for as many terms as the members decide.

Trustees (Church Leadership team) who served from 1st January 2022 to the date of this report were:

Ministers

Revd Tricia Barrett (to 30th June 2023)

Revd James Brown

Secretary

Marion Harper (annual appointment)

Treasurer

Ian Barrett (annual appointment-resigned 30th June 2023)

Tina Ansell-Baker (annual appointment- from 1st July 2023)

Leadership Team

Susan Gibbons (until AGM 2023)

David Baker (until AGM 2022)

David Matthews (until AGM 2023)

Wendy Jeffs

Robert Baker (until AGM 2024)

Tina Ansell-Baker (from AGM 2022)

Geraldine Leigh (from AGM 2022)

Pauline Baker (from AGM 2024)

Administrative Information

Preston Baptist Church is situated in Old Torquay Road, Preston, Paignton, TQ3 2RB

Charity Registration number: 1133521

The Church's current Constitution as an unincorporated charity is dated July 2016.

With effect from 1st October 2023 the church transferred all of its assets and liabilities to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Preston Baptist Church, Preston CIO, registered number 1199476.

Preston Baptist Church, Paignton
Receipts and Payments Account for the
Year Ended 31st December 2022

Charity no. 1133521

		2022		2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Receipts				
Offerings & donations	65355	12895	78250	59183
Gift aid	37939	958	38897	0
Legacy	0		0	0
Use of church premises	19064		19064	17176
Sundry income	1426	0	1426	425
Rental income	10500		10500	20530
	134284	13853	148137	97314
Payments				
Stipend and pension	42572		42572	29202
Telephone	1877		1877	1809
Travel	87		87	157
Conferences & training	990		990	0
Music & worship	1241		1241	1142
Resources & outreach	592		592	355
Visiting speakers	0		0	500
Advertising & publicity	471		471	144
Subscriptions	588		588	584
Social events & catering	848		848	144
Mission & community giving	7044	739	7783	3515
Pastoral gifts	0	1708	1708	1130
Youth & children	372	175	547	0
Flowers	0	0	0	253
Church expenditure	33502		33502	22278
Manse expenditure	5597		5597	8709
Office expenditure	2008		2008	2895
Investment property expenditure	1222		1222	1134
Professional fees	0		0	333
Finance	647		647	348
Sundry expenditure	1310		1310	571
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	2168	363	2531	2921
Memorial loan repayment	2000		2000	2000
	105136	2985	108121	80124
Excess of Expenditure over Income	29148	10868	40016	17190
Cash at 1st January 2022	46833	5868	52701	35511
Cash at 31st December 2022	75981	16736	92717	52701

Preston Baptist Church, Paignton
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
At 31st December 2022

Charity no. 1133521

		2022		2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
<i>Cash Funds</i>				
Cash at bank	75981	16736	92717	52671
Cash in hand	0	0	0	30
<i>Total</i>	<i>75981</i>	<i>16736</i>	<i>92717</i>	<i>52701</i>
<i>Debtors</i>				
Gift Aid	4000		4000	34519
<i>Other assets</i>				
Church - insurance value	2400000		2400000	2400000
Manse - market value	380000		380000	380000
Investment property-market value	165000		165000	165000
Church fittings & equipment	150000		150000	150000
	<i>3095000</i>		<i>3095000</i>	<i>3095000</i>
<i>Creditors</i>				
Memorial loan from SWBA	8000		8000	10000
BU Pension deficit	0		0	75000
	<i>8000</i>		<i>8000</i>	<i>85000</i>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Preston Baptist Church, Paignton
Charity no. 1133521**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Preston Baptist Church, Paignton (the Church) for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of the church 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 church'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 church 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.



David Rudall FMAAT
Greenwood Accountancy Ltd
5 & 7 Pellew Arcade
Teignmouth TQ14 8EB

Dated: 27 August 2024