

PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1135764

Details

Other names PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, CLACTON-ON-SEA

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-05-04

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 36 Thorpe Road
Clacton-On-Sea
CO15 4QU

Phone 07763520502

Email info@pabc.org.uk

Website www.pabc.org.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: In fulfilling the Purpose, the Church will engage in a range of activities either on its own or with others that will vary from time to time with Activities being initiated, expanded, or closed as appropriate.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£134,655	£128,219	-	-
2023-12-31	£136,180	£79,492	-	-
2022-12-31	£98,828	£78,300	-	-
2021-12-31	£86,414	£106,242	-	-
2020-12-31	£133,943	£145,792	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adebukola Victoria Oyekunle		2024-11-17
Antony Meloy		2015-04-23
Elaine Anne Hoadley		2019-12-01
HEATHER JEAN BAINES		
Ian Day		2017-12-01
Ian Smith		2023-11-26
James McKendrick Paterson		2024-11-17
KAREN RAI		
Rev Michelle Eversden-Thomas		2024-08-03
Rev PAULINE BAILEY		2016-12-01
Richard Geddes		2015-04-23

PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1135764

Accounts

Annual Report and Accounts 2024



Registered charity number 1135764

117 Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1NJ.

www.pabc.org.uk info@pabc.org.uk

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Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the independently examined financial statements of the charity for 2024.

Pier Avenue Baptist Church registered as an independent charity with the Charity Commission on 4th May, 2010. Our Charity Registration number is 1135764.

The church is administered by the Diaconate who are the Managing Trustees of the Charity and comprise:

Minister and Chairman:	Vacant until July 2024, then Rev. Michelle Eversden-Thomas
Church Secretary:	Mrs Karen Rai
Church Treasurer:	Mrs Heather Baines
Deacons:	Mr David Baines (retired 17 th November 2024)
	Mr Antony Meloy
	Mr Richard Geddes
	Rev. Pauline Bailey
	Mr Ian Day
	Miss Elaine Hoadley
	Mr Ian Smith
	Mr Phil Gooden (from 17 th November 2024)
	Ms Victoria Oyekunle (from 17 th November 2024)
	Mr James Paterson (from 17 th November 2024)

The Charity's bankers are Lloyds plc (Current accounts) and CCLA Investment Management Ltd (Deposit account).

The Independent Examiner engaged by the Charity is Karen Payne.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Church's governing document is the Constitution for Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Clacton-on-Sea which sets out the objects of the charity. The revised Constitution was approved by the Church meeting on 17th March 2024.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Deacons who are the Managing Trustees of the charity are chosen from among existing church members who show the reality of their faith by the consistency of their Christian character and by their loyalty to the cause of Christ. The Diaconate consists of two Church Officers, Secretary and Treasurer, together with up to ten elected Deacons, making a possible twelve in all. Annual elections are held at the Church Members' meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 66% of those voting (eligibility is specified in the constitution). The Minister is also a Trustee.

Organisational Structure

The Church is governed and regulated by its own members where all aspects of the work of the Church are subject to the approval of the Church Meeting which is normally held bi-monthly. The Minister of the Church is a paid Managing Trustee and together with the Deacons gives leadership to the Church. The Minister and Secretary are responsible for preparing the business for the Church meeting.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Eastern Baptist Association

The Church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) and also of the national body, The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). Both organisations are registered charities. The Church pays an annual subscription to BUGB based upon its membership numbers and also makes a donation to the EBA for the Baptist family in the UK (Home Mission).

Relationships between the Charity and related parties

Churches Together in Clacton (CITC) – the Church is a member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Clacton-on-Sea area. The Church continues to take part in community activities organised by CITC during 2024. The church has joined with other denominations for a short Christmas and Easter service in the Town Square and also taken part in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday and hosted the service that followed.

We also continue to build links with the Baptist Churches at Holland-on-Sea and Thorpe-le-Soken and are meeting with them regularly.

The Church also supports a connected organisation: the Girls' Brigade. This connected organisation of the Church exists as part of the work and mission of the Church and are open to the community. This organisation has its own committee, officers and members but they still fall within the scope of the Church Meeting and the Minister / Trustee is entitled to be Chair of all meetings.

The Church also works with Peabody, a housing support organisation, within the Enfold Project.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the Charity

Established for the purposes of advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the Church, these purposes include the provision and upkeep of the place of worship, the carrying on of religious services and the payment, housing and pensioning of a minister of religion employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's aims

As a member of the Baptist Union, the Church subscribes to the Union's Declaration of its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.

Principle:

The basis of this Union is:

1. That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again on the third day."
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

Charity's main objectives for the year

The Church premises are situated in an ideal location in Pier Avenue in Clacton-on-Sea which makes the use of our premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities.

Where able and appropriate, the Church aims to discern the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these and, this year we have been able to do this again, especially through our Enfold project and by the Warm / Social Hub which continued throughout the year. The community initiative, which commenced in 2012, the Enfold Project (to provide breakfast, an opportunity for a shower and access to support services, one morning a week, for the homeless and vulnerable people of Clacton) is now a well-established part of our church. This is run by our Parish Nurse and a team of volunteers as well as accessing support services such as Peabody.

One of the other ways in which the Church seeks to engage with others is not only the use of our premises by many varied groups but to use our kitchen facility for the benefit of the community in as many ways as possible. This facility is used weekly by FoodCycle who obtain excess food from supermarkets in the area and cook a meal for anyone in the community who needs it, one day a week.

*Another way we have begun to support our community this year is by providing a space for RAMA and Calais Light to provide support and Language lessons for Asylum seekers who are housed locally.

Our Coffee Morning and Tiny Treasures Parent and Toddler Group give regular opportunities for us to bring our objectives to life. In addition, by the end of 2024 plans were established to start a new boys club for primary school age, this will be developed further in 2025.

The Church continued to offer public worship on Sundays at 10.30a.m. in person but continues to be available on-line through our Livestream facility. See the Minister's/Trustees report for further details.

Conversations continue, where possible, with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of Baptism and Church Membership.

The Church aims also to develop and grow as a fellowship through both study and social activities:

- a. **Nationally** – to assist in the development of denominational and inter-denominational churches and discover the experience of the church in Great Britain.
- b. **Internationally** – to discover more, the work of the Christian Church overseas and support that work wherever possible.

Charity's Strategies

- a. **Worship** – to seek to provide appropriate worship to God and review our act of worship on a regular basis.
- b. **Ecumenical** – to actively encourage, promote and participate in ecumenical activities.
- c. **Premises** – to maintain the premises to good standard, to promote and provide community activities.
- d. **Community needs** – to review the work of the Church and discern the needs of the community and then develop strategies and actions to support as appropriate.
- e. **Fellowship** – to develop a programme to promote Christian knowledge and understanding and to enhance the social awareness of the Church. Such a programme to include educating the Church members and congregation about the Baptist denomination regionally and nationally and its links to international Christian activity through the Baptist Missionary Society – World Mission and other Christian organisations.

Achievements and Performance

Easter, Harvest and Christmas

Special services took place during the time of Easter, Christmas and at Harvest.

AGM and Membership

The Annual General Meeting of the church could finally take place in the usual way again this year. The Annual Report and Accounts were accepted and passed there.

Our membership stood at 43 on 1st January 2024 and had increased to 61 by 31st December.

Our Sunday school continues and this area of our work has seen a significant growth in numbers during this year due to new families attending our church.

Housekeeping, Hall Hire and Fabric

Looking after pre-war buildings remains a challenge so we are especially grateful to those church members and friends who oversee and help to maintain the building in good order.

The use of our premises by community groups is now busier than ever (see report on use of halls for details).

Trustee's & Deacon's Report (1st January to 30th June)

This first part of this report has been written by the Trustees until July and then by Rev Michelle Eversden-Thomas once she became Minister in July 2024. Until Rev Michelle Eversden-Thomas was appointed in July following member's voting at a Special Church meeting on 16th June 2024, our services were led by various visiting speakers and by some of our own members, to whom we are very grateful. Tony Crawford took the role of moderator for our church during the Settlement process and we are very grateful for his support during that time too. Her induction service was on 3rd August 2024 although she began to work part time from 1st July.

Our Housegroups continued with people meeting in homes and one group meeting at the church during the day so that people can study the Bible together.

We continue to hold a monthly prayer meeting and have also started to meet together every few months when Housegroup members attended a joint prayer meeting at church.

The Church continued to grow in number and we had the privilege of baptising Sahar on 7th January 2024.

Our Enfold project is running well with as many as 35 visitors coming in for breakfast on a Thursday morning where they not only find food, but a caring environment and listening ears. Our Parish Nurse and her team are working hard to respond to the needs of all our visitors. Leadership was shared with Del, part way through the year, in August. We also have Peabody (supporting people in the community) coming each week to help our visitors fill in forms, find places to live etc. Along with this we have a Warm Hub one afternoon a week, to provide a warm place for whoever wants it, in these difficult, and expensive, times! This again became a Social Hub during the summer months, at the request of the attendees.

Our toddler group, Tiny Treasures, is continuing to meet each week with as many as 20 babies and toddlers coming along with a parent, grandparent or child minder, to take part in the activities, learn how to play together (most of the time!), do craft, sing songs and generally have a good time together.

Our Girls' Brigade continues to be strong. We must pay tribute to the hard work undertaken by the leaders. The Girls' Brigade offer an excellent range of activities for different age groups and the dedication of the leaders is evident in all they do.

Our Sunday School activities for children have continued throughout the year providing a variety of activities on Sundays during the morning service. During the year the number of children attending has continued to grow.

We have held some special services during the year. We were also able to hold the Churches Together in Clacton service on Good Friday, here at PABC. This was led by our own Rev Pauline Bailey and was a fantastic occasion with the church building almost filled to capacity.

Christmas was also a special time. We had a Family Nativity service, ably led by our Sunday School leaders and children, the GB Carol service was a Christingle service and a Carols by Candlelight service. Along with this we held a Quiet reflection and Remembrance afternoon and we held another Christmas Tree festival where different church and community groups decorated a tree to represent what they do. Our Saturday Coffee Morning also held an enjoyable sing-a-long event the last Saturday before Christmas and we held a Christmas morning service. We were also privileged to host the SANDS Lights of Love service.

We have had special meals together such as during the induction, an International Sunday and a Harvest lunch following the Harvest festival service.

We have continued to have our church member's meetings, which are bi-monthly, on Sunday afternoons.

Our halls are well used by many groups and individuals. We are especially pleased that they are used by some charities, such as FoodCycle, who provide a cooked meal to anyone who wants to come, from left over food from local Supermarkets, and also by RAMA and Calais Light who provide language lessons and other support to asylum seekers resident in Clacton.

We are still a part of Churches Together in Clacton. It is good to see the people of the churches in Clacton taking part in more joint activities. We have also met up with Thorpe and Holland Baptist Church members for a social afternoon and tea.

We continue to livestream our services each week. This means that those who can no longer get to church are able to join with us. We still put the service on DVD and deliver to a few members who do not have access to the internet. This facility has also meant that we can livestream funerals if necessary, so that family members who live a long distance away, even overseas, can join in with the service.

With all the encouragements, there has been the sadness of Church family life too. We have said goodbye to Sid Firth, Joan Tomlinson and Terry Purdham during the year, who will be sadly missed.

There are many people who should be thanked as a Church cannot function without many volunteers. Thanks to all those who serve in any way including those who operate the PowerPoint, livestreaming and sound on Sundays. All the stewards, Bible readers, flower arrangers, coffee and tea makers, musicians and prayer team for all they do each Sunday. Thanks also to all those who serve in all the organisations mentioned in this Annual Report and those whose work is largely unseen such as who tidy up, tend the garden, visit those who can no longer attend church etc.

Karen Rai, Church Secretary, on behalf of the Deacons/Trustees

Minister's Report (1st July to 31st December)

I began working part-time at PABC on 1st July 2024 (whilst my son was finishing the year at his current school) and then moved to Clacton and went full-time from 1st August 2024. I can honestly say that there hasn't been a dull moment since I began my ministry here!

During July, I had coffee and ate meals with various deacons and church members and visited the groups run by PABC: Tiny Treasures, Girls' Brigade, The Hub, Enfold, Coffee Morning and house groups. I visited Sunday School and then began leading worship and preaching as church minister in August. In these first six months in this role, I have been to local community, ministers' and Churches Together in Clacton meetings, as well as continuing with NAM (Newly Accredited Minister) meetings and mentoring. I have visited a local primary school and helped get a new Boys' Club ready to start. I meet with the deacons monthly to discuss and make decisions on issues of importance to the life of the church. At Enfold, I lead a weekly Bible slot (held before breakfast is served) where I read a short passage and then the volunteers and guests discuss issues it raises. I have run the Christianity Explored course to two different groups and these groups would like to continue to meet for the Discipleship Explored course. On 3rd November, I had the privilege of baptising new believers Jo, Mehdi and Javad. I have led a funeral and a memorial service. We have seen more people become regular attenders at PABC and more come into official membership. It was super to celebrate Christmas here, particularly to share the hope of Jesus at Carols by Candlelight.

During Sunday worship, from July until December, we have looked at the first letter to the Corinthians and the characters in the Advent and Christmas story. On 1st September, we had a lively and joyful service to mark International Sunday, where members and attendees of PABC brought something from their various countries and cultures to be part of our worship. Three of our deacons, Pauline, Ian Smith and James Paterson also led worship and preached at regular intervals. I am hoping that we will, as a congregation, be able to give some time to thinking about how we show and speak about faith to not-yet-Christians, in the new year. I would also like to vary how we hold our Intercessory Prayers.

There have been some difficult days here. But I've been excited by all the conversations I've had about faith and how that affects people's day-to-day lives. I'm proud that the surrounding community know us as a group of people who can provide support and a friendly welcome. Going forwards, I'd like us to be able to offer more support, outreach and sharing of faith into our local community, such as an alternative Hallowe'en outreach in the town centre. It's all about being the hands and feet of and the mouthpiece for Jesus.

Rev. Michelle Eversden-Thomas

Treasurer's Report

We can truly say that 2024 was an amazing year for the Church, spiritually and financially. Grateful thanks go to God and to ALL His people at or connected with PABC, and the wider community who responded graciously to His call on our resources.

A quick reflection looking back ...

By the end of 2023 Pier Avenue had recovered significantly from the 2020-21 pandemic crisis, but we still had a little way to go before we could say we were truly out of the woods.

A lot of our income sat in Restricted Funds, which come to us through the generosity of charitable grant funders supporting our community activities (The Tudor Trust and CVS Tendring). We still also had to remember that we had another six years of loan repayments for the three H&S and upgrade building projects that we had undertaken in our premises in 2020, which sit in an Earmarked Fund (which is also often referred to as a Designated Fund). Restricted Funds can only be used for the purpose they have been given or awarded.

Earmarked Funds are those under the control of the Deacons / Trustees / Membership but which have been given for an expected purpose. Consequently, we would not expect to use Earmarked Funds for any other purpose for which it was given, except in the closure of an activity, upon the full repayment of a loan or other financial commitment, or in an exceptional circumstance that required its use by the Church in any other way. Tiny Treasures Toddler group and the Premises Project Loan Fund are Earmarked Funds.

The values we held on the General Fund (that pays for our Minister, Administration, and all Premises expenses including energy) were still a concern and for the first time ever in the history of PABC, we applied for a Baptist Union Home Mission grant in 2023 to help support us in the cost of a Minister if we were to appoint one in 2024. Our application for this was very graciously accepted by the BU's Home Mission team, and for which we were truly grateful.

As we moved in 2024 ...

- We had to work towards having sufficient funds to invest in a Minister's salary when God's timing said it is right for us to make an appointment to the role;
- We knew major expenditure was still needed to upgrade the Manse (Church house) as this had not had any significant investment in over 17 years;
- We had a duty to maintain the Church and its premises in good order for our worshipping Fellowship;
- We needed to encourage hirers from the local community because they generate a very valuable income stream through use of our buildings; and
- We set a Budget which would allow the preservation of our Financial Reserve at £30,000 (see information about this on the page 13).

Our 2024 year-end balances of £107,203 were £6,264 higher than the previous year, and consisted of:

- £50,553 in Restricted and Earmarked/Designated Funds, and
- £26,650 in usable General Funds, and
- £30,000 retained for the Financial Reserve.

An important mission of the Deacons (and all of us in the Fellowship) is to act prayerfully and responsibly to help us make decisions that ensure the best use of the financial resources we have available. However, whilst doing so, we must also trust in God to provide for the decisions that we make. Financially PABC's situation has been tight over the years and they remain so, but God has never left Pier Avenue short of the funds it needed to fulfil its functions and purposes in the past, and I don't believe He will leave us without the funds we need in the future.

We were confident enough in our spiritual and financial position to be able to offer the Ministerial appointment to Rev Michelle Eversden-Thomas, who joined us as a Newly Accredited Minister (known as a NAM) from Earls Colne Baptist Church. It was a joy to welcome her at an Induction Service in August. The Manse refurbishment had been finished to a high standard just in time, and was handed over to the care of Michelle, her husband Del and their son, Jason, when they took up residence there in the same month.

We are grateful to the hard work of so many in the Fellowship who do so much and put in great effort to help the Church keep its costs down. Many of these tasks are done in the background, unseen by most, but they are vitally needed in order that the Church survives financially. The goodwill of so many is crucial to PABC in its work to advance God's Kingdom and is so greatly appreciated.

Energy costs are something that troubled many through 2024, both at home personally and for the Church. Both our energy contracts came to an end, but an efficient Energy Broker has helped us minimise the impact of the much-publicised energy inflation hike. We also changed our Insurance provider and consequently savings were able to be made in that area too. All these savings together, however minimal they may seem, do have an impact on our whole financial position. However, we also need to try to keep in mind that we should not curtail God's work on account of money worries. Managing the resources He has provided wisely and trusting in His provision are essential for our Church's financial and spiritual health.

Despite the difficulties that we may have been experiencing at home, our Members and Friends continued to give so graciously in their tithes and donations throughout 2024. We know that God will uphold us if we rely on his assurances, and I will repeat the same verse, that I quoted in my report in 2023 because it remains relevant and continues to hold true:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified ... for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31v6).

So many of our Fellowship held fast to this promise, and consequently, found themselves able to share with PABC all they could afford, and very likely, even more than they believed they could really afford. Thank you to everyone for your devotion to PABC through your gifts and offerings, that you make in honour of the One who gave it to us in the first place.

By the time we got to the end of 2024 I was very proud to be able to say that in my view, we had finally recovered fully from the effect of the 2020 pandemic. This was a great joy, and we are very thankful to God who saw us through and out of the other side of this very difficult time in our Church's recent history.

We continue our obligation to support the Baptist Missionary Society's 'World Mission' work abroad, and the Baptist Union's 'Home Mission' fund here in the UK. In the same way that we are encouraged to tithe our personal income (donating 10% of our income to the Lord's work) so we as a Church tithe too. To do this we pledge 5% to each of these two Baptist Family charitable causes every year. The 5% is calculated from the income received by the Church in the previous financial year. We also continue to support other charities where we are able and in 2024 this included Operation Agri, the Baptist Missionary Society (through the Birthday Scheme) and Spurgeon's Childcare. The Charities receiving our donations are grateful for the generosity shown to them by our Fellowship, and for which we in turn thank you.

My duty as Treasurer is to ensure that the Church can provide financially for its functions and is secure for the coming year, whilst also attempting to ensure that the Church is also likely to be financially secure for all its responsibilities in the years to come. I would therefore like to give thanks on behalf of the Fellowship for:

- The Offerings & Donations we regularly receive;
- The Inland Revenue who gave us an amazing £13,641 on behalf of all our tax-paying donors who had signed up to the HMRC Gift Aid scheme;
- The hirers and users that generate income through using our premises for their activities;
- Legacies and one-off gifts and donations received;
- The grant funding that supports as financially as we continue our work for the community;

- All the Church activities and events, whether regular or one-off, that serve our community and fellowship, while some also generate valuable income, however modest that may be; and
- The essential prayer life that sustains the heart of all we do, placing everything in the hands of our loving and sustaining God.

Looking forward to 2025 and beyond ...

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me in confidence if there is anything I can do to help you in your tithing, gifting, one-off donations:

- If you are a taxpayer, however little or how much tax you may pay, we can reclaim this from the Inland Revenue on your donations provided you have signed up for the Gift Aid Scheme. Please ask me if you would like a form to join this Scheme;
- If you find it possible, consider making your gifts and donations directly into the Bank. By this means, your giving doesn't get forgotten if you are unwell, or on holiday, or if you are unable to be at Church for any reason. Your standing order can be set up through your online banking, but if you don't have online access, then we can provide you with a standing order form to complete that can be forwarded to your bank, and
- Consider leaving a bequest to the Church in your Will, whether as a percentage of your estate or as a set sum, which will go on to help the Church continue its work after you have been called Home.

Do ask me for a Gift Aid form or Standing Order form if these will help you in your giving.

If you wish to pay your gifts and donations directly into the bank the information you will need is:

Bank:	Lloyds plc
Account Name:	Pier Avenue Baptist Church
Account type:	Business
Bank Sort Code:	30-96-26
Bank Account Number:	80144668

Thank you for all that you do to advance the Kingdom of God in the place to which He has set us.

2 Corinthians 9 v 6-8

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures for ever.'

Heather Baines, Church Treasurer

Financial Reserves Policy

Background to the Policy

Charities should have sufficient reserves to allow their affairs to wind down in an orderly manner or to consider how long it would take to reduce its expenditure or raise its income to allow it to cope with any significant financial challenge.

A financial challenge can come at any point and can be due to any number of things.

On expenditure, it could be due to the need for a significant property repair; on income it could be due to losing a significant premises hirer or donor(s), or failure to secure grant that had been applied for but not awarded. Although we could never have foreseen it, the closure of the Church and its loss of hirers in 2020 and 2021 meant our income was drastically cut. This proved to be a prime example of why a Financial Reserve is required and must be retained to cover the unexpected.

The Charity Commission are particularly anxious though that excessive reserves are not held, as this would amount to holding money back that should more properly be used for furthering the charitable/mission objectives of the charity or church.

The Reserves Policy for Pier Avenue Baptist Church

The Financial Reserves policy of Pier Avenue Baptist Church is to hold three months of all expenditure plus a further three months staff costs to allow the church to adapt to any changes in the income or expenditure of the Church. The Trustees have committed to the recommendation that £30,000 is retained for this purpose.

Throughout 2024 we had no reason to break into our Financial Reserves. God, through the Friends and Fellowship at PABC, has allowed His people to be very gracious to us in their giving once again. Unless unforeseen circumstances arise where the Church finds itself unable to fulfil its proper purpose and function without breaking into this sum, this £30,000 will be retained on the Church's Deposit Account; the bank interest can be used to support the work of the Church through the General Fund.

Heather Baines, Church Treasurer, on behalf of the Deacons / Trustees

General Fund & Designated Funds Financial Statement

For the year ended: 31st December, 2024

	Note	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Receipts			
Offerings			
- Gift Aid		24,751	24,531
- Other		15,117	12,440
Gift Aid/GASDS Income Tax Reclaim: (General Fund)		13,642	7,880
Gift Aid Income Tax Reclaim: Girls' Brigade (Designated)		353	479
Legacies and Memorial gifts	4	2,000	230
Grants (General Fund): '23 Wellbeing, '24 Home Mission	15	4,583	2,000
Grants (Restricted Funds: Tudor/CVST)	15	26,820	30,558
Premises Use Income		29,376	26,489
Minibus Hire Income		354	628
Coffee Mornings proceeds	4	3,023	2,559
Funds raised for other causes	5	865	732
Church Premises Project (Restricted Fund)	4	1,862	970
Other Receipts: Gen Fund £8310, Restricted £5461	4	11,910	26,684
Totals		£ 134,655	£ 136,180
Payments			
Ministry			
Ministerial Expenses incl stipend, travel, visitors	6	19,005	2,463
Manse upkeep	7	36,841	8,162
Mission & charitable causes	8	11,879	8,316
Upkeep of church premises	9	29,263	31,951
Administration	10	2,150	2,289
Operational expenses	11	2,222	2,007
Church Premises Project	12	3,300	3,300
Community Activities: Earmarked & Restricted Funds	13	20,815	20,137
Other payments	14	2,744	867
Totals		£ 128,219	£ 79,492
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		£ 6,436	£ 56,688
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		£ -	£ -
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		£ 100,767	£ 44,251
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	*	£ 107,203	£ 100,939

* Comprises: £56,650 General/Unrestricted & £50,553 Restricted/Earmarked Funds

Heather Baines

H.J. Baines, Church Treasurer (18th January 2025)

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 as approved by the Church Meeting
held on 19th January 2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2024 (£)		2023 (£)	
1. Basis of Accounts				
These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis & accord with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011				
2. Non-monetary assets held for the 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 by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.				
Church premises at Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea	6,211,451		5,593,726	
Church manse at 36 Thorpe Rd, Clacton-on-Sea	348,906		343,750	
Church Fixtures, Furniture and equipment (all the above are shown at insured values)	233,231		221,728	
	6,793,588		6,159,204	
3. Liabilities - Loans outstanding (Baptist Building CIO)				
	19,800		23,100	
4. Donations, Receipts and Memorial Gifts				
Donations/Other Receipts (Church £94573 / R & DF £5814)	100,387		30,213	
Memorial Gifts/Legacies: (Church)	2,000		230	
<i>Note: R & DF = Restricted & Designated Funds</i>	102,387		30,443	
	2024 (£)		2023 (£)	
5. Funds raised for other causes				
	Raised	Given	Raised	Given
BMS World Mission & Birthday Scheme	321	5,321	333	3,648
Operation Agri	294	294	177	177
BUGB EBA Home Mission	-	5,000	-	3,400
CTIC Clacton	-	-	30	30
Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal	-	-	192	192
Spurgeons, Children's Society	250	250	-	40
Essex Air Ambulance (2023: Paid direct via 'Crowdfunding')	-	-	-	-
	865	10,865	732	7,487
6. Ministry				
	2024 (£)		2023 (£)	
Minister's stipend	11,898		-	
Employer's PAYE, Pension contribution & BU Pension Deficit	3,269		12	
Employer's National Insurance (net of Govt. rebate)	-		-	
Minister's Pastoral & General Mileage/Removal Expenses	1,332		697	
Minister's Training Course Fees & Mileage/Expenses	823		-	
Visiting speakers/other expenses	1,683		1,754	
	19,005		2,463	
7. Manse Upkeep				
Includes council tax, water, insurance, repairs, telephone/broadband and grasscutting adjacent land	36,841		8,162	
8. Mission				
Given to other causes (note 5)	10,865		7,487	
'Connect' (now Sunday School)	620		301	
Girls' Brigade	236		165	
Events/Activities (Welfare/Wellbeing Ministry)	158		363	
	11,879		8,316	
9. Upkeep of Church Premises				
Lighting, heating and water	8,395		6,328	
Cleaning expenses	5,992		5,585	
Insurance	4,006		4,693	
Gift in Memoriam/Legacies: Quiet/Prayer Room Refurb/ICT	-		-	
Professional Fees (Premises related)	-		-	
Repairs & Maintenance of Premises	10,870		15,345	
	29,263		31,951	

continued

10. Administration		
Payroll Agency	114	-
ICT software incl website	990	1,046
Telephone, stationery & postage	482	714
Photocopier rental and copies	564	529
	2,150	2,289
11. Operational Expenses		
Church copyright licenses	985	919
Organ/pianos, music, sound and projectors	440	128
Minibus hire	450	616
Resources/subscriptions/sundries	327	324
Training/Course Fees	20	20
	2,222	2,007
12. Earmarked Funds		
Tiny Treasures Parent/Toddler Group	303	334
Premises Project (BBF Loan Repayments)	3,300	3,300
	3,603	3,634
13. Restricted Funds (Community Activities)		
Cancer Support Group	1,552	162
Enfold	4,799	19,053
Parish Nurse	10,648	
Hubs	3,512	588
	20,511	19,803
14. Other Payments		
Books/Equipment/Furniture/Supplies (Purchase & Repair)	2,432	552
Refreshments & sundries	267	270
Hirer refund	45	45
	2,744	867
15. Grants received		
Restricted: Parish Nurse, '24 Winter Warm Hub, '23 Cancer Support	£ 26,820	£ 30,558
Unrestricted/General: '24 Home Mission, '23 Tudor Trust Wellbeing	£ 4,583	£ 2,000

Statement of Consolidated Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 2023

	Note	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		128,748	121,688
Representing balances on the following accounts:-			
General Fund & Restricted/Earmarked Funds		107,203	100,939
Church auxillary funds		21,545	20,749
		128,748	121,688
Non-monetary assets			
Held for church's own use	2	6,511,486	6,159,204
Liabilities			
Loans outstanding	3	19,800	23,100

Auxillary Accounts Financial Statement			
as at 31st December, 2024			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Boys' Brigade: Treasurer, Ian Smith (BB has had no activity since 2021)			
Bal b/fwd	2,985	Capitation	-
Subscriptions	-	Uniform etc	-
Other Income	-	Battalion & special events	-
		Equipment & Activity Support	-
		Stationery/Inkjets	-
		Refreshments & other expenses	-
		Bal c/fwd	2,985
	2,985		2,985
Girls' Brigade: Treasurer - Lorraine Adams			
Bal b/fwd *	9,634	Stationery/Admin (GB HQ)	1,714
Subscriptions	3,206	Training	-
Uniform/GB shop	310	Uniform/GB Shop	129
Donations/Fundraising	2,156	Fundraising	149
Outings/Tuck	-	Camp/DofE	3,340
Activities/Sleepovers	569	Activities/Sleepovers	4,104
Camp/DofE	2,512	Other/Transfers	-
Admin/Training/Interest	156	Bal c/fwd (Current, Deposit, Cash)	9,106
	18,542		18,542
PABC Flower Fund: Treasurer - Victoria Oyekunle & Heather Baines			
(In 2023 the flowers displayed in Church have been kindly donated by M&S, Clacton and therefore no expenditure has been necessary in this year.)			
Bal b/fwd	18	Flowers/oasis/materials	-
Donations received	-	Bal c/fwd	18
	18		18
Auxillary Accounts Summary			
Balances b/fwd	12,637	Payments	9,436
Receipts	8,908	Balances c/fwd	12,109
	21,545		21,545
All Auxillary Accounts have been audited by the Church Treasurer			18/01/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

On accounts for the year ended **Charity no (if any)**

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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: **Date:**

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Enfold Project

Enfold is a project run by Pier Avenue Baptist Church for the homeless and those who are vulnerably housed, for many reasons.

On average we have around 30 guests attending Enfold each week. We are pleased to have a dedicated, hardworking, happy team of volunteers, who all gel together really well. We have our own Parish Nurse who provides medical support to our guests and who also attends meetings such as the Council Homeless team. We also have many people outside of Enfold coming in to access 'PEABODY' for housing and benefit support, mainly due to the cost-of-living crisis. We also have Open Road attending for those who are wanting to address addiction issues. We also have the local hairdresser trainees come in sometimes and give the guests free haircuts.

Most weeks we normally give our guests cereals, baked beans with cheese on toast and some weeks sausage and bacon rolls.

We open the doors at Enfold at 9am, our guests are offered a drink and our minister Michelle leads a bible study / thought and short time of prayer. It is encouraging that more and more of our guys are attending earlier. After this we serve breakfast and our guests can chat with us about issues they are facing. We stop serving food and drink at 10.45am and we all tidy away together.

We try to demonstrate an ethos of showing our guests love and care and we carried out a survey in the middle of the year to find out why people came and what we could do to improve. This was really important to us as we want our guests to be involved and have a say in what happens and they made a couple of suggestions which we implemented. We also have been working a lot closer with other churches in 2024.

We also have been inviting our guests along to other events such as Harvest and it was really good to see so many of our guests attending. We will carry on inviting our guests to future events in 2025.

We were also pleased to be able to discuss some of the misconceptions around homelessness to mark World Homeless Day in October in the main church service.

The team are all very caring and always go the extra mile for our guests. It was lovely to see Christmas in 2024 where we went into the main church and they were given a personalised gift from the team (they chose it themselves) and these were handed out from under the tree. They were also given an individual Christmas card with a different Bible verse in. Some of the guests were almost in tears saying 'this feels like a family Christmas to me' or 'this will be the only gift I will get this year' and 'this is more than just a present as there has been so much love and thought included in it' We were also fortunate to have been given a large grant from the local Jaguar Car Club who came to see us just before Christmas.

Enfold is growing and we have seen a lot of our guests housed and moving forward successfully with their lives. We are really excited to see what God brings and how He acts in our guest's lives in 2025.

The Enfold Team

The Hub

Initially we were requested by CVST (Clacton Voluntary Services - Tendring) to open a 'Warm Hub' for our vulnerable / homeless guys. This initial 'Warm Hub' finished in March 2023, but when we announced its closure we were met with upset from a few of our clients who had seen it as a vital lifeline for warmth / socialising and support. Therefore, we took our thoughts about carrying 'the service' on to the Deacons, who came back with a resounding 'yes'.

We serve, soup, toast, cake, biscuits, squash, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. We are not only joined by the vulnerable now, but from all walks of society, which is lovely! We have a social prescriber available, and Amanda, our Parish Nurse. 'The Hub' appears to have become a vital lifeline to everyone who attends, which is on average around 30 people of all ages. We offer a lovely, informal, non-judgemental space, where people can just 'be'.

The Hub Team

Girls' Brigade



Our dedicated Leaders continued to provide a wide range of activities through 2024 for the girls and young women across the 4 sections of the Company. Our numbers remain at around 30 from 4 to 20 years of age, although the total amount we have had contact with over the year is 45. It is encouraging that a good number of our girls attend a Church / Sunday school, more than we have had for several years. One new leader and two assistant leaders have been commissioned and welcomed onto the leadership team, having completed their training.

The badge work we covered was:

Explorers	- Our Friends; Our Food; Other Countries; Summer
Juniors	- Trust; Love; Kindness; Service
Seniors	- Fair Trade; Working Together; First Aid; Relationship Issues
Brigaders	- Emergency; Future; Healthy Lifestyle; Creative (double award)

We continue to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme which can be started from the age of 14 and covers 3 levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold. During the year Cassie and Emma achieved their Bronze awards and Emily was presented with her Gold badge and certificate. She is now awaiting her invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden party to celebrate the achievement.

We have continued to hold our bi-monthly Church parades which we continued leading until we welcomed our new minister Michelle who now takes these services. For Mothering Sunday, we put plants into decorated flowerpots to give out to all the ladies present, they were gratefully received. We were responsible for decorating the church for harvest and we took an Olympic theme portraying the 5 continents in the Olympic rings. We took Psalm 8 v 1, "Your goodness is seen in all the world" to highlight God's goodness to us all. We again attended the annual Remembrance Parade organised by the British Legion when we march down to the seafront for a short service around the war memorial. The following week we held our Enrolment parade when new girls were enrolled and existing leaders and members re-committed themselves to Girls' Brigade.

Several fund-raising events were organised starting with our pancake evening in February when pancakes with various fillings were enjoyed along with a selection of cakes. The money raised was divided between GB and the church. We held a quiz night using an Olympic theme and in September we raised £50 from a tabletop sale as part of a fund-raising challenge to send money to National Girls' Brigade. Clacton Carnival committee also give us a donation as we assisted by marshalling for the Saturday street procession. Girls were asked to fill a Smartie tube with coins in aid of the Police Christmas Appeal. This amounted to £106 which we used to purchase children's books which would be gifted to those who would otherwise not receive a present at Christmas. We also included a card with each book that girls had coloured in.

We held two sleepovers when the girls enjoyed bowling, craft, games, and axe throwing and VR games at Realms in Clacton. We also took the girls to see a pantomime at the Westcliff Theatre in February.

Our summer camp was held at Thorington Scout Camp Site when we took part in a variety of activities including - kayaking, 3D maze, assault course, bouldering, pedal karts, slacklining and mini crossbows. We also provided craft items, outdoor games and of course the usual campfires. The younger Explorer girls joined us on the Wednesday and thoroughly enjoyed their day with us. Our devotions for the week took the theme of the Olympics looking at various running races and how we can apply them to our everyday lives and faith journey. A daily memory verse was given, and each girl was encouraged to write a short prayer.

Parents and friends attended our Display and Awards evening in July when our new minister Michelle presented the girls with the badges and awards they had gained over the past year. Each section performed items they had been practicing and came together to bring the evening to a close portraying the history of Girls' Brigade. Refreshments were then served.

The summer term concluded with a beach evening when the girls enjoyed fun and games on the sand, with refreshments on offer.

We took part in the Church's Christmas festival for which the girls each made a decoration to hang on our tree.

Our Carol service in December took the form of a Christingle which was extremely well supported by parents, friends and church members. Everyone made a Christingle which was lit at the end, having heard the Christmas story in readings and the singing of carols. Michelle brought us a message and the refreshments afterwards were organised by our Senior girls.

The year concluded with our Christmas parties, this year organised by leaders Emily and Ellie. Games and food were enjoyed including finding an Elf in the church. Each girl took home a party bag filled with festive goodies.

We recently asked the girls to write down why they like coming to Girls' Brigade and here are some of their comments:

We do fun activities, learn new things and many life skills.

We enjoy sleepovers and camps also the food and drink.

We can make new (lifelong) friends and socialise.

I can be myself and not be judged.

Learning about the world and how we can help save the environment.

The Leaders are kind.

We enjoy Parade Services and singing songs.

We hear about God and how we can love and appreciate him.

We can help each other showing love and care, also talk about our interests.

Very encouraging comments that show how God is working in the hearts and lives of the girls and young women we have contact with week by week. We pray they will continue to grow in their faith and in turn will pass this on to those they meet with

A thought for the week goes out to the Leaders and put onto our Facebook page. We also continue to give each girl a birthday card together with a Bible verse bookmark.

We would like to thank all those who support us whether in prayer, attending our special events or in a financial way. It is greatly appreciated.

Gill Stennings - Captain

Sunday School

We have continued to see our numbers attending Sunday School increase and now have 22 children on the register. We also have a few more volunteers to help run Sunday School and support the leaders.

We had our annual beach day at the end of the summer term where the children enjoyed digging, building sandcastles and playing games.

The children once again enjoyed making decorations for the Sunday School Christmas tree and enjoyed taking the Christmas service which was in the form of a news report.

We look forward to another year where we can continue to grow in numbers and to teach the children.

Emma, Becky & Trudi

Tiny Treasures

The Tiny Treasures group had a very good and busy year. We had quite a full register, with little to low waiting list. The start of the year can be a little sporadic. We had a few children leave in January to take up nursery places brought in with new government legislation, and others throughout 2024. As a result, we have seen less older children and more younger ones. This has slightly changed the dynamics of the group, and as a team we have adapted accordingly. However, the structure remains unchanged - play, craft, snack time (with a thanksgiving song) and finishing with songs.

Our volunteers arrive before the children to talk about the morning's session, and to pray for God's guidance and presence to be with us.

At Easter we had an Easter themed session. The children went into the church to hear the Easter story. And at the end of term in July we had our traditional Teddy Bear's picnic and a bear hunt in the church, finishing with a picnic.

As in previous years, we held a 'picnic past and present' during August, which gives an opportunity for previous attendees of Tiny Treasures, as well as current ones, to come together and enjoy time together. This is held on the Greensward, near the park.

At the start of the new term in September we had a few new faces, with a quicker turn around of children than previously.

The year ended with our Christmas party which was enjoyed by all who attended. The children went into the church to hear the nativity story and to sing Away in a Manger. Followed by a visit from Santa and a gift for each child, ending the session with party food.

We have a very committed team of volunteers. The new term in September saw Maureen leave us after many years, so a big thank you to Maureen. And we were all very happy to see the return of Carol to the team.

We thank Georgina, Miriam and Richard for setting up all the tables, chairs and toys. And our Monday team of Karen, Sylvia, Trudi, Carol, Richard, Georgina, Lynn, Emily, and Miriam when available.

We are blessed with a very friendly and happy group, where there is always a positive and friendly atmosphere, along with opportunities for conversations, support and a listening ear, and can sometimes lead to offering prayer, which is very often accepted. Do please continue to join us in prayer for Tiny Treasures and for the link between the church and those who attend to grow.

Your prayers are very much appreciated.

Karen, Lynn & the Tiny Treasures Team

Worship Team

Thanks and appreciation to the Worship Team for their continued commitment this past year. The Worship Team meet for rehearsal before each Sunday service at 09:45 and twice a month during the week. The Worship Team consists of:

Tracey - Piano	Karen - Guitar and Vocals	Dawn - Vocals
Nic - Piano	Tony - Guitar and Vocals	Joy - Vocals
		Alesis - SR18 Drum Machine!

The Worship Team are now established and are working with our new Minister Michelle. We also say hello to Joy who has joined us on Vocals.

The Christmas services involve a lot of work for the team with extra services as well as the Carol Service.

At the Carol Service the team along with other singers sang Graham Kendrick's Thorns in The Straw and the 1976 hit for Johnny Mathis: 'When a Child is Born'.

Our thanks go to the singers, musicians, Heather, Matthew, James and Ian for doing the PowerPoint / Live Feed and Chris for operating the sound, as well as those who decorated the church so beautifully with the candles, lights, tree and flowers.

We now have a new mixing desk which is providing better clarity for sound all round and we will be working on a separate live stream music feed to enhance the sound for listeners online. This will be completed before Summer 2025

Our prayer for the coming year is that we will grow closer together with each other, but more importantly, grow closer to God as we follow His leading and serve Him by serving our fellowship.

Tony Meloy

Premises Usage

Here is a flavour of the activities and events which are held on our premises during the year:

Church Groups & Organisations

- Girls Brigade
- Sunday School
- Tiny Treasures Parent and Toddlers / Baby group
- GB Sleepovers & Quiz night
- Prayer Meetings
- Fellowship Lunches & Teas
- Coffee Mornings
- Enfold Project
- Warm & Social Hubs
- Church Members' meetings
- Worship Team practices
- Joint event with Holland & Thorpe Baptist
- Sport & Social Group
- Church House Group
- Table-Top sales
- Deacon's meetings

Community Users

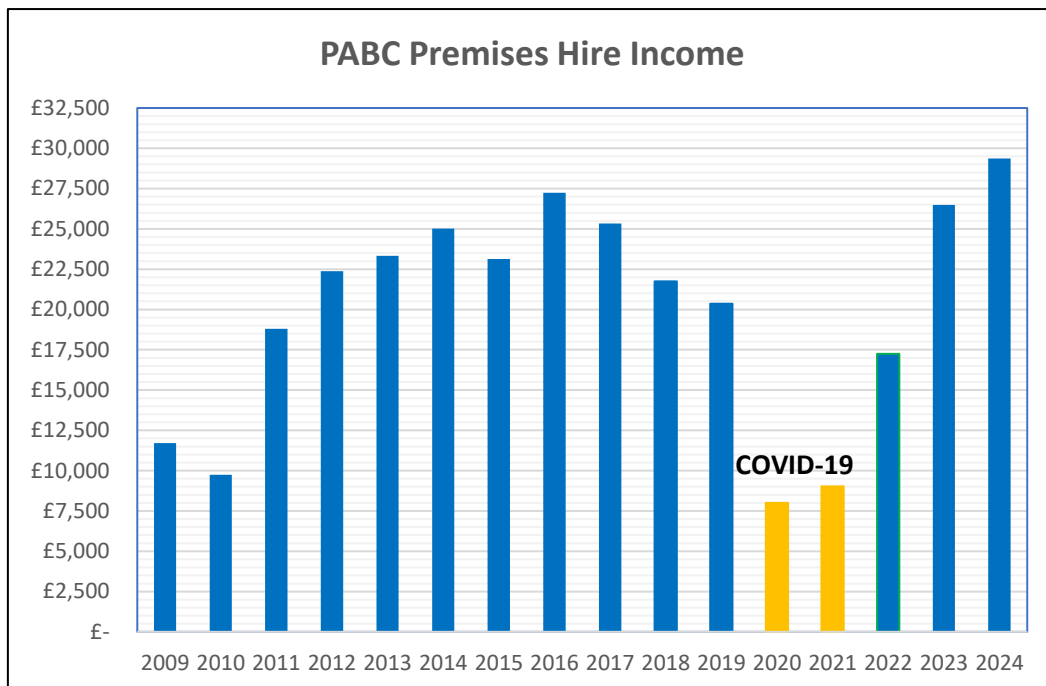
- FoodCycle
- Four different regular Dancing & Fitness groups
- Darby & Joan Club
- Birthday Parties
- 1st Clacton Rainbows, Brownies, Rangers & Guides
- Escrima (self-defence classes)
- General Election (polling station)
- Thanksgiving (funeral) services
- Tip Top Education Tours
- STEAM Powered Education
- ATF
- Afro-Caribbean drop-in group
- EXTRA Support for Families
- Bridge 86
- Cancer Support Group
- InterAct

Premises Hires & Users

Over this last year, we have seen God's provision in the way our premises hires have expanded.

Premises income started well in 2024, then increased steadily as we took on new hirers, and current hirers increasing their hours, to finish off the year with an amazing £29,396, up 10% from 2023.

We surpassed the budgeted figure of £28K which helps us achieve our aim of the Premises income covering premises costs, so the congregational income supports the church's ministry costs.



In 2024, 84% of our income was achieved through our regular hirers, like: 1st Clacton Guides & Brownies, Ballroom Dancing, FoodCycle, Enfold Project, Warm Hub & Social Hub, Darby & Joan, other various dance classes. The other 16% of income was through many one-off hires, like: children's parties, training days, wellbeing and support groups.

During 2024, we are pleased to have new hirers join us, the Clacton & District Local History Society and a monthly Craft Fayre to help raise funds for the church. Also started hiring, were: SANDS, Sight Friendship Group and the Pamoja Project - linked with RAMA who have been very active in recent months.

Many of the current activities have been ongoing, including Cancer Support Group, Family support groups, Afro-Caribbean drop-in group, a group providing English Language learning as a second language to name but a few. We have a wide range of groups and activities that use our halls, some are seeing us as their 'home', and reaching out to strengthen links with PABC. The 1st Clacton Guides & Brownies raised funds to buy a defibrillator, which they donated and installed at the front of our premises, which became operational on 1st March. They are planning fundraisers to help with the ongoing costs of the unit, which we, and the wider community, are very grateful.

To help nurture our links with the hirers, we have also encouraged them all to take part in our annual Christmas Tree Festival, where a mixture of hall hirers, community organisations and our own church groups brought together 13 trees to display at the front of church during the festive period. This gave them an opportunity to celebrate and share with others who they are and what they do during the week, in a fun way through the diverse themes of their tree decorations!

We thank God for bringing us in direct contact with so many local groups and organisations, who are happy to meet at PABC. Praise God. We will endeavour to extend these links further, as we work in partnership with our hirers in 2025. I would also like to thank Karen for helping me process the high number of enquiries and supporting the new hirers.

Ian Day

PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1135764

Accounts



Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

Annual Report and Accounts 2023



Registered charity number 1135764. Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1NJ.
www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk. info@pieravenue.org.uk

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Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the independently examined financial statements of the charity for 2023.

Pier Avenue Baptist Church registered as an independent charity with the Charity Commission on 4th May, 2010. Our Charity Registration number is 1135764.

The church is administered by the Diaconate who are the Managing Trustees of the Charity and comprise:

Minister and Chairman:	vacant
Church Secretary:	Mrs Karen Rai
Church Treasurer:	Mrs Heather Baines
Deacons:	Mr David Baines
	Mr Antony Meloy
	Mr Richard Geddes
	Rev. Pauline Bailey
	Mr Ian Day
	Miss Elaine Hoadley
	Mr Ian Smith (from 26 th November 2023)

The Charity's bankers are Lloyds plc of 1 West Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1QP.

The Independent Examiner engaged by the Charity is Karen Payne.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Church's governing document is the Constitution for Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Clacton-on-Sea which sets out the objects of the charity. The revised Constitution was approved by the Church meeting on 24th March 2010.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Deacons who are the Managing Trustees of the charity are chosen from among existing church members who show the reality of their faith by the consistency of their Christian character and by their loyalty to the cause of Christ. The Diaconate consists of two Church Officers, Secretary and Treasurer, together with up to ten elected Deacons, making a possible twelve in all. Annual elections are held at the Church Members' meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 66% of those voting (eligibility is specified in the constitution). The Minister is also a Trustee.

Organisational Structure

The Church is governed and regulated by its own members where all aspects of the work of the Church are subject to the approval of the Church Meeting which is normally held bi-monthly. The Minister of the Church is a paid Managing Trustee and together with the Deacons gives leadership to the Church. The Minister and Secretary are responsible for preparing the business for the Church meeting.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Eastern Baptist Association

The Church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) and also of the national body, The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). Both organisations are registered charities. The Church pays an annual subscription to BUGB based upon its membership numbers and also makes a donation to the EBA for the Baptist family in the UK (Home Mission).

Relationships between the Charity and related parties

Churches Together in Clacton (CITC) – the Church is a member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Clacton-on-Sea area. The Church continues to take part in community activities organised by CITC during 2023. The church has joined with other denominations for a short Christmas and Easter service in the Town Square and also taken part in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday and hosted the service that followed.

We also continue to build links with the Baptist Churches at Holland-on-Sea and Thorpe-le-Soken and are meeting with them regularly.

The Church also supports a number of connected organisations including the Girls' Brigade. These connected organisations of the Church exist as part of the work and mission of the Church and are open to the community. Each organisation has its own committee, officers and members but they still fall within the scope of the Church Meeting and the Minister/Trustee is entitled to be Chair of all meetings.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the Charity

Established for the purposes of advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the Church, these purposes include the provision and upkeep of the place of worship, the carrying on of religious services and the payment, housing and pensioning of a minister of religion employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's aims

As a member of the Baptist Union, the Church subscribes to the Union's Declaration of its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.

Principle:

The basis of this Union is:

1. That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again on the third day."
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

Charity's main objectives for the year

The Church premises are situated in an ideal location in Pier Avenue in Clacton-on-Sea which makes the use of our premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities.

Where able and appropriate, the Church aims to discern the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these and, this year we have been able to do this again, especially through our Enfold project and by the Warm / Social Hub which continued throughout the year. The community initiative, which commenced in 2012, the Enfold Project (to provide breakfast, an opportunity for a shower and access to support services, one morning a week, for the homeless and vulnerable people of Clacton) is now a well-established part of our church. This is run by our Parish Nurse and a team of volunteers as well as accessing support services such as Peabody.

One of the ways in which the Church seeks to engage with others is not only the use of our premises by many varied groups but to use our kitchen facility for the benefit of the community in as many ways as possible. This facility is used weekly by FoodCycle who obtain excess food from supermarkets in the area and cook a meal for anyone in the community who needs it, one day a week.

Another way we have begun to support our community this year is by providing a space for RAMA and Calais Light to provide support and Language lessons for Asylum seekers who are housed locally.

Our Coffee Morning and Tiny Treasures Parent and Toddler Group, are also regular opportunities for us to bring our objectives to life.

The Church continued to offer public worship on Sundays at 10.30a.m. whether in person or on-line through our Livestream facility. See the Minister's/Trustees report for further details.

Conversations continue, where possible, with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of Baptism and Church Membership.

The Church aims also to develop and grow as a fellowship through both study and social activities:

- a. **Nationally** – to assist in the development of denominational and inter-denominational churches and discover the experience of the church in Great Britain.
- b. **Internationally** – to discover more, the work of the Christian Church overseas and support that work wherever possible.

Charity's Strategies

- a. **Worship** – to seek to provide appropriate worship to God and review our act of worship on a regular basis.
- b. **Ecumenical** – to actively encourage, promote and participate in ecumenical activities.
- c. **Premises** – to maintain the premises to good standard, to promote and provide community activities.
- d. **Community needs** – to review the work of the Church and discern the needs of the community and then develop strategies and actions to support as appropriate.
- e. **Fellowship** – to develop a programme to promote Christian knowledge and understanding and to enhance the social awareness of the Church. Such a programme to include educating the Church members and congregation about the Baptist denomination regionally and nationally and its links to international Christian activity through the Baptist Missionary Society – World Mission and other Christian organisations.

Achievements and Performance

Easter, Harvest and Christmas

Special services took place during the time of Easter, Christmas and at Harvest.

AGM and Membership

The Annual General Meeting of the church could finally take place in the usual way again this year. The Annual Report and Accounts were accepted and passed there.

Our membership stood at 45 on 1st January 2023 and had decreased to 43 by 31st December due to the passing of some of our members.

Our Sunday school continues and this area of our work has seen a significant growth in numbers during this year due to new families attending our church.

Housekeeping, Hall Hire and Fabric

Looking after pre-war buildings remains a challenge so we are especially grateful to those church members and friends who oversee and help to maintain the building in good order.

The use of our premises by community groups is now busier than ever (see report on use of halls for details).

Trustees Report

This report takes the place of what is usually the Minister's report. This is because, at the time of writing, there is no Minister here at Pier Avenue Baptist Church. We are in a 'Pastoral vacancy'. Our previous Minister moved on to a new Ministry at the end of July 2022 after almost 15 years of service here. I am writing this from the Trustees/Deacons in the place of a Minister. As a church we are following the process (called Settlement) of searching for a new Minister which, in the Baptist system, can take some time. The Church Profile has been written and the process is ongoing and in the meantime, our services are being led by various visiting speakers and by some of our own members, to whom we are very grateful. Tony Crawford has taken the role of moderator for our church during the Settlement process and we are very grateful for his support too.

As we approached our time of 'Pastoral vacancy' we decided to adopt an approach of 'Patience, Prayer and Positivity' and so far things are going well for us and there are many signs of encouragement.

Our Housegroups continued with people meeting in homes and one group meeting at the church during the day so that people can study the Bible together.

We continue to hold a monthly prayer meeting and have also started to meet together every few months when Housegroup members attend a joint prayer meeting at church.

Our Enfold project is running well again with as many as 35 visitors coming in for breakfast on a Thursday morning where they not only find food, but a caring environment and listening ears. Our Parish Nurse and her team are working hard to respond to the needs of all our visitors. We also have Peabody (supporting people in the community) coming each week to help our visitors fill in forms, find places to live etc. Along with this we have a Warm Hub one afternoon a week, to provide a warm place for whoever wants it, in these difficult, and expensive, times! This became a Social Hub during the summer months, at the request of the attendees who didn't want it to stop because 'warm' wasn't needed.

Our toddler group, Tiny Treasures, is continuing to meet each week with as many as 20 babies and toddlers coming along with a parent, grandparent or child minder, to take part in the activities, learn how to play together (most of the time!), do craft, sing songs and generally have a good time together.

Our Girls' Brigade continues to be strong. We must pay tribute to the hard work undertaken by the leaders. The Girls' Brigade offer an excellent range of activities for different age groups and the dedication of the leaders is evident in all they do.

Our Sunday School activities for children has continued throughout the year providing a variety of activities on Sundays during the morning service. During the year the number of children attending has grown massively so instead of 3-4 each week we now have 12-15 children.

We have held some special services during the year. We were also able to hold the Churches Together in Clacton service on Good Friday, here at PABC. This was led by the leaders of the Salvation Army and was a fantastic occasion with the church building filled to capacity.

Christmas was also a special time. We had a Family Nativity service/Christingle, ably led by our Sunday School leaders and children and a Carols by Candlelight service. Along with this we held a Quiet reflection and Remembrance afternoon and we held a small Christmas Tree festival where 15 different church and community groups decorated a tree to represent what they do. Our Saturday Coffee Morning also held an enjoyable sing-a-long event the last Saturday before Christmas and we held a Christmas morning service.

We were also privileged to host the SANDS Lights of Love service.

We have had special meals together such as a Coronation Lunch to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 3rd and a Harvest lunch following the Harvest Festival service.

We have continued to have our Church Member's meetings, which are bi-monthly, on Sunday afternoons.

Our halls are well used by many groups and individuals. We are especially pleased that they are used by some charities, such as FoodCycle, who provide a cooked meal to anyone who wants to come, from left over food from local Supermarkets, and also by RAMA and Calais Light who provide language lessons and other support to asylum seekers resident in Clacton.

Looking after church buildings when funding is tight is always a challenge. This includes the church Manse which is having an extensive refurbishment while we are between Ministers. Thanks go to the volunteers involved in this and to those who organise contractors etc.

We are still a part of Churches Together in Clacton. It is good to see the people of the churches in Clacton taking part in more joint activities. We have also met up with Thorpe and Holland Baptist Church members for a social afternoon and tea.

We continue to livestream our services each week. This means that those who can no longer get to church are able to join with us. We still put the service on DVD and deliver to a few members who do not have the internet. This facility has also meant that we can livestream funerals if necessary, so that family members who live a long distance away, even overseas, can join in with the service.

With all the encouragements, there has been the sadness of Church family life too. We have said goodbye to Ken Clarke, Elaine Paterson, Sheila Pratley, John Englefield, Paul Chittock and Sid Firth during the year, all of whom will be sadly missed. We continue to pray for their families.

There are many people who should be thanked as a Church cannot function without many volunteers. Thanks to all those who serve in any way including those who operate the PowerPoint, livestreaming and sound on Sundays. All the stewards, Bible readers, flower arrangers, coffee and tea makers, musicians and prayer team for all they do each Sunday. Thanks also to all those who serve in all the organisations mentioned in this Annual Report and those whose work is largely unseen such as who tidy up, tend the garden, visit those who can no longer attend church etc.

It is our prayer that PABC will continue to grow and develop as the Lord would want us to do, as we approach 2024.

Karen Rai, Church Secretary, on behalf of the Deacons/Trustees

Treasurer's Report

2023 has been an amazing year for the Church financially and spiritually. For this we must give grateful thanks to God and to ALL His people at Pier Avenue and in the wider community who have responded graciously to His call in so many ways.

A quick reflection looking back ...

We were left in a very delicate financial position after Covid, but the post-pandemic recovery took far longer than anyone could have envisaged. Many churches and charities continue to struggle even now when we are three years on. We know of churches in the Baptist family and other denominations where there are insufficient funds to pay for a Minister, some Fellowships have been forced to close and, in some cases, much loved Chapels and Churches have had to be sold.

By the end of 2022 Pier Avenue appeared financially sound on paper, but most of the funding we had a year ago sat in our Restricted Funds and came from the generosity of charitable grant funders who support us in our community activities. Restricted Funds cannot be used for any other purpose except for which it is given. Despite the Fellowship's generosity to the General Fund and the (Designated) Premises Fund, the levels of them were low and concerning. It is from the General Fund that we pay in full for our Ministerial costs, copyright/software licences, and all our premises costs, including insurance, repairs, maintenance, heat, and light. The Designated Premises Fund is also the responsibility of the Church and is committed to the loan repayments for the three major H&S and necessary upgrades to our premises in 2020.

In the past year, 2023 ...

As we came towards the end of 2023 it became clear the financial recovery on the General Fund and Premises (Designated Fund) was well on its way, but alongside that encouragement we knew:

- we had to work towards having sufficient funds to invest in a Minister's salary when God's timing says it is right for us to appoint one;
- major expenditure would be needed to upgrade the Manse (Church house), because beyond changing the boiler five years ago, the house had not had any significant investment in over 17 years and we had completed only a little of this work in 2023;
- we must maintain the Church and its premises in good order, not only for our worshipping Fellowship but also to encourage hirers from the local community who generate a valuable income stream through use of our buildings; and
- the Baptist Union's recommendation that our Financial Reserves should stand at £30,000 which would support us in any unanticipated eventuality, such as a significant fall in income or a major expense. (Although our financial reserves were not at that level in 2020, what we did possess then helped us to get through the pandemic when our Sunday cash offerings and premises hires stopped completely and were only partial for many months.)

At the end of 2023, our year end balance of just over £100,939 consisted of:

- £41,013 in Restricted Funds & Designated Funds
- £59,926 in General Funds*

* Taking account of how much we must use to upgrade the Manse (circa £20K) and to keep on Reserve (£30K), we are carrying forward just under £10K of uncommitted General Funds that can support the Church's 2024 Budget. Hopefully, the Manse upgrade will cost less and we always aim for a sensible balance between value for money, while not cutting corners on quality of goods or workmanship.

With inflation coming down slowly, we all likely still experience personal concerns on how we are affected financially at home, and the same inevitably affects us at Church. Please be assured that an important mission of the Deacons is to act responsibly and make the best use that we possibly can on the Fellowship's behalf with the financial resources we have available.

As Christians we know that God will uphold us, and we can see the evidence of that both spiritually and financially. We have faith in Him (*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified ... for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."* Deuteronomy 31:6) and as Members & Friends of this Fellowship we must trust Him, believing that He will help us find the right balance between looking after and being responsible for the needs at home and for our family, as well as doing likewise for our Church and our Church family.

We have an obligation to continue our support to the Baptist Missionary Society's 'World Mission' work abroad, and in the UK to the Baptist Union's Home Mission fund. In the same way that we are encouraged to tithe our personal income (donate 10% of our income to the Lord's work) so we as a Church tithe too. To do this we pledge and donate 5% to each of these two Baptist Family charitable causes each year and the 5% is determined by the income received by the Church in the previous financial year. We also do our best to support other charities where we are able. We know that charities receiving our donations, are grateful for the generosity shown to them by our Fellowship, and for which we thank you.

When there is no Minister in post, the responsibility laid on the Deacons, Membership and Fellowship is even greater than normal. In 2023 and as we move into 2024, we are grateful to one and all and to God for upholding us as the months without a Minister have gone by. God can only provide for His work at PABC - practical, spiritual, and financial - through the willingness, kindness and grace of His people who serve Him, our Fellowship, and our Community in this place. We have never been let down, and we are humbly grateful.

We know that God's people in this Fellowship do all they can, but on a financial note, as Treasurer, I would just say that we give thanks for:

- the Offerings & Donations we regularly receive;
- the Inland Revenue who gave us £7,880 on behalf of our tax-paying donors who had signed up to the HMRC Gift Aid scheme;
- the hirers who generate income for us by using our premises for their activities;
- the legacies and one-off gifts/donations received in the year;
- the grant funding we have received that financially supports us as we continue our work for the community;
- all the Church activities and events, whether regular or one-off, that serve our community and fellowship, as well as also generating valuable income; and last, but by far the greatest
- the prayer life that sustains the heart of all we do placing everything in the hands of our loving and sustaining God.

Looking forward to 2024 and beyond

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me in confidence if there is anything I can do to help you in your tithing, gifting, donations and, if you are a taxpayer, claiming the vitally important Gift Aid on your donations. God can only do His work through us together. May we all be richly blessed as we endeavour to keep up the excellent work He has called us to do. Our collective efforts have a positive and major impact on everything we do in His name in this place.

1 Timothy vs 17 & 18

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Heather Baines, Church Treasurer.

Financial Reserves Policy

Background to the Policy

The Charity Commission are anxious that charities would have sufficient reserves to allow their affairs to wind down in an orderly manner or to consider how long it would take to reduce its expenditure or raise its income to allow it to cope with a significant financial challenge.

All the reserves PABC did possess were fully used and more in the eighteen months of the pandemic in 2020-2021 when the Church and all our premises were closed or partially closed and our income was drastically cut. God upheld us through this exceptionally difficult period, and for a further eighteen months thereafter, the Church did not possess the financial 'safety net' that should have been in place, but the aim was to do so in time.

A financial challenge can come at any point and, aside of pandemics, can be due to any number of things. On expenditure, it could be due to the need for a significant property repair; on income it could be due to losing a significant premises hirer or donor(s), or it could be caused by a failure to secure grant that had been expected or was successfully received in the past.

The Charity Commission are particularly anxious though that charities do not hold excessive reserves, which would amount to holding money back that should more properly be used for furthering the charitable/mission objects of the charity/church.

The Reserves Policy for Pier Avenue Baptist Church

The Financial Reserves policy of Pier Avenue Baptist Church is to hold three months of all expenditure plus a further three months staff costs to allow the church to adapt to any changes in the income or expenditure of the Church. The Trustees have committed to the recommendation that £30,000 is retained for this purpose.

The Trustees are pleased to report that by the end of 2023 the Church had managed to meet its Financial Reserves target of £30,000 in a far quicker time span than we could have hoped for. God and His people have been very gracious to us. Unless unforeseen circumstances arise where the Church finds itself unable to fulfil its proper purpose and function without breaking into this sum, this value will be retained on the Church's Deposit Account, earning bank interest that the Church will be able to use on the General Fund.

Pensions Statement

The church is a participating employer within the Defined Benefit section of the Baptist Pension scheme and has been making ongoing deficit payments of £1 per month to cover the costs of past service of its staff within the scheme. The church has committed to remaining in the scheme and has no plan to leave, hence it expects to continue to make payments to the scheme in line with the recovery plan

Heather Baines, Church Treasurer, on behalf of the Deacons/Trustees

General Fund & Designated Funds Financial Statement

For the year ended: 31st December, 2023

	Note	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Receipts			
Offerings			
- Gift aid		24,531	21,827
- Other		12,440	11,681
Gift Aid/GASDS Income Tax Reclaim: General Fund		7,880	7,025
Gift Aid Income Tax Reclaim: Designated Funds		479	295
Church Premises Project (Designated Fund)	4	970	2,410
Legacies and memorial gifts	4	230	3,368
Grants (General Fund): Tudor Trust	15	2,000	500
Grants (Designated Funds: Tudor/NAVCA/EALC/CVST)	15	30,558	27,000
Charges for Hire of premises		26,489	17,247
Minibus Hire Income		628	358
Coffee Mornings proceeds	4	2,559	1,895
Funds raised for other causes	5	732	646
Other Receipts	4	26,684	3,667
Transfer from Designated Fund to General Fund	4	-	909
Totals		£ 136,180	£ 98,828
Payments			
Ministry			
Ministerial Expenses incl stipend, travel, visitors	6	2,463	24,305
Manse upkeep	7	8,162	3,503
Mission & charitable causes	8	8,316	9,576
Upkeep of church premises	9	31,951	21,245
Administration	10	2,289	2,933
Operational expenses	11	2,007	1,752
Church Premises Project	12	3,300	3,300
Community Activities & Other Designated Funds	13	20,137	10,840
Other payments	14	867	846
Totals		£ 79,492	£ 78,300
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		£ 56,688	£ 20,528
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		£ -	£ -
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		£ 44,251	£ 23,723
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	*	£ 100,939	£ 44,251

* Comprises: £59,926 General/Unrestricted & £41,013 Restricted/Designated Funds

H. J. Baines

H.J. Baines, Church Treasurer (20th January 2024)

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year
1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 as approved by the Church Meeting
held on 21st January 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Important Note: The Covid Pandemic took place in years 2020 & 2021. Post-Covid recovery continued to affect both Income and Expenditure to some extent into 2022. In the main, 2023 has been the first post-Covid Year where financial levels have closely returned to those of pre-Pandemic years (up to & including 2019).

	2023 (£)		2022 (£)	
1. Basis of Accounts				
These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis & accord with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011				
2. Non-monetary assets held for the 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 by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.				
Church premises at Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea	5,593,726		5,108,426	
Church manse at 36 Thorpe Rd, Clacton-on-Sea	343,750		275,000	
Fixtures, Furniture and equipment (Property empty in 2023)	221,728		197,443	
(all the above are shown at insured values)	6,159,204		5,580,869	
3. Liabilities - Loans outstanding (Baptist Building Fund)	23,100		26,400	
4. Donations, Receipts and Memorial Gifts				
Donations/Other Receipts (Church £28038 / R & DF £2175)	30,213		8,881	
Memorial Gifts/Legacies: (Church)	230		3,368	
<i>Note: R & DF = Restricted & Designated Funds</i>	30,443		12,249	
	2023 (£)		2022 (£)	
5. Funds raised for other causes	Raised	Given	Raised	Given
BMS World Mission & Birthday Scheme	333	3,648	210	4,208
Operation Agri	177	177	207	207
BUGB EBA Home Mission	-	3,400	-	4,008
CTIC Clacton	30	30	-	-
Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal	192	192	-	-
Spurgeons, Children's Society	-	40		
Essex Air Ambulance (2023: Paid direct via 'Crowdfunding')	-	-	229	230
	732	7,487	646	8,653
6. Ministry	2023 (£)		2022 (£)	
Minister's stipend	-		18,043	
Employer's PAYE, Pension contribution & BU Pension Deficit	12		4,368	
Employer's National Insurance (net of Govt. rebate)	-		34	
Minister's Pastoral & General Mileage/Expenses	697		77	
Minister's Training Course Fees & Mileage/Expenses	-		1,014	
Visiting speakers/other expenses	1,754		769	
	2,463		24,305	
7. Manse Upkeep				
Includes council tax, water, insurance, repairs, telephone/broadband and grasscutting adjacent land	8,162		3,503	
8. Mission				
Given to other causes (note 5)	7,487		8,653	
Connect' (now Sunday School)	301		446	
Girls' Brigade	165		-	
Events/Activities (Welfare/Wellbeing Ministry)	363		477	
	8,316		9,576	
9. Upkeep of Church Premises				
Lighting, heating and water	6,328		6,508	
Cleaning expenses	5,585		4,773	
Insurance	4,693		4,027	
Gift in Memoriam/Legacies: Quiet/Prayer Room Refurb/ICT	-		2,011	
Professional Fees (Premises related)	-		398	
Repairs & Maintenance of Premises	15,345		3,528	
	31,951		21,245	

continued

10. Administration			
Payroll Agency		-	107
ICT software incl website		1,046	1,211
Telephone, stationery & postage		714	1,006
Photocopier rental and copies		529	609
		2,289	2,933
11. Operational Expenses			
Church copyright licenses		919	869
Organ/pianos, music, sound and projectors		128	113
Minibus hire		616	370
Resources/subscriptions/sundries		324	340
Training/Course Fees		20	60
		2,007	1,752
12. Designated Funds			
Tiny Treasures Parent/Toddler Group		334	751
Premises Project (BBF Loan Repayments)		3,300	3,300
			4,051
13. Restricted Funds (Community Activities)			
Cancer Support Group (<i>new in 2023</i>): Community Activity		162	-
Enfold, Parish Nurse & '22-23 Warm Hub: Community Activity		19,053	9,180
Winter Warm Hub 2023-24 (<i>new Fund created in 2023</i>): CA		588	
2022 Shed, ICT & Job Club Funds closed & funds to General		-	909
		19,803	10,089
14. Other Payments			
Books/Equipment/Furniture/Supplies (Purchase & Repair)		552	530
Refreshments & sundries		270	208
Hirer refund		45	108
		867	846
15. Grants received			
Restricted/Designated: Enfold/P.Nurse, Warm Hubs, Cancer Support	£	30,558	£ 27,000 *
Unrestricted/General: '23 Wellbeing Grant, '22 EBA Sabbatical	£	2,000	£ 500

*In the Church's 2022 Annual Report & Accounts this figure was presented as £32,000 in error; it should have stated £27,000 and is now corrected in these 2023 Accounts.

Statement of Consolidated Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 2023

	Note	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		121,688	55,337
Representing balances on the following accounts:-			
General Fund & Designated Funds		100,939	44,251
Church auxillary funds		20,749	11,086
		121,688	55,337
Non-monetary assets			
Held for church's own use	2	6,159,204	5,580,869
Liabilities			
Loans outstanding	3	23,100	26,400

Auxillary Accounts Financial Statement as at 31st December, 2023			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Boys' Brigade: Treasurer, Ian Smith (BB has had no activity since 2021)			
Bal b/fwd	2,985	Capitation	-
Subscriptions	-	Uniform etc	-
Other Income	-	Battalion & special events	-
		Equipment & Activity Support	-
		Stationery/Inkjets	-
		Refreshments & other expenses	-
		Bal c/fwd	2,985
	2,985		2,985
Girls' Brigade: Treasurer - Lorraine Adams			
Bal b/fwd *	8,083	Stationery/Admin (GB HQ)	2,647
Subscriptions	3,458	Training	-
Uniform/GB shop	310	Uniform/GB Shop	-
Donations/Fundraising	2,090	Fundraising	84
Outings/Tuck	-	Camp/DofE	3,454
Activities/Sleepovers	528	Activities/Sleepovers	1,927
Camp/DofE	3,195	Other/Transfers	-
Admin/Training/Interest	82	Bal c/fwd (Current, Deposit, Cash)	9,634
	17,746		17,746
PABC Flower Fund: Treasurer - Victoria Oyekunle & Heather Baines			
(In 2023 the flowers displayed in Church have been kindly donated by M&S, Clacton and therefore no expenditure has been necessary in this year.)			
Bal b/fwd	18	Flowers/oasis/materials	-
Donations received	-	Bal c/fwd	18
	18		18
2023 Auxillary Accounts Summary			
Balances b/fwd	11,086	Payments	8,112
Receipts	9,663	Balances c/fwd	12,637
	20,749		20,749
All Auxillary Accounts have been audited by the Church Treasurer			27/01/2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Clacton on Sea, Essex, CO15 1NJ		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2023	Charity no (if any)	1135764
	Set out on pages 13 - 17		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

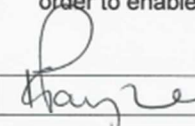
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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:  **Date:** 07.02.24

Name: Karen Payne

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): AAT

Address: 25 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4BT.

Enfold

Enfold is a project run by PABC for the homeless and those leading chaotic lives, for many reasons.

On average we have around 30 clients attending Enfold each week. We are pleased to have a dedicated, hardworking, happy team of volunteers, who all gel together really well. We also have many people outside of Enfold coming in to access 'Peabody' for housing and benefit support, mainly due to the cost-of-living crisis. For this reason we thought it best we dedicate a private area for the agencies who work alongside us, to meet with their clients in relative privacy via the aid of privacy screens. We have also initiated a number queuing system, solely for Peabody clients. This appears to be working really well. In addition, we are now joined by a 'Social prescriber' can give wide ranging help, advice and organise activities. An NHS Careers Advisor who is attending in order to encourage those with Learning Difficulties/ Mental Health issues back into work. Then to work closely alongside them for the first three months of their return back to work. They are joined by me the Parish Nurse, employed by the church, who leads Enfold and deals with any medical issues that walk through the door.

Most weeks we normally feed our Enfold clients cereals, baked beans with cheese on toast and some weeks sausage and bacon rolls. At Christmas one of our volunteers very kindly donated food so it enabled us to give our clients a full English breakfast and Christmas crackers on nicely decorated tables.

We open the doors for Enfold at 9am, the guys are offered a drink and together with the volunteers they watch and listen to a 'Bear Grylls' or Patrick Reagans latest book / bible study / thought and pray. It is encouraging that more and more of our guys are attending earlier. We stop serving food and drink at 10.45am, due to the fact 'Hope at Trinity' now opens up for them at 10.30am. Peabody stay until 11am.

All the volunteers and staff working within Enfold have a lovely rapport with our guys, and they are forever grateful for the services, friendship, acceptance and support we offer.

The aim is to encourage our guys into our church through showing practical support and Christian love.

Amanda Day, Parish Nurse

The Hub

The Hub is growing from strength to strength. Initially we were requested by CVST (Clacton Voluntary Services - Tendring) to open a 'Warm Hub' for our vulnerable/ homeless guys. This initial 'Warm Hub' finished in March 2023, but when we announced its closure we were met with upset from a few of our clients who had seen it as a vital lifeline for warmth / socialising and support. Therefore, we took our thoughts about carrying 'the service' on to the Deacons, who came back with a resounding 'yes'.

In 2023 we moved it to the front of the church which we are able to heat really quickly. We serve, soup, toast, cake, biscuits, squash, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. We are not only joined by the vulnerable now, but from all walks of society, which is lovely! We have a social prescriber available and myself, the Parish Nurse. 'The Hub' appears to have become a vital lifeline to everyone who attends, which is on average around 30 people of all ages. We offer a lovely, informal, non-judgemental space, where people can just 'be'.

Amanda Day, Parish Nurse

Girls' Brigade



2023 was another busy year in the life of 1st Clacton Girls' Brigade as we delivered a wide range of activities to the girls and young women that attend our organisation.

Our numbers fluctuate around 35 with most attending on a regular basis and it is encouraging that many are coming to church services and Sunday School. We are blessed with a loyal team of 11 Leaders who run the 4 sections of the Company. Much has to be planned to organise badge work and events to suit a wide range of abilities, bearing in mind those with special needs, including them in all we do.

For our badge work the following subjects were covered in each group (Sept 22 – July 23).

Explorers	- Outdoors, Winter, Special Places, Weather.
Juniors	- Stewardship, Joy, Forgiveness, Compassion.
Seniors	- Traveller, Communication, Getting Creative, Environment.
Brigaders	- Children, Domestic Goddess, Community. (both double awards).

Our Duke of Edinburgh work continues with 5 girls currently working at Bronze level. Each candidate is at various stages in the 3 sections, namely - Skills; Volunteering and Physical having already completed the Expedition. One of our younger adult Leaders has now completed her Gold Award. However, we have been experiencing difficulties in processing these awards with the online system.

We continue to send a birthday card and Christian bookmark to each girl and we have celebrated a few 18th birthdays. A thought for the week goes out regularly on our Facebook page which is hopefully read by many of our parents and leaders.

Two sleepovers were held during the year. Our first in March when the girls went to the pier for a round of crazy golf. Then back to the church to decorate pots and plant them with pansies to give out at the Mother's Day Parade service the following day, played games and made various craft items. Our second was in November when we took the girls bowling and again played games and did craft activities. This led into our Enrolment Parade where new members were enrolled and existing members recommitting themselves to the Company.

We continue to hold Church Parades bi-monthly and they are fairly well attended. It is good to see some of the parents joining with us on these occasions. As we continue to be without a Minister, we have taken on the responsibility of leading these services. The themes have included - Hopes for the New Year, Special Mothers, Crowning a King, Creation, Feasting (for harvest) and finally Flying our Flags. The girls took part in song and readings.

In July we held our Display and Awards evening when the girls received the badges they had worked for throughout the year. These were presented by Karen Rai, our church secretary. Each section brought items they had been practicing to the parents and friends who supported us at this event. The following week the girls enjoyed fun and games on the beach which concluded our summer term.

For our summer camp we took around 20 girls to Belchamps Scout Camp Site in Hawkwell. They enjoyed a wide range of activities including - pedal karts, assault course, caving simulator, sumo suits, tomahawks, archery, mini crossbows, nerf guns, traversing wall, craft and games. We also had a camp fire during the evening. Our devotional theme was Parables, exploring the stories Jesus told which had a heavenly meaning.

As 31st October fell on a Tuesday, we organised a Light Party as an alternative to Halloween. We invited parents, friends and those from the church, who joined in craft, making smores round a fire and a devotional time around a lighted floor area.

We took part in the Remembrance Parade organised by the Clacton branch of the Royal British Legion, marching down to the War Memorial where a service was held to remember those lives lost in various wars. A good number attended.

In December we held our Carol and nativity service, when girls from all sections told the Christmas story with the younger ones dressing up as the main characters. Readings were given by the girls and Carols were sung by all. The Brigaders then served refreshments with mince pies and biscuits.

The year concluded with our Christmas parties when girls from all sections enjoyed an evening of games and food. Our Brigaders organised the games for Explorers and Juniors including pass the parcel and pin the star on the Christmas tree. We also asked the girls to come in a Christmas outfit for which a prize was given to the one judged the best. Several girls brought a friend and it was good to see them joining in with the others. Each girl was given a party bag to take home.

During the year we held various fund-raising events, including our ever-popular Pancake evening when parents and friends enjoyed pancakes with a selection of fillings and homemade cakes. We organised two quiz nights, one in July and the other in December which took on a Christmas theme. They proved extremely popular and we raised a nice amount of money. We continue to be grateful for those who regularly donate to the work of Brigade.

We took the girls to a Pantomime at the Westcliff theatre at the beginning of the year which was enjoyed by all. During the summer holidays we again paid a visit to the theatre with the younger girls to an interactive pantomime session entitled 'Dame Dolly'. This was conducted by Joe Meloy and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We then took the girls down to the beach to eat their packed lunch and play some games.

We were pleased to learn of the safe arrival of baby Alexander, in September, to Caitlin (one of our leaders) and Dylan, wishing them every blessing in their family life. Caitlin is now taking a break from GB for a while.

It has been great to welcome Ellie onto our leadership team, having completed her training and fulfils this role in the Explorer section.

We recently asked the girls why they like coming to Girls' Brigade and were greatly encouraged by their positive response. They all appear to enjoy our activities, especially - cooking, games, craft and badge work. They also love the camp and sleepovers. They say they learn in a fun way about the Bible and many life skills. They all said they value meeting and making new friends to keep for life. The older girls enjoy being able to relax and talk with others, having fun and laughter. It was also said that it seems like one big family where everyone is so supportive.

As we continue this valuable work amongst girls and young women, we pray that they will progress in their faith journey. With seeds having been sown, we long for them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and to become regular attenders of our church services. It is great to have contact with so many families and as we move into another year hope to be able to welcome new members to come under the sound of the Gospel.

Gill Stennings - Captain

Sunday School

We started the year with just a small group of children, some weeks only having 2 or 3 attend. As the year went on our numbers have grown and grown and we now have 12 children on the register.

Through the year we have enjoyed a trip to the zoo and a day at the beach.

Over Christmas the children enjoyed making decorations to put on the Sunday school tree for the Christmas Tree Festival and we took the Christmas Eve service on the form of a Christingle service with the children taking parts of the nativity and doing the readings. This was well received by the congregation.

We look forward to another year where we can continue to grow in numbers and continue to teach the children.

Emma Scott

Tiny Treasures

Tiny Treasures has had a very positive year. The team works together really well. In September we had a full register and a waiting list. Throughout the year, those on the waiting list have been invited to join. Attendance is very varied and unpredictable but all those who attend always have an enjoyable and positive time whether it is 8 or 18. The new government legislation for nursery to be paid for from the age of 2 is likely to have an effect on us in 2024. We are already seeing that the average age of children attending the group is lower.

Before the sessions, the volunteers have fellowship and pray for the group. This is the most important part of the morning. We continue to follow the same routine of play, story & craft followed by snack and then singing. Activities are planned to cover all areas of learning and are changed each week. The snack is pre-prepared by Karen, Richard and Maureen, who follow food hygiene practices.

In July, we ended the term with a slightly longer session and had a Teddy Bear's picnic. This included a Bible story and prayer in the Church.

In August, we held a 'Picnic past and present' on the Greensward near the park for the third year running. This was for anyone who had been involved in Tiny Treasures previously, as well as for the current families. It was a good time for the adults to chat and children to play together.

We restarted the term in September and finished the year with our Christmas party. The Nativity story was told in the church, followed by prayer and 'Away in a Manger.' After some ring games, Santa arrived, and all received a present. We ended with party food.

We thank the team for their commitment. Our thanks go to Georgina, Miriam and Richard for putting out all the tables and chairs and toys each week. Karen, Lynn, Georgina, Maureen, Richard, Sylvia and Trudi make up our usual team with Miriam joining us when able. Thank you to those volunteers for all they are doing. Without them, we would not be able to run this group or have such a friendly and welcoming reputation.

We pray each week that God will give us opportunities to offer prayer, or a listening ear, to share the love of Jesus with all who come along to Tiny Treasures and we ask that you join us in that prayer. It would be great to build a greater link between families and the church.

We appreciate your prayers

Karen, Lynn & the Tiny Treasures Team

Worship Team

Thanks and appreciation to the Worship Team for their continued commitment this past year.

The Worship Team meet for rehearsal before each Sunday service at 09:45 and twice a month during the week. The Worship Team consists of:

Tracey - Piano	Karen - Guitar and Vocals	Dawn - Vocals
Nic - Piano	Tony - Guitar and Vocals	Alesis - SR18 Drum Machine !

The Worship Team have been liaising with different speakers during this time of having no Minister and are managing many varied styles of worship.

The Christmas services involve a lot of work for the team with extra services as well as the Carol Service.

At the Carol Service the team along with other singers sang 'King of Kings', and the congregation had a special treat on Christmas day when we sang 'Marys Boy Child' by Boney M! (thanks for the suggestion, Pauline Bailey!)

Our thanks go to the singers, musicians, Heather, Matthew, James and Ian for doing the PowerPoint/Live Feed and Chris for operating the sound, as well as those who decorated the church so beautifully with the candles, lights, tree and flowers.

We are still in the process of tweaking the live feed sound to the internet to ensure a quality sound to all people who listen online - please bear with us.

Our prayer for the coming year is that we will grow closer together with each other, but more importantly, grow closer to God as we follow His leading and serve Him by serving our fellowship.

Tony Meloy

Hall Usage

Church Organisations

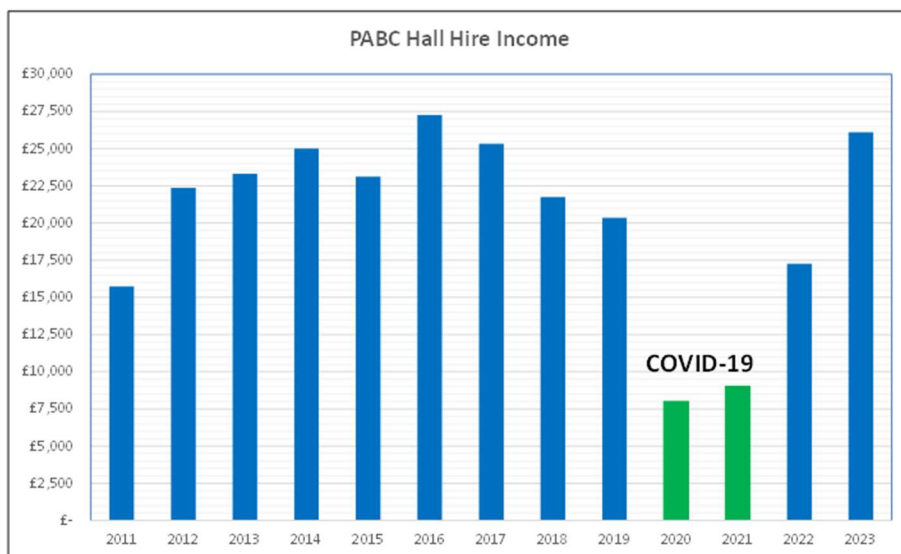
- Girls Brigade
- Sunday School
- Tiny Treasures Parent and Toddlers / Baby group
- GB Sleepovers & Quiz nights
- Prayer Meetings
- Fellowship Lunches & Teas
- Coffee Mornings
- Enfold Project
- Warm & Social Hubs
- Church Members' meetings
- Worship Team practices
- Joint event with Holland & Thorpe Baptist
- Sport & Social Group
- Church House Group
- Table top sales
- Deacon's meetings
- Street Pastors meetings and as a base -
(Churches Together in Clacton)

Community Users

- FoodCycle
- Four different Dancing & Fitness groups
- Darby & Joan Club
- Birthday Parties
- 1st Clacton Rainbows, Brownies, Rangers & Guides
- Escrima (self-defence classes)
- Essex University
- Thanksgiving (funeral) services
- NHS (Covid jabs)
- STEAM Powered Education
- Essex Wellbeing Services
- Afro-Caribbean drop-in group
- EXTRA Support for Families
- Bridge 86
- Cancer Support Nurse
- MK Childrens magic club
- InterAct
- Clacton F.C. under 12's presentation
- Tip Top Education Tours

Hall Hires

Over this last year, we have seen God’s provision in the way our hall hires have expanded. For the eight-year period prior to the Covid pandemic, our average hall hire income was £23.5K, peaking at £27K in 2016. Then in 2020, hires were effectively stopped in mid-March due to the lockdown. Apart from FoodCycle (who had a 6-month complete break) most other hirers tentatively returned in the September of 2021, so we only received about 7 months hire income in a 24-month period. 2022 was still slow and steady, but good signs of recovery. We lost some hirers due to the pandemic, but we also picked up some new ones too.



Hall Hire income started well in 2023, then increased steadily as we took on new hirers, and current hirers increasing their hours, to finish off the year with an amazing £26,489, £8.5k more than what was budgeted (what we thought we would receive at the start of the year).

As we now look forward to 2024, the budgeted figure of £28K has been used, which although higher than any year in recent history; if we are able to keep all current regular hirers and pick up the usual one-off hires during the year, will potentially be achievable. It’s great to see our premises busy again, after months of being empty in 2020 / 2021. Our main goal, is for the hire income to cover all the premises costs; so that our congregational giving goes towards the ministry costs.

In 2023, 86% of our income was achieved through our regular hirers, like: 1st Clacton Guides & Brownies, Ballroom Dancing, FoodCycle, Enfold Project, Warm Hub & Social Hub, Darby & Joan, other various dance classes. The other 14% of income was through many one-off hires, like: children’s parties, training days, wellbeing and support groups as well as Christmas Fayres. Two of these support groups are now regular hirers in 2024, making good use of the Friendship Lounge in particular.

We are very pleased to be hosting many community activities: a Cancer support nurse, Family support groups, Afro-Caribbean drop-in group, a group providing English Language learning as a second language to name but a few. We have a wide range of groups and activities that use our halls, some are seeing us as their ‘home’, and reaching out to strengthen links with PABC. The 1st Clacton Guides & Brownies have recently fundraised enough money to buy a defibrillator, which they have donated to the church and will be located on the front of the premises, to be made available for the Pier Avenue community in times of medical emergency. We thank them for their kind and generous donation.

To help nurture our links with the hirers, we have also encouraged them all to take part in our recent Christmas Tree Festival, where a mixture of hall hirers, some community organisations and our own church groups brought together 15 trees to display at the front of church during the festive period. This gave them an opportunity to celebrate and share with others who they are and what they do during the week, in a fun way through the tree decorations.

We thank God for bringing us in direct contact with so many local groups and organisations, who are happy to meet at PABC. A small number (so far) have started to come along to our Sunday morning services. Praise God. We will endeavour to extend these links further, as we work in partnership with our hirers in 2024.

Ian Day

PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1135764

Accounts



Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

Annual Report and Accounts 2022



Registered charity number 1135764. Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1NJ.
www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk info@pieravenue.org.uk

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Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2022

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the independently examined financial statements of the charity for 2022.

Pier Avenue Baptist Church registered as an independent charity with the Charity Commission on 4th May, 2010. Our Charity Registration number is 1135764.

The church is administered by the Diaconate who are the Managing Trustees of the Charity and comprise:

Minister and Chairman:	Rev. Sean Fountain (until 31 st July 2022)
Church Secretary:	Mrs Karen Rai
Church Treasurer:	Mrs Heather Baines
Deacons:	Mr David Baines
	Mr Antony Meloy
	Mr Richard Geddes
	Rev. Pauline Bailey
	Mr Ian Day
	Miss Elaine Hoadley

The Charity's bankers are Lloyds plc of 1 West Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1QP.

The Independent Examiner engaged by the Charity is Karen Payne.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Church's governing document is the Constitution for Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Clacton-on-Sea which sets out the objects of the charity. The revised Constitution was approved by the Church meeting on 24th March 2010.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Deacons who are the Managing Trustees of the charity are chosen from among existing church members who show the reality of their faith by the consistency of their Christian character and by their loyalty to the cause of Christ. The Diaconate consists of two Church Officers, Secretary and Treasurer, together with up to ten elected Deacons, making a possible twelve in all. Annual elections are held at the Church Members' meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 66% of those voting (eligibility is specified in the constitution). The Minister is also a Trustee.

Organisational Structure

The Church is governed and regulated by its own members where all aspects of the work of the Church are subject to the approval of the Church Meeting which is normally held bi-monthly. The Minister of the Church is a paid Managing Trustee and together with the Deacons gives leadership to the Church. The Minister and Secretary are responsible for preparing the business for the Church meeting.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Eastern Baptist Association

The Church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) and also of the national body, The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). Both organisations are registered charities. The Church pays an annual subscription to BUGB based upon its membership numbers and also makes a donation to the EBA for the Baptist family in the UK (Home Mission).

Relationships between the Charity and related parties

Churches Together in Clacton (CITC) – the Church is a member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Clacton-on-Sea area. The Church continues to take part in community activities co-ordinated by CITC through involvement in the Clacton's Street Pastors. The church has joined with other denominations for a short Christmas and Easter service outside a local supermarket. No other joint activities have been possible this year as CITC is struggling at present. However, CTIC are relaunching early in the New Year, so we look forward to the possibility of a greater range of collaborative Church events taking place in 2023.

We have always appreciated our good links and friendship with the Baptist Churches at Holland-on-Sea and Thorpe-le-Soken but sadly our joint activities had to stop during 2020/21. We were very pleased to be able to reinstate these again in 2022 and have enjoyed meeting up with them regularly once more.

The Church also supports a number of connected organisations including the Girls' Brigade. These connected organisations of the Church exist as part of the work and mission of the Church and are open to the community. Each organisation has its own committee, officers and members but they still fall within the scope of the Church Meeting and the Minister/Trustee is entitled to be Chair of all meetings.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the Charity

Established for the purposes of advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the Church, these purposes include the provision and upkeep of the place of worship, the carrying on of religious services and the payment, housing and pensioning of a minister of religion employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's aims

As a member of the Baptist Union, the Church subscribes to the Union's Declaration of its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.

Principle:

The basis of this Union is:

1. That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again on the third day."
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

Charity's main objectives for the year

The Church premises are situated in an ideal location in Pier Avenue in Clacton-on-Sea which makes the use of our premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities.

Where able and appropriate, the Church aims to discern the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these. After the disruption of 2020/21, in 2022 we returned to being open all year allowing us to be more active again, especially through our Enfold project, which was able to provide a full service again.

One of the ways in which the Church seeks to engage with others is not only the use of our premises by many varied groups but to use our kitchen facility for the benefit of the community in as many ways as possible. This facility is used weekly by FoodCycle who obtain excess food from supermarkets in the area and cook a meal for anyone in the community who needs it, one day a week.

Our Coffee Morning and Tiny Treasures Parent and Toddler Group, are regular opportunities for us to bring our objectives to life. The community initiative which commenced in 2012, the Enfold Project (to provide breakfast, an opportunity for a shower and access to support services, one morning a week, for the homeless and disadvantaged people of Clacton) is now a well established part of our church. We were pleased to have the Parish Nurse and the local support agencies fully involved and attending Enfold regularly again.

The Church continued to offer public worship on Sundays at 10.30a.m. whether in person or on line through our Livestream facility. See the Minister's/Trustees report for further details.

Conversations continue, where possible, with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of baptism and Church Membership.

The Church aims also to develop and grow as a fellowship through both study and social activities:

- a. **Nationally** – to assist in the development of denominational and inter-denominational churches and discover the experience of the church in Great Britain.
- b. **Internationally** – to discover more, the work of the Christian Church overseas and support that work wherever possible.

Charity's Strategies

- a. **Worship** – to seek to provide appropriate worship to God and review our act of worship on a regular basis.
- b. **Ecumenical** – to actively encourage, promote and participate in ecumenical activities.
- c. **Premises** – to maintain the premises to good standard, to promote and provide community activities.
- d. **Community needs** – to review the work of the Church and discern the needs of the community and then develop strategies and actions to support as appropriate.
- e. **Fellowship** – to develop a programme to promote Christian knowledge and understanding and to enhance the social awareness of the Church. Such a programme to include educating the Church members and congregation about the Baptist denomination regionally and nationally and its links to international Christian activity through the Baptist Missionary Society – World Mission and other Christian organisations.

Achievements and Performance

Easter, Harvest and Christmas

Our Easter service was held in the church building again this year, as were our Harvest and Christmas services.

AGM and Membership

The Annual General Meeting of the church could finally take place in the usual way again this year. The Annual Report and Accounts were accepted and passed there.

Our membership stood at 52 on 1st January 2022 and had decreased to 45 by 31st December due to the passing of some of our members.

Our Sunday school continues and all activities have returned to normal in 2022.

Housekeeping, Hall Hire and Fabric

Looking after pre-war buildings remains a challenge so we are especially grateful to those church members and friends who oversee and help to maintain the building in good order.

Our premises are now fully open to community groups again and during 2022 hall hires slowly returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Trustees Report

At the time of writing, there is no Minister at Pier Avenue Baptist Church because we are in a Pastoral vacancy. Our previous Minister felt led to a new Ministry at the end of July 2022 after almost 15 years service here. As a church we are searching for a new Minister, which in the Baptist system is known as 'Settlement' and this can take some time. I am writing this report on Trustees/Deacons behalf in the absence of a Minister.

The Church Profile has been written and the process has begun and in the meantime, our services are being led by various visiting speakers and by some of our own members, to whom we are very grateful. Tony Crawford has taken the role of moderator for our church during the Settlement process and we are very grateful for his support too.

We are encouraged by the sermons each week and also by the words of Jeremiah 29:11:

*'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord,
'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
Plans to give you hope and a future.'*

As we approached our time of 'Pastoral vacancy' we decided to adopt an approach of 'Patience, Prayer and Positivity' and so far things are going well for us and there are many signs of encouragement.

Our Minister was with us for the first 7 months of 2022 although he did take a 6 week period of Sabbatical leave as this had been delayed by the Pandemic and we really wanted him to have this time to study and reflect. Many of us travelled to his induction service in September. We will miss Sean and Paula and their family very much as they start their new ministry and we thank them for everything they did while they were with us.

After a much disrupted 2 years, due to Covid, many things have started to function as they used to. Our Housegroups returned, after two years on-line, with people meeting in homes and one group meeting at the church during the day so that people can study the Bible together.

We continue to hold a monthly prayer meeting and have also started to meet together every two months when Housegroup members attend a joint prayer meeting at church. The ladies 'Pudding and Prayer' event has also returned and was able to happen twice during 2022.

Our Enfold project is running well again with as many as 35 visitors coming in for breakfast on a Thursday morning where they not only find food, but a caring environment and listening ears. Our Parish Nurse is working hard to respond to the needs of all our visitors. We also have Peabody (supporting people in the community) coming each week to help our visitors fill in forms, find places to live etc. Along with this we have started a Warm Hub one afternoon a week, to provide a warm place for whoever wants it, in these difficult, and expensive, times! It had been hoped that our Shed project would finally be able to begin but unfortunately, this has not been able to happen.

Our toddler group, Tiny Treasures, is continuing to meet each week with as many as 25 babies and toddlers coming along with a parent, grandparent or child minder, to take part in the activities, learn how to play together (most of the time!), do craft, sing songs and generally have a good time together.

Our Girls' Brigade continues to be strong. We must pay tribute to the hard work undertaken by the leaders. The Girls' Brigade offer an excellent range of activities for different age groups and the dedication of the leaders is evident in all they do.

Our Sunday School activities for children and some slightly older young people with special needs has continued throughout the year providing a variety of activities on Sundays during the morning service.

We have held some special services during the year. Easter services had not really fully taken place for two years and it was good to be able to hold a service on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday this year.

Christmas was also a special time. We had a Family Nativity service, ably led by our Sunday School leaders and members and a Carols by Candlelight service. Along with this we held a Christingle service, a Quiet reflection and Remembrance service and we held a small Christmas Tree festival where 10 different church and community groups decorated a tree to represent what they do. Our Saturday coffee morning also held an enjoyable sing-a-long event on Christmas Eve and we held a Christmas morning service.

We have begun to meet up again for meals together such as a Platinum Jubilee lunch, joining in with the rest of the nation, and a Harvest lunch following the Harvest festival service. These things had been badly missed during the time of the Pandemic. We have also moved our church member's meetings, which are bi-monthly, to a Sunday afternoons so they can be followed by a bring and share tea.

Looking after church buildings when funding is tight is always a challenge. However, we were able to refurbish our Quiet room during this year. The work was mainly done by Tony and Lee to whom we are grateful. The costs involved were met by bequests from three people who passed away. For this we are also very grateful. Sean was able to formally open this room on his last Sunday with us.

We are still a part of Churches Together in Clacton. This organisation has struggled a bit over the last few years but is now back on track so that the people of the churches in Clacton can take part in more joint activities in the future.

One of the good things to come out of the Pandemic was the fact that we now livestream our services each week. We started this during that time and have continued so that many watch each Sunday. This means that those who can no longer get to church are able to join with us. We still put the service on DVD and deliver to a few members who do not have the internet. This facility has also meant that we can livestream funerals if requested, so that family members who live a long distance away, even overseas, can join in with the service.

With all the encouragements, there has been the sadness of Church family life too. We have said goodbye to Charles Boyton and Ron Tibbs during the year. Both of these gentleman had played a large part in our church life and will be sadly missed. We continue to pray for their families.

There are many people who should be thanked as a Church cannot function without many volunteers. Thanks to all those who serve in any way including those who operate the PowerPoint, livestreaming and sound, as well as the stewards, Bible readers, flower arrangers, coffee and tea makers, musicians and prayer team for all they do each Sunday. Thanks also to all those who serve in all the organisations mentioned in this Annual Report and those whose work is largely unseen such as who tidy up, tend the garden and those who make pastoral and social visits.

At the end of his report last year Sean wrote that he was confident that Pier Avenue Baptist church will continue to bless our community and we are pleased to say that it has certainly done that and will continue to do so in 2023.

Karen Rai, Church Secretary, on behalf of the Deacons/Trustees

Treasurer's Report

2022 has been another financially difficult year for most of us personally and for the Church it has been no different. With inflation spiralling, we will all experience personal worries and concerns on how our family and home will be affected financially as the newscasts bombard us with an almost daily diet of financial negativity and gloom. The Church and Trustees, Deacons, Fellowship & Membership have not been blind to these issues either. It has been a tough year.

As Christians we believe that God will uphold us – indeed we know He will uphold us – but we are human too. We know that we have faith in Him (*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified ... for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6*) but as Members & Friends of this Church for which we all care deeply, on a human level it would be unsurprising if we didn't sometimes find ourselves questioning how we can find the balance between answering God's call on us and our resources fully, while also being concerned about how that might be possible for us. The one and only way to get the right and best answer is to consider your gifting prayerfully.

If you study the financial pages of this Report, it will appear that Pier Avenue Baptist Church is really quite rich with a £44,251 carry forward to take into 2023. But please do not be misled; this carry forward is split between two types of fund, the 'General Fund' and the 'Designated Funds' (also known as 'Restricted Funds'). I will explain:-

The **General Fund** can be used to pay for the Church's Ministry at Pier Avenue. It can be spent in ways that the Trustees, Deacons and Church together responsibly decide. It finances the stipend (or salary) of our Minister, the upkeep of the Church premises and Church House (known as 'the Manse') together with the many other administrative, legal and necessary obligations that we must fund to allow our Worship and Ministry to take place in our Spiritual home at PABC. In addition, we are called to support Christian ministry in the UK (through the BU's Home Mission) and Overseas (through the Baptist Missionary Society). The General Fund carry forward going into 2023 stands at a very modest £13,013.

The **Designated/Restricted Funds** are those which have been given or entrusted for a set purpose, and so cannot be utilised except for that which it was given, unless the donor(s) of those funds say otherwise. The greater of the Designated/Restricted Funds are held for Enfold and the Parish Nurse. The Tudor Trust donated the third part of a three-year grant in 2022 and we greatly value their support and encouragement for our work in the community and would be hard placed to continue this work without it. Two smaller funds are also 'Designated'. One is our Tiny Treasures Parent/Carer Toddler group, and the other is our Premises Project, which as a Church we committed to in 2019 so that essential premises works & repairs to the Church could be funded. The Designated/Restricted Funds to be carrying forward into 2023 stand at £31,238.

It may feel like an excuse now, but we do acknowledge that like many churches, charities, and businesses across the UK and worldwide, PABC has struggled in its attempts to recover from the financial impact of the pandemic. However, we must now start looking forward, praying earnestly and actively seeking God's will for PABC, so that He can lead and guide us in the months and years to come.

Despite all the difficulty of the year, we remain grateful and humbled by the financial and volunteer support of our many Members and Friends. God can only provide for His work at PABC through the willingness of His people, and they have not let us down.

Where income is concerned, we are grateful for the Offerings & Donations we regularly receive. Additionally, we would give thanks to the Inland Revenue who gave us £7,000 on behalf of our tax-paying donors – Gift Aid provides an extremely valuable 'added extra'! We are glad our Hall hires are once again providing a good level of income for us, confirming the investment we made to improve our premises is worthwhile. We are also grateful for donations received from a legacy, from gifts in memory of Members called Home and from our Saturday Coffee mornings and other smaller activities that generate funds.

Sean left us at the end of July, having felt God's call to move to a new ministry at Brentwood Baptist Church, Essex. He and Paula are now settled in and are enjoying getting to know the people and the new work to which they were called. Some savings on expenditure were made by Sean leaving, but with costs in other areas going steadily higher, and premises issues that we have no option but to address, savings on 2022 expenditure were quite modest. Looking forward into 2023, any savings we make on a Minister's salary, will be offset by necessary Church roof repairs and to refurbish the Manse. The house looks very '1970s' and requires modernisation. We have made a low level of investment in the house since the 1980's, and consequently we must do this now, not just to modernise it, but also to bring it up to modern energy saving levels where we possibly can. Our financial situation remains very tight as 2022 draws to a close and the Deacons/Trustees will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Looking forward to 2023 and beyond

The budget is such that we know we will need financial support through this year. In respect of the designated/restricted funds, for Enfold & Parish Nurse, The Tudor Trust have invited us to reapply for continuation funding. We should also receive small grants from Essex County Council and CVST Tendring. The designated Premises Fund to pay off our BBF loan is entirely given by the Fellowship; many people committed to this project at its start, and the continuing support of this is given purely by Members, Friends and through Fundraising.

The General Fund will also need significant support this year. As Members and Friends we will do all we can to finance the work of the Church, its Ministry and Mission, but funds are such that we will need additional support. To this end, the Church is making a Baptist Union Home Mission grant application that, if approved, would help us finance part of a new Minister's stipend whenever one may be appointed. PABC has supported Home Mission loyally and generously for many years, but the time has now come where we need its support to help us go forward. We pray that a grant to support us in the medium term will help PABC build up its reserves thus enabling the Church to become financially independent again in the longer term.

My financial report must end expressing gratitude to so many who belong to or are associated with the Fellowship at PABC. On behalf of the Fellowship and Trustees/Deacons to all our prayer warriors, volunteers, donors, friends and members, I say a very big 'Thank You'. The Fellowship needs you because God can only do His work through us together. Please keep up the good work. Our collective effort makes a very positive & huge impact on everything we do.

2 Corinthians 9 vs 6-8 (NIV):

*"Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.
And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times,
having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

May God richly bless and reward your faithfulness to Him, to our spiritual home at PABC, to our community here in Clacton and to His work further afield.

Heather Baines, Church Treasurer.

Financial Reserves Policy

Background to the Policy

The Charity Commission are anxious that charities would have sufficient reserves to allow their affairs to wind down in an orderly manner or to consider how long it would take to reduce its expenditure or raise its income to allow it to cope with a significant financial challenge.

All the reserves PABC possessed were fully used and more in the two years of the pandemic (when the Church and all our premises had to be closed) and post-pandemic (when the Church was partially open, but hall hirers could not safely return). God upheld us through this exceptionally difficult two-year period, and although we did not fall or fail, we no longer have the reserves 'safety net' that we should have in place.

A financial challenge can come at any time and, aside of a pandemic, can be due to any number of things. On expenditure, it could be due to the need for a significant property repair; on income it could be due to losing a significant premises hirer or donor(s), or it could be caused by a failure to secure grant that had been expected or was successfully received in the past. The Charity Commission though are concerned that charities do not hold excessive reserves, which would amount to holding money back that should more properly be used for furthering the charitable/mission objects of the charity/church.

The Policy for Pier Avenue Baptist Church

The reserves policy of Pier Avenue Baptist Church is to hold three months of all expenditure plus a further three months staff costs to allow the church to adapt to any changes in the income or expenditure of the Church. The Trustees currently believe this amount to be £30,000.

The Trustees felt they should responsibly set a very prudent budget for 2023, which has a modest negative deficit. The aim of the Trustees is to limit spending wherever it can possibly do so and encourage one and all to prayerfully consider how a greater level of income might be raised or gifted. Their aim is to turn the budgeted deficit into a positive cash position at the conclusion of 2023, in line with what was successfully achieved at the end of 2022. The 2024 financial forecast suggests by that year end we may hold >£5,130 cash reserves, a trend that we must aim to continue, until PABC is able to meet, or perhaps more realistically to arrive much closer to the reserves expectations outlined in the policy.

Recovery from the loss of reserves that supported us during the pandemic may take six years or more, but we must move forward in a prayerful way. We firmly believe that God will uphold us and to that end, He does not want His work to fall or fail in Pier Avenue Baptist Church or for the community it serves.

Heather Baines, Church Treasurer, on behalf of the Deacons/Trustees

General Fund & Designated Funds Financial Statement
For the year ended: 31st December, 2022

	Note	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Receipts			
Weekly Offerings			
- Gift aid		21,827	22,537
- Other		11,681	9,358
Gift Aid/GASDS Income Tax Reclaim: General Fund		7,025	10,133
Gift Aid Income Tax Reclaim: Designated Funds		295	244
Church Premises Project (Designated Fund)	4	2,410	2,434
Legacies and memorial gifts	4	3,368	5,420
Grants (General Fund - EBA)	15	500	
Grants (Designated Funds - Tudor Trust)	15	27,000	4,860
Charges for Hire of premises		17,247	9,025
Minibus Hire Income		358	-
Coffee Mornings proceeds	4	1,895	540
Funds raised for other causes	5	646	327
Other Receipts	4	3,667	16,725
Transfer from Designated Fund to General Fund	4	909	4,811
Totals		£ 98,828	£ 86,414
Payments			
Ministry			
Ministerial Expenses incl stipend, travel, visitors	6	24,305	33,619
Manse upkeep	7	3,503	4,803
Mission & charitable causes	8	9,576	9,585
Upkeep of church premises	9	21,245	19,478
Administration	10	2,933	3,134
Operational expenses	11	1,752	1,371
Church Premises Project	12	3,300	3,300
Community Activities & Other Designated Funds	13	10,840	25,930
Other payments	14	846	5,022
Totals		£ 78,300	£ 106,242
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		£ 20,528	£ -
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR			-£ 19,828
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		£ 23,723	£ 43,551
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	*	£ 44,251	£ 23,723

* Comprising:- £13,013 General Funds and £31,238 Restricted/Designated Funds

 H.J. Baines, Church Treasurer 15/01/2023	
The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 as approved by the Church Meeting held on 15th January 2023	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Important Note: In both years 2020 & 2021 the Church's Services, Activities, Events and Premises Hires were all severely curtailed due to the Covid Pandemic forcing lockdowns and closure and Post-pandemic, forcing partial closures.

	2022 (£)		2021 (£)	
1. Basis of Accounts				
These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis & accord with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011				
2. Non-monetary assets held for the 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 by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.				
Church premises at Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea	5,108,426		4,613,824	
Church manse at 36 Thorpe Rd, Clacton-on-Sea	275,000		259,602	
Fixtures, Furniture and equipment	197,443		181,757	
(all the above are shown at insured values)	5,580,869		5,055,183	
3. Liabilities - Loans outstanding (Baptist Building Fund)	26400		29700	
4. Donations, Receipts and Memorial Gifts				
Donations/Other Receipts (Church £6471 / DF £2410)	8,881		24,510	
Memorial Gifts/Legacies: (Church)	3,368		5,420	
Note: DF = Designated Funds	12,249		29,930	
	2022 (£)		2021 (£)	
5. Funds raised for other causes	Raised	Given	Raised	Given
BMS World Mission & Birthday Scheme	210	4,208	270	4,278
Operation Agri	207	207	57	107
EBA Home Mission	-	4,008	-	4,008
Clacton Street Pastors	-	-	-	50
CTIC Clacton Soup Run	-	-	-	-
2022: Essex/Suffolk Air Amb / 2021: Love Into Action, Uganda)	229	230	-	200
2021: Bible Society			-	200
2021: London City Mission			-	-
2021: Gambia Englefield School			-	200
	646	8,653	327	9,043
6. Ministry	2022 (£)		2021 (£)	
Minister's stipend	18,043		25,235	
Employer's PAYE, Pension contribution & BU Pension Deficit	4,368		6,933	
Employer's National Insurance (net of Govt. rebate)	34		-	
Minister's Pastoral & General Mileage/Expenses	77		352	
Minister's Training Course Fees & Mileage/Expenses	1,014		684	
Visiting speakers/other expenses	769		415	
	24,305		33,619	
7. Manse Upkeep				
Includes council tax, water, insurance, repairs, telephone/broadband and grasscutting adjacent land	3,503		4,803	
8. Mission				
Given to other causes (note 5)	8,653		9,043	
Junior Church - 'Connect'	446		542	
Events/Activities (Welfare/Wellbeing Ministry)	477		-	
	9,576		9,585	
9. Upkeep of Church Premises				
Lighting, heating and water	6,508		4,008	
Cleaning expenses	4,773		1,834	
Insurance	4,027		3,866	
Gift in Memoriam/Legacies: Quiet/Prayer Room Refurb/ICT	2,011		5,636	
Professional Fees (Premises related)	398		-	
Repairs & Maintenance of Premises	3,528		4,134	
	21,245		19,478	



continued

10. Administration			
Payroll Agency		107	147
ICT software incl website		1,211	1,199
Telephone, stationery & postage		1,006	1,217
Photocopier rental and copies		609	571
		2,933	3,134
11. Operational Expenses			
Church copyright licenses		869	829
Organ/pianos, music, sound and projectors		113	182
Minibus hire		370	-
Resources/subscriptions/sundries		340	360
Training/Course Fees		60	-
		1,752	1,371
12. Premises Project Designated Fund			
Loan Repayments		3300	3300
		3,300	3,300
13. Community Activities (Current)			
Enfold & Parish Nurse		9,180	9,492
Tiny Treasures Parent/Toddler group		751	438
2022 Shed, ICT & Job Club Funds closed & funds to General		909	-
2021: Tudor Trust: Enfold Funds to General		-	16,000
		10,840	25,930
14. Other Payments			
Books/Equipment/Furniture/Supplies (Purchase & Repair)		530	644
Refreshments & sundries		208	378
Hirer refund		108	-
2021: General Fund: part repayment of funds back to Enfold		-	4,000
		846	5,022
15. Grants received			
Grants: Tudor Trust Enfold/Parish Nurse (Designated) £27K and EBA Sabbatical Grant £500	£	32,000	£ 4,860

Statement of Consolidated Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 2022

	Note	2022 (£)	2021 (£)
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		55,337	36,317
Representing balances on the following accounts:-			
General Fund & Designated Funds		44,251	23,723
Church auxillary funds		11,086	12,594
		55,337	36,317
Non-monetary assets			
Held for church's own use	2	5,580,869	5,055,183
Liabilities			
Loans outstanding	3	26,400	29,700

Auxillary Accounts Financial Statement			
as at 31st December, 2022			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Boys' Brigade: Treasurer - Ian Smith (Note: BB did not meet & had no activity in 2022)			
Bal b/fwd	2,985	Capitation	-
Subscriptions	-	Uniform etc	-
Other Income	-	Battalion & special events	-
		Equipment & Activity Support	-
		Stationery/Inkjets	-
		Refreshments & other expenses	-
		Bal c/fwd	2,985
	2,985		2,985
Girls' Brigade: Treasurer - Lorraine Adams			
Bal b/fwd *	6,150	Stationery/Admin (GB HQ)	1,599
Subscriptions	3,769	Training	
Uniform/GB shop	307	Uniform/GB Shop	371
Donations/Fundraising	1,538	Fundraising	
Outings/Tuck	157	Camp/DofE	3,183
Activities/Sleepovers	363	Activities/Sleepovers	2,321
Camp/DofE	3,246	Other/Transfers	3
Admin/Training/Interest	30	Bal c/fwd (Current, Deposit, Cash)	8,083
	15,560		15,560
<p>'Reach Up' Puppet Ministry has not been active in 2022. Trustees are aware that the independent 'Reach Up Puppetry' funds have been retained by the Puppet Ministry and are not formally part of the Church's accounts. Since the founders have left Clacton, the puppet ministry is no longer affiliated to nor operates from Pier Avenue Baptist Church and consequently their accounts will no longer be recorded in the PABC Annual Report.</p>			
PABC Flower Fund: Treasurer - Victoria Oyekunle & Heather Baines			
Bal b/fwd	18	Flowers/oasis/materials	-
Donations received	-	Bal c/fwd	18
	18		18
Auxillary Accounts Summary			
Balances b/fwd	9,153	Payments	7,477
Receipts	9,410	Balances c/fwd	11,086
	18,563		18,563
All Auxillary Accounts have been audited by the Church Treasurer			15/01/2023

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES		Independent examiner's report on the accounts	
Section A Independent Examiner's Report			
Report to the trustees/ members of	Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Clacton on Sea, Essex, CO15 1NJ		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2022	Charity no (if any)	1135764
	Set out on pages 13 to 16		
	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.		
Responsibilities and basis of report	As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with 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	<p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or • the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or • the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. <p>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.</p>		
Signed:			Date: 20/02/2023
Name:	Karen Payne		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	AAT		
Address:	25 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4BT.		

Sunday School

We have a mixed age group of children with some young people with special needs joining us too. Although our group is small, the children continue to take an interest in and take part in the lessons. Clare, Emma and Becky with helpers Janet, Lee and Bill (at the start of the year) and Emily (at the end of the year) have aimed to show the children God's love and plans for our lives. Sadly, Bill has stood down and we thank him for all his help over the years.

Some special events were enjoyed. We took approximately nine children to Hasteys Farm for an outing, and all had a wonderful time. During the summer we took the children to the beach for their Sunday School lesson one Sunday and later, some members of the church joined us for lunch. We also went bowling and the children enjoyed competitive play.

Finally, at Christmas, we led the service with a Nativity play produced by Becky named 'The twelve days of the Nativity'. A recognised song but with new words, sung by members of the Girls' Brigade via a recording and the church members joined in valiantly. Sadly, Clare is now also standing down due to health problems and whilst she will miss her role, she needs a rest. Thank you to all leaders and helpers for their continued commitment to the group.

Clare Read

Enfold

In 2022 we saw a return to running 'ENFOLD' in the Atrium and the Welcome Hall with the easing of Covid restrictions due to mass vaccination programmes. On average there were around thirty visitors each week. We offered baked beans, scrambled egg, toast, jam, marmite etc. and cereals.

Peabody continued to work alongside us offering benefit and housing advice. We were also joined by the NHS social prescribers on occasion. As Parish Nurse I offered medical help if and when required. Over the last year, we have been able to offer, coats if required, warm clothing, toiletries and food. Around Christmas time we also made bacon rolls and sausage rolls for our visitors. We have gained great links with other charities who can also offer our clients support and advice.

I personally attend 'The Community Forum' quarterly which is attended by many other organisations; such as Peabody, Salvation Army, Family Solutions, probation service, Tendring Community voluntary services etc. This gives us strong 'links' with other organisations and is a great source of information. I also attend the 'Cost of living crisis group' to discuss the issues the people of Tendring are coping with. We discuss how we are helping/ can help them. Again, a fantastic place to make contacts and work together.

In the Autumn I was approached by Tendring Community Voluntary Services and asked if PABC would consider opening a 'Warm Hub' for our clients specifically, who wouldn't necessarily 'fit the mould' of the other Warm Hubs. Our 'Warm Hub' started initially on a Monday afternoon in November and following a change of day request by the clients, now runs on Friday afternoons. We offer hot drinks, cuppa soup, cake and biscuits. It also offers a warm, safe, easy going, non-judgemental space to be. We also have the most wonderful team of friendly, easy going, very hard-working volunteers. Thank you so very much 'guys'.

Amanda Day, Parish Nurse

The Shed Project

The Shed project has been in the background for some time now. With the completion of the building, we began to prepare to open in early 2020. Unfortunately, owing to the pandemic we were unable to take this project forward at that time. However, we have now formed a link with Tendring Tool Refurb who are willing to provide the equipment needed for tool refurbishment projects. The thing we lack is a person who has the necessary skills and who is willing to lead this project. We are hopeful that we will be able to begin in 2023.

Amanda Day, Parish Nurse

Girls' Brigade



2022 was our first full year with no restrictions since the COVID-19 Pandemic, so it was back to normal with our usual activities taking place. It was also a major milestone in the life of the Company as we celebrated the Centenary of 1st Clacton Girls' Brigade. It's amazing to think that this work amongst children and young people has been going on for 100 years at Pier Avenue (with only a short break during second world war years). We are so thankful for the vision of those early pioneers who founded this work to provide activities for the youth of the members of the Sunday School. It is of course now open to those outside the church and a great means of witness to many who would otherwise have no church connection. We received a certificate and letter of congratulations from our GB head office which we have had on display throughout the year. A mention in our local paper was however unsuccessful.

Our numbers fluctuate around 35 with most attending on a regular basis to enjoy a wide range of activities. We are blessed with a loyal team of 11 Leaders who run the 4 sections of the Company. Much has to be planned to organise badge work and events to suit a wide range of abilities, bearing on mind those with special needs, including them in all we do.

For our badge work the following subjects were covered in each group (Sept 21 – July 22):

Explorers	– Our Favourite Things; Our Homes; Spring; Our Planet
Juniors	– Christmas Countdown; Generosity; Self Control; Friendship.
Seniors	– My Family; Coping with Change; Entertaining; Global Citizen
Brigaders	– Domestic Goddess; Adventure (both double awards).

Our Duke of Edinburgh work continues with 6 girls currently working at Bronze level. The Expedition was completed during the summer and each candidate is at various stages in the other 3 sections, namely – Skills; Volunteering; Physical. One of our younger adult Leaders has now completed her Gold Award.

Two sleepovers were held during the year. Our first in March when the girls went on a treasure hunt around the town, decorated pots and planted them with pansies to give out at the Mothers' Day Parade service the following Day, played games and made various craft items. Our second was in November when we took the girls bowling and again played games and did craft activities. This led into our Enrolment Parade where new members were enrolled and existing members recommitting themselves to the Company. Lorraine Adams was also presented with her 20 year Leaders badge and certificate.

We continue to hold Church Parades bi-monthly and they are fairly well attended. It is good to see some of the parents joining with us on these occasions. The service in June was led by us as it was our reunion weekend and those in September and November, due to our Minister Sean having moved to his new pastorate in Brentwood. The theme for the September parade was Creation to tie in with the harvest display, leading on to thinking about the Fruits of the Spirit. In November our theme was Journeys, how road signs can remind us of how God works in our lives, moving on to the story of Jonah's journey. At each service the girls took part in singing and giving our bookmarks to the congregation.

Our Reunion event held over the weekend of 11th–12th June was attended by members past and present, who enjoyed looking at old photos, uniforms over the years, band instruments sharing memories, reacquainting old friendships and enjoying a buffet tea. A celebration cake, which had been beautifully made by one of our Church members, Ann Skeggs, was cut by a former Captain Pat Jewell. During the afternoon we also held our awards presentations, when the girls received the badges they had worked for throughout the year. These were presented by Pat Jewell. Each section performed an item they had been practicing to the guests who attended:- Explorers – Skipping; Juniors – A song and line dance; Seniors – Cooking Demonstration; Brigaders – Putting up a Tent. The Parade service the following day took the theme of 'Sowing Seeds' and included an overview of the history of the Company. After the service we invited girls and their families to join us for a picnic on the beach.

We were able to organise a summer camp – our first since 2018 – when we took around 20 girls to Thorrington Scout Camo Site. They enjoyed a wide range of activities including – pedal karts, assault course, human table football, bouldering, 3D maze, craft and games. Our Explorers joined us on the Wednesday to experience something of the camping life. Unfortunately, we were unable to have camp fires due to the extremely dry weather conditions over the summer. Our devotional theme was 'Creation'.

We took part in the Remembrance Parade organised by the Clacton branch of the Royal British Legion, marching down to the War Memorial where a service was held to remember those lives lost in various wars. A good number attended.

In December it was good to be able to hold our Carol and nativity service, when girls from all sections told the Christmas story with the younger ones dressing up as the main characters.. Reading were given by the girls and Carols were sung by all. The Brigaders then served refreshments with mince pies, and biscuits.

The year concluded with our Christmas parties when girls from all sections enjoyed an evening of games and food. Our Brigaders organised the party for Explorers and Juniors as part of their badge work which involved them preparing the food and planning the games, including pass the parcel. They also asked the girls to come in a Christmas outfit for which a prize was given to the one judged the best. Several girls brought a friend and it was good to see them joining in with the others. A present was given to each girl including a framed photo of the Company for our Centenary year.

During the year we held various fund raising events, including our ever popular Pancake evening (after a two year break) when parents and friends enjoyed pancakes with a selection of fillings and home made cakes. We also held some coffee mornings, table top sales and a car wash which proved highly successful. We continue to be grateful for those who regularly donate to the work of Brigade.

We continue to send Birthday cards to the girls together with a Christian bookmark and the 'Thought for the Week' still goes on to our Facebook page.

We took the girls to a Pantomime at the Westcliff theatre at the beginning of the year which was enjoyed by all. Later in the year we spent a Tuesday evening at the Clacton Lifeboat Station when we were all given an informative talk followed by a tour of the station. We all learnt a great deal of their work and how we should stay safe when being in the sea. As a result we gave a small donation to this valuable work of saving lives at sea.

Sadly our good friend Ron Tibbs passed away and we were asked to take an active part in the funeral service as well as preparing the food for the wake afterwards. A few leaders also attended the funeral of a former member, Davina, who passed away at the age of 37. Our hearts go out to both families as they move on without their loved ones by their side.

Although another successful year we are always looking at ways to recruit new members as we feel it is such a great opportunity to provide meaningful activities, life skills, fun, friendship and above all to bring the gospel to children and young people in a relevant way. As the leaders relate to the girls each week we pray we will see lives changed, confidence boosted and families supported in our ever changing world. As we move into our 101st year we seek God's guidance in fulfilling our motto to 'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.

Gill Stennings – Captain

Clacton Street Pastors

Clacton Street Pastors has now been running for over eleven years. Street Pastors aim initially, is to help those in trouble on the streets on a Saturday night. Night time venues gradually opened up during 2022 but not all did and by the end of the year, only one real Night time venue remained. This meant less people on the streets as there was no movement between venues as in previous years. During the summer we went out onto the streets at the earlier time of 8.30 p.m. and were able to interact with families who were still out during the evenings, especially during Clacton Pier firework displays held each Saturday during the school holidays. At night time we have seen that there are far less people about than there were before the pandemic started but still some who want to talk and a few who need support. As 2022 ends we are looking at doing more day time work in support of the local community as there are always people who want a listening ear.

Karen Rai

Tiny Treasures

Tiny Treasures has had a very good year despite the fact that our leader of many years, Paula, moved on in July. The team have really pulled together since then and we have managed to continue in the same way although Paula is greatly missed. Numbers dropped after July as some left for school or nursery or moved away but built up slowly from September and there were 25 names on our register by Christmas.

Before the sessions, the volunteers have fellowship and pray for the group. This is the most important part of the morning. We continue to follow the same routine of play, story & craft followed by snack and then singing. Activities are planned to cover all areas of learning and are changed each week. The snack is pre-prepared by Karen, Richard and Maureen, who follow food hygiene practices.

In July, we ended the term with a slightly longer session and had a Teddy Bear's picnic. This included a Bible story and prayer in the Church.

In August, we held a 'Picnic past and present' on the Greensward near the park for the second year running. This was for anyone who had been involved in Tiny Treasures previously, as well as for the current families. It was a good time for the adults to chat. We had parachute games and then the children played on the park. It was a success and it will be something that we will continue to do.

We restarted the term in September and finished the year with our Christmas party. The Nativity story was told in the church, followed by prayer and 'Away in a Manger.' After some ring games, Santa arrived, and all received a present. We ended with party food.

We thank the team for their commitment. Our thanks go to Georgina, Miriam and Richard for putting out all the tables and chairs and toys each week. Karen, Lynn, Georgina, Maureen, Richard, Sylvia and Trudi make up our usual team with Miriam joining us when able. Thank you to those volunteers for all they are doing. Without them, we would not be able to run this group or have such a friendly and welcoming reputation.

We pray each week that God will give us opportunities to offer prayer, or a listening ear, to share the love of Jesus with all who come along to Tiny Treasures and we ask that you join us in that prayer. It would be great to build a greater link between families and the church.

We appreciate your prayers

Karen, Lynn & the Tiny Treasures Team

Worship Group

Thanks and appreciation to the Worship Team for their continued commitment this past year. The Worship Team meet for rehearsal before each Sunday service at 09:45 and twice a month during the week. The Worship Team consists of:

- Piano - Tracey & Nic
- Guitar & Vocals - Karen & Tony
- Vocals - Dawn

Since Sean left for his new church the Worship Team have been liaising with different speakers during this time of having no Minister.

The Christmas services involve a lot of work for the team with extra services as well as the carol service. At the Carol Service the team along with other singers sang 'Adore' by Graham Kendrick which was well received. Our thanks go to the singers, musicians, powerpoint, sound and livestream operators, as well as those who decorated the church so beautifully with the candles, lights, tree and flowers.

Our prayer for the coming year is that we will grow closer together with each other, but more importantly, grow closer to God as we follow his leading and serve him by serving our fellowship.

Tony Meloy

Hall Usage

Church Organisations

- Girls Brigade
- Sunday School
- Tiny Treasures Parent and Toddlers / Baby group
- GB Sleepovers
- Prayer Meetings
- Fellowship Lunches & Teas
- Coffee Mornings
- Enfold Project
- Prayer afternoons for women
- Church members' meetings
- Worship Team practices
- Joint events with Holland Baptist
- Street Pastors meetings and as a base -
(Churches Together in Clacton)

Community Users

- FoodCycle
- Five different Dancing groups
- Darby & Joan Club
- Birthday Parties
- Rainbows, Brownies, Rangers & Guides
- Escrima (self-defence classes)
- Wedding
- Thanksgiving (funeral) services
- Careline
- Epilepsy Action
- Essex Wellbeing Services
- Cannons Basketball
- Clacton-on-Sea Lions Club
- CVST & St. Helena Hospice
- Slimming World
- STEAM Powered Education
- Princes Trust

PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

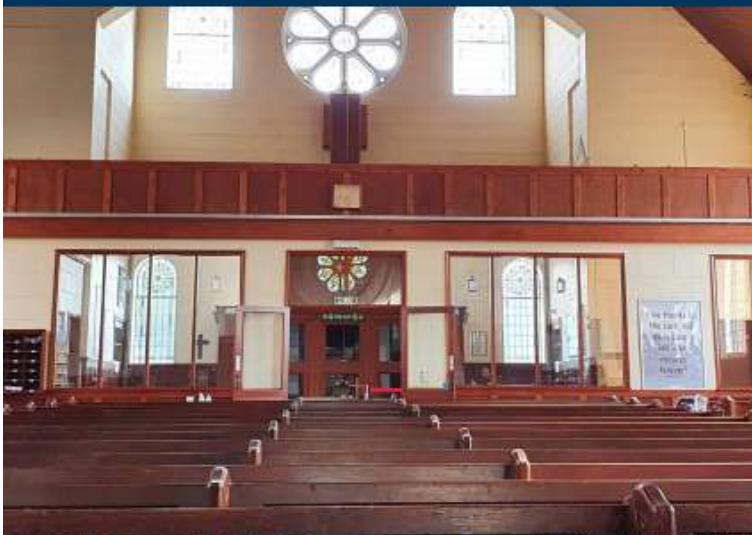
England & Wales - Charity number 1135764

Accounts



Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

Annual Report and Accounts 2021



Registered charity number 1135764. Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1NJ.
www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk info@pieravenue.org.uk

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The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the independently examined financial statements of the charity for 2021.

Pier Avenue Baptist Church registered as an independent charity with the Charity Commission on 4th May, 2010. Our Charity Registration number is 1135764.

The church is administered by the Diaconate who are the Managing Trustees of the Charity and comprise:

Minister and Chairman:	Rev. Sean Fountain
Church Secretary:	Mrs Karen Rai
Church Treasurer:	Mrs Heather Baines
Deacons:	Mr David Baines
	Mr Antony Meloy
	Mr Richard Geddes
	Rev. Pauline Bailey
	Mr Ian Day
	Miss Elaine Hoadley

The Charity's bankers are Lloyds plc of 1 West Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1QP.

The Independent Examiner engaged by the Charity is Karen Payne.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Church's governing document is the Constitution for Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Clacton-on-Sea which sets out the objects of the charity. The revised Constitution was approved by the Church meeting on 24th March 2010.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Deacons who are the Managing Trustees of the charity are chosen from among existing church members who show the reality of their faith by the consistency of their Christian character and by their loyalty to the cause of Christ. The Diaconate consists of two Church Officers, Secretary and Treasurer, together with up to ten elected Deacons, making a possible twelve in all. Annual elections are held at the Church Members' meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 66% of those voting (eligibility is specified in the constitution). The Minister is also a Trustee.

Organisational Structure

The Church is governed and regulated by its own members where all aspects of the work of the Church are subject to the approval of the Church Meeting which is normally held bi-monthly. The Minister of the Church is a paid Managing Trustee and together with the Deacons gives leadership to the Church. The Minister and Secretary are responsible for preparing the business for the Church meeting.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Eastern Baptist Association

The Church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) and also of the national body, The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). Both organisations are registered charities. The Church pays an annual subscription to BUGB based upon its membership numbers and also makes a donation to the EBA for the Baptist family in the UK (Home Mission).

Relationships between the Charity and related parties

Churches Together in Clacton – the Church is a member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Clacton-on-Sea area. The Church continues to take part in community activities co-ordinated by Churches Together in Clacton through involvement in the Clacton's Street Pastors. The church has joined with other denominations for a short Christmas service outside a local supermarket. No other joint activities have been possible this year.

We also continue to build links with the Baptist Church at Holland-on-Sea and had begun to meet with them regularly. These activities had to stop once lockdown began last year and are yet to recommence.

The Church also supports a number of connected organisations including the Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade. These connected organisations of the Church exist as part of the work and mission of the Church and are open to the community. Each organisation has its own committee, officers and members but they still fall within the scope of the Church Meeting and the Minister is entitled to be Chair of all meetings.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the Charity

Established for the purposes of advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the Church, these purposes include the provision and upkeep of the place of worship, the carrying on of religious services and the payment, housing and pensioning of a minister of religion employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's aims

As a member of the Baptist Union, the Church subscribes to the Union's Declaration of its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.

Principle:

The basis of this Union is:

1. That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again on the third day."
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

Charity's main objectives for the year

The Church premises are situated in an ideal location in Pier Avenue in Clacton-on-Sea which makes the use of our premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities. Unfortunately, in 2021, due to the pandemic, these activities were severely curtailed.

Where able and appropriate, the Church aims to discern the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these however, this year, we have been unable to do this with the exception of Enfold, which was able to continue in a small way as those using the service were vulnerable. However, towards the end of the year the service was able to increase its activities.

One of the ways in which the Church seeks to engage with others is not only the use of our premises by many varied groups but to use our kitchen facility for the benefit of the community in as many ways as possible.

Our Coffee Morning and Tiny Treasures Parent and Toddler Group, are regular opportunities for us to bring our objectives to life. The community initiative which commenced in 2012, the Enfold Project (to provide breakfast, an opportunity for a shower and access to support services, one morning a week, for the homeless and disadvantaged people of Clacton) is now a well established part of our church. However, this had to change during the pandemic and breakfast was then made available on a take-away basis. However, towards the end of the year we began to welcome visitors inside the building again and our Parish nurse started to work again.

The Church continued to offer public worship on Sundays at 10.30a.m. whether in person or on line through our Livestream facility. See the Minister's report for further details.

Conversations continue, where possible, with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of baptism and Church Membership. One baptism took place during 2021.

The Church aims also to develop and grow as a fellowship through both study and social activities:

- a. **Nationally** – to assist in the development of denominational and inter-denominational churches and discover the experience of the church in Great Britain.
- b. **Internationally** – to discover more, the work of the Christian Church overseas and support that work wherever possible.

At the end of another unusual year in the life of Pier Avenue Baptist Church we give thanks and praise to God that we have been able to continue to worship together through online services (provided on DVD or CD for those without internet access).

Charity's Strategies

- a. **Worship** – to seek to provide appropriate worship to God and review our act of worship on a regular basis.
- b. **Ecumenical** – to actively encourage, promote and participate in ecumenical activities.
- c. **Premises** – to maintain the premises to good standard, to promote and provide community activities.
- d. **Community needs** – to review the work of the Church and discern the needs of the community and then develop strategies and actions to support as appropriate.
- e. **Fellowship** – to develop a programme to promote Christian knowledge and understanding and to enhance the social awareness of the Church. Such a programme to include educating the Church members and congregation about the Baptist denomination regionally and nationally and its links to international Christian activity through the Baptist Missionary Society – World Mission and other Christian organisations.

Achievements and Performance

Easter, Harvest and Christmas

Our Easter service was held online this year but Harvest and Christmas services were able to take place in the church building.

AGM and Membership

The Annual General Meeting of the church could not take place in the usual way again this year. The Annual Report and Accounts were accepted and passed by the Trustees via a Zoom meeting

Our membership stood at 58 on 1st January 2021 and had decreased to 52 by 31st December due to the passing of some of our members.

Our Sunday school (Connect) continues and work packs were regularly sent out to the young people during lockdowns. Connect activities were able to run in person once the church opened for worship later in the year. Our puppet ministry team, 'Reach up Puppetry' have sadly been unable to function during the pandemic.

Housekeeping, Hall Hire and Fabric

Looking after pre-war buildings remains a challenge so we are especially grateful to those church members and friends who oversee and help to maintain the building in good order.

The use of our premises by community groups was seriously curtailed by the pandemic. However, Food Cycle, a group of volunteers providing a meal for members of the community, using food provided by local shops and businesses, were able to continue providing bags of food at first and then providing a take-away meal to members of the community. They were able to serve meals inside the building again towards the end of the year. Other hall hires also slowly returned during 2021 although are yet to rise to pre-pandemic levels

We have made our church sanctuary, our halls and rooms 'Covid secure' and they were used at times during 2021, depending on the level of Government restrictions at the time.

Ministers Report

Writing an annual report is always an opportunity for me to reflect on how I have seen the hand of God at work over the past year. Both 2020 and 2021, have been years of great challenge and encouragement. I have found real comfort in some words from Psalm 121;

*He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
(Psalm 121 vs. 3 – 4)*

As we began 2021, the country entered another period of lockdown due to the ongoing pandemic. Thankfully, our experiences of 2020 meant that we had already an established online presence along with a CD or DVD option for those unable to access the internet.

One of the lessons that we have learnt during the lockdowns, is that the Church must have an online presence for the longer term. The trustees made the decision to install equipment to enable the Church to livestream during its services. I would like to express my thanks to Dan and his friend Alex who spent many hours installing the new equipment.

Given the uncertainty of the situation, we were not sure it was advisable for Housegroups to meet. Thanks to the technology of Zoom, we were able to continue to offer Housegroup@home. The Church based group began to have in-person meetings from September.

As the national situation changed, we were able to recommence in person services by 14th March. By the 25th July, the government lifted its regulations and enabled the Trustees to take whatever measures they felt appropriate to manage COVID.

During the course of the year, we said goodbye to a number of members and friends. Megan Day, Cliff East, Colin Read, Dorothy Brooks, Ginny Cooke, Rose Crispin and Frank Pearson. With restrictions on gatherings, we held a service on 10th October called "In Remembrance". It was an opportunity for the fellowship to reflect and give thanks to God for the friends we lost during the pandemic.

I was able to continue in my role as a School Governor for Oakwood Infant and Nursery School. In September, I was appointed Chair of Governors. I continued to provide online assemblies for the school. Although I miss the opportunity of face to face interaction, gathering such a large number of children and adults in the assembly hall is probably unwise at this time.

I have marvelled at how well our Girls Brigade and Connect Group have adapted to the challenges of COVID. I want to thank their leaders for all the hard work they have undertaken over the past year. In the face of so many challenges, they have maintained contact with the children and young people they work with.

It was lovely to see the return of Tiny Treasures, our parent and toddler group. Paula did an amazing job of on-line sessions but, it was great to hear the patter of tiny feet in the corridor behind my office. Tiny Treasures even managed a Christmas Party this year and were joined by Father Christmas.

I was glad to be able to return to Air Cadets. It was an encouragement for the Officers and I to see many new recruits joining the squadron. As Padre, I provide support for Cadet, Officers and Civilian Staff connected to the Squadron. When new recruits are "sworn-in" they receive a copy of the Bible, and the instruction to read it! In my time with the Air Cadets, I have handed out over 200 Bibles.

As the year drew to a close, we tried a new venture of a Christmas Tree Festival. For a first attempt, and given the startling rise in cases of the Omicron variant, I was pleased with what we were able to produce. The money raised was given to the Essex Air Ambulance and I want to thank all of those who were involved.

As a fellowship, we said farewell to Frank Pearson. Frank was the counsellor who worked out of our offices and supported the work of the Enfold Project. Many people, within the fellowship and beyond, were encouraged and supported by Frank. His passing will leave a hole in many lives.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Deacons, Members and friends for their ongoing encouragement and support. Whilst this year has been tough, we have seen God's blessing on our fellowship and we look forward to the coming year.

Given the past couple of years, I hesitate to predict what will happen in 2022. However, I am confident that Pier Avenue Baptist Church will continue to bless our community.

Sean

Treasurer's Report

You may recall in 2020 the Charity Commission amended its guidelines allowing Trustees of charities to act in any way that was best to monitor their financial activities. After monitoring the Church finances for 20 months, the Deacons were glad to finally hold a Members Church Meeting on Sunday 21st November 2021.

Emotionally, spiritually, and financially it has been another difficult year for most of us and for the Church. Our Services and activities have again been adversely affected by the issues arising from Covid19 through most of 2021. My responsibility as Treasurer is to ensure the Church can afford to function in the various and many ways that it needs to, which naturally puts an emphasis on the financial aspects.

The Church accounts are split between:-

- **General Fund** providing for the Ministry and day to day running of the Church & Manse, and the
- **Designated Funds** for specific projects, such as Enfold/Parish Nurse & the Premises 2019 Project.

We have been very grateful and humbled by the financial support we have been able to receive through Offerings & Donations, two Legacies, Grants, and some Hire Income.

'Food Cycle' were the only hirer able to carry on using our premises all year, but we gradually welcomed our other hirers back from September.

Financially we have missed the Sunday cash offerings and premises hire income during the periods of Covid regulated closure & partial closure.

All the support we have been able to receive has meant that despite the income shortfalls we have had and may continue to experience for a while, we are relieved to have carried on the Ministerial and day to day running expenses of the Church.

Altogether, there has been a shortfall on the General Fund income of around £10,000 in 2021 which has eaten up all the carry forward that we had managed to accrue in previous years. There has been a small saving on energy (gas, electric, water) during the closures, but most running costs do continue whether the church and its buildings are open or not. The financial situation is therefore very tight as it has been throughout the year. The Deacons continue to monitor the finances in detail, so we can better understand the issues that face us and discuss what actions we might need to take to counteract or control them.

We know God can only provide for His work at PABC through the willingness of His people and despite the many and various difficulties that we have all had to cope with, our Members and Friends have not let us down.

Despite the financial difficulties and the closures, we have been busy! Sean continued to work through the lockdowns, and we were extremely grateful for the spiritual sustenance that he brought to us through such difficult times. Our Enfold Project, led by Sean and staffed by volunteers, did continue during part of the year. We had to furlough our Parish Nurse between January and July because Covid regulations prevented her from providing the close-contact support that our Enfold guests sometimes need. During her absence we made sure our Enfold guests knew where they could get help from other providers or their GP.

We have undertaken repairs to the roof of the Manse, and next year we need to start the replacement of some soffits, gutters and fascia.

A legacy received in 2020 allowed us to buy equipment for a livestream facility which was installed on a voluntary basis by Dan and his colleague Alex. We are extremely grateful to them both for using their skills to help us, and along the way saved the fellowship hundreds of pounds that it would have cost us for the installation.

By utilizing some funds from four legacies, as we approach the year end we are starting refurbishment of the 'Quiet Room'. This is used as a prayer room or for house groups and small meetings but has sadly been out of action since it was damaged following the failure of the flat roof above it in 2019. We have taken the opportunity during the refurbishment and decoration to raise the light levels and improve/update the décor. We look forward to being able to use it again next year.

What I said in 2020 and sadly repeat again now, is that many Churches, Charities, and Businesses found it impossible to manage financially due to the impact of Covid and the ever-moving Covid regulations. However, we have been blessed, and are grateful that through the gracious generosity of His people, Pier Avenue Baptist Church has continued to cope with its financial obligations through 2021. Thank you everyone. 2022 will be tough once more as we try to recover our financial position, but we must rejoice that we have been upheld to this point and pray that we will continue so into next year and onward.

Luke 6 v38:

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together
and running over, will be poured into your lap.*

For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (NIV)

May God richly bless and reward your faithfulness.

Heather Baines - Church Treasurer

General Fund & Designated Funds Financial Statement
For the year ended: 31st December, 2021

	Note	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Receipts			
Weekly Offerings			
- Gift aid		22,537	25,433
- Other		9,358	6,986
Gift Aid/GASDS Income Tax Reclaim: General Fund		10,133	9,494
Gift Aid Income Tax Reclaim: Designated Funds		244	3,513
Church Premises Project	4	2,434	35,566
Legacies and memorial gifts	4	5,420	10,500
Grants (Tudor Trust & HM Govt Furlough)	15	4,860	28,664
Charges for Hire of premises		9,025	8,002
Minibus Hire Income		-	213
Coffee Mornings proceeds	4	540	791
Funds raised for other causes	5	327	566
Tuesday Lunch		-	335
Donations & Other Receipts	4	16,725	3,017
Community Activities & Other Designated Funds	4	4,811	863
Totals		£ 86,414	£ 133,943
Payments			
Ministry			
Ministerial Expenses incl stipend, travel, visitors	6	33,619	31,678
Manse upkeep	7	4,803	2,868
Mission & charitable causes	8	9,585	9,429
Upkeep of church premises	9	19,478	29,450
Administration	10	3,134	3,207
Operational expenses	11	1,371	1,809
Church Premises Project	12	3,300	53,947
Community Activities & Other Designated Funds	13	25,930	10,871
Other payments	14	5,022	2,533
Totals		£ 106,242	£ 145,792
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		-£ 19,828	£ -
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			-£ 11,849
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		£ 43,551	£ 55,400
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD		£ 23,723	£ 43,551

Heather J Baines

H.J. Baines, Church Treasurer

16/01/2022

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year
1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 as approved by the Church Meeting held
on 16th January 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Important Note: In both years 2020 & 2021 the Church's Services, Activities, Events and Premises Hires were all severely curtailed due to the Covid Pandemic forcing lockdowns and closure and Post-pandemic, forcing partial closures.

	2021 (£)		2020 (£)	
1. Basis of Accounts				
These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis & accord with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011				
2. Non-monetary assets held for the 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 by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.				
Church premises at Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea	4,613,824		4,568,143	
Church manse at 36 Thorpe Rd, Clacton-on-Sea	259,602		193,070	
Fixtures, Furniture and equipment (all the above are shown at insured values)	181,757		179,602	
	5,055,183		4,940,815	
3. Liabilities - Loans outstanding (Baptist Building Fund)	29700		33000	
4. Donations and Memorial Gifts				
Donations/Other Receipts (Church £19699 / CA £4811)	24,510		39,446	
Memorial Gifts/Legacies: (Church)	5,420		10,500	
<i>Note: CA = Community Activities</i>	29,930		49,946	
	2021 (£)		2020 (£)	
5. Funds raised for other causes	Raised	Given	Raised	Given
BMS World Mission & Birthday Scheme	270	4,278	232	4,209
Operation Agri	57	107	109	60
EBA Home Mission	-	4,008	-	4,062
Clacton Street Pastors	-	50	-	50
CTIC Clacton Soup Run	-	-	225	225
Love Into Action, Uganda	-	200	-	201
Bible Society	-	200	-	201
London City Mission	-	-	-	201
Gambia Englefield School	-	200	-	-
	327	9,043	566	9,209
	2021 (£)		2020 (£)	
6. Ministry				
Minister's stipend	25,235		24,720	
Employer's PAYE, Pension contribution & BU Pension Deficit	6,933		5,884	
Employer's National Insurance (net of Govt. rebate)	-		-	
Minister's Pastoral & General Mileage/Expenses	352		53	
Minister's Training Course Fees & Mileage/Expenses	684		955	
Visiting speakers/other expenses	415		66	
	33,619		31,678	
7. Manse Upkeep				
Includes council tax, water, insurance, repairs, telephone/broadband and grasscutting adjacent land	4,803		2,868	
8. Mission				
Given to other causes (note 5)	9,043		9,209	
Junior Church - 'Connect'	542		98	
Tuesday Lunch	-		122	
Outreach and Thankoffering	-		-	
	9,585		9,429	
9. Upkeep of Church Premises				
Lighting, heating and water	4,008		4,620	
Cleaning expenses	1,834		2,973	
Insurance	3,866		3,822	
Gift in Memoriam/Bequest: Livestream Installation	5,636		-	
Professional Fees (Premises related)	-		450	
Repairs/Purchase/Maintenance of Premises & Equipment	4,134		17,585	
	19,478		29,450	

continued

10. Administration			
Payroll Agency		147	144
ICT software incl website		1,199	892
Telephone, stationery & postage		1,217	1,437
Photocopier rental and copies		571	734
		3,134	3,207
11. Operational Expenses			
Church copyright licenses		829	735
Organ/pianos, music, sound and projectors		182	52
Minibus hire		-	202
Resources/subscriptions/sundries		360	820
Training/Course Fees		-	-
		1,371	1,809
12. Premises Project (Cellar Asbestos, Hall Floor, Acoustic Panels)			
Loan Repayments (2021), x3 Project Costs (2020)		3300	49250
Redecoration		-	2485
Furniture		-	2172
Land Registry Admin Fee		-	40
		3,300	53,947
13. Community Activities (Current)			
Enfold Project		9,492	10,554
Tiny Treasures Parent/Toddler group		438	317
Shed Project		-	-
Tudor Trust: Enfold Funds transferred to support General Fund		16,000	-
		25,930	10,871
14. Other Payments			
Books/Equipment/Furniture/Supplies (Purchase & Repair)		644	2,437
General Fund: part repayment of funds back to Enfold Fund		4,000	-
Refreshments/sundries		378	96
		5,022	2,533
15. Grants received			
Grants: Tudor Trust Wellbeing Grant £2,000 (General Fund)	£	4,860	£ 28,664
Govt Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) £2860 (Parish Nurse)			

Statement of Consolidated Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 2021

	Note	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		36,317	55,445
Representing balances on the following accounts:-			
General Fund & Designated Funds		23,723	43,551
Church auxillary funds		12,594	11,894
		36,317	55,445
Non-monetary assets			
Held for church's own use	2	5,055,183	4,940,815
Liabilities			
Loans outstanding	3	29,700	33,000

Auxillary Accounts Financial Statement			
as at 31st December, 2021			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Boys' Brigade: Treasurer - Ian Smith (Note: BB did not meet/no activity in 2021)			
Bal b/fwd	2,985	Capitation	-
Subscriptions	-	Uniform etc	-
Other Income	-	Battalion & special events	-
		Equipment & Activity Support	-
		Stationery/Inkjets	-
		Refreshments & other expenses	-
		Bal c/fwd	2,985
	2,985		2,985
Girls' Brigade: Treasurer - Lorraine Adams			
Bal b/fwd *	3,549	Stationery/Admin	58
Subscriptions	2,865	Training	-
Uniform/GB shop	141	Uniform/GB Shop	229
Donations/Fundraising	1,617	Fundraising	-
Outings/Tuck	409	Outings/Tuck	351
Activities/Sleepovers	140	Activities/Sleepovers	1,948
Camp/DofE	-	Camp/DofE	-
Admin/Training/Interest	15	Bal c/fwd (Current, Deposit, Cash)	6,150
	8,736		8,736
'Reach Up' Puppet Ministry: Treasurer - Dan Fountain (Did not meet/No activity in '21)			
Bal b/fwd	840	Food & Refreshments	-
Subscriptions	-	Licence Costs/Event expenses	-
Ticket Sales	-	Costumes/Props/Set	-
Donations & Fundraising	-	Equipment, Lighting, Sound	-
Other Causes Fundraising	-	Team Building/Stationery	-
Team Building	-	Scripts, Bank, Advertising etc	-
Sale of Goods/Bank Interest	-	Bal c/fwd	840
	840		840
PABC Flower Fund: Treasurer - Sandra Adams-Salmon & Heather Baines			
Bal b/fwd	13	Flowers/oasis/materials	15
Donations received	20	Bal c/fwd	18
	33		33
Auxillary Accounts Summary			
Balances b/fwd	7,387	Payments	2,601
Receipts	5,207	Balances c/fwd	9,993
	12,594		12,594
All Auxillary Accounts have been audited by the Church Treasurer			25/01/2022



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Independent examiner's report
on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of** Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Clacton on Sea, Essex, CO15 1NJ

**On accounts for the year
ended** 31st December 2021 **Charity no
(if any)** 1135764

Set out on pages 11 - 14

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report** As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:-

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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:  **Date:** 22/02/2022

Name: Karen Payne

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):** AAT

Address: 25 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4BT.

1st & 2nd Clacton-on-Sea Boys Brigade



My previous reports was looking forward to a hopefully optimistic year and the return of normal activities.

The year of 2021 brought continuing challenges with on and off restrictions of varying degrees.

There were some hopes of a start in the Autumn term in a similar form to our GB company but while preparing and seeking out those who could commit to helping out in some way some further complications became apparent.

National BB advised on concerns over registrations and a tightening of the regulations and stronger enforcement for the protection of all parties and in particular the children attending BB.

There is an increased emphasis on registration of every leader or helper including those helping who might hold registrations with other bodies like GB. This has potentially always been the guidance but from 2021 was being enforced.

In previous years we would have had two leader posts registered with BB and all others were recognised as helpers but not fully registered – everyone would have had a DBS registration through the church or other body like work or school. We would also be required to have three leaders for the number of boys anticipated.

In looking out for those who could lead and help us was apparent that work practices and times had been changed due to COVID for some and committing to every week was not possible.

For myself having been involved with BB since we arrived in Clacton some 15 years ago and with old age finally catching up with me, I felt unable to commit to being Captain for another period though I would have been more than happy to support a new leader for another year or two.

The administrative workload in running a BB company is quite significant and the preparation for programmes week after week takes up more time than I would have available currently. BB Headquarters do provide excellent programme materials and ideas which helps greatly but the burden remains quite big and definitely more suited to a younger person with some energy and drive.

I met with Sean at the beginning of the Autumn term to explore options and we agreed to hold off till early 2022 and see what develops. There are no immediate plans to close and lay up the colours but at some point that may be the best option if a new leadership team cannot be found.

There are a number of parents willing to assist and help and we are therefore just looking for two more to take on leader positions with BB. Chereilyn Merriday is willing to continue and renew her Leader registration.

There remains a need for something like BB in our community and I still quite regularly get requests for information from mums with young boys. The work can be challenging at times but the rewards far outweigh these few times and the younger age group which we are more likely to restart with are even more rewarding to work with.

If you can consider helping or know of someone that could please let Sean know so that it can be followed up. For now, we are marked as existing but not meeting – not a great place to be where there is a need out there.

Please pray for God to open doors and move in hearts and minds – BB is not past its sell be date and very much the opposite – it has adapted and changed to meet today's needs and is keen to work with boys and young men – girls are included in many companies where no GB exists.

Ian Smith – Captain

Connect Report

During lockdown, contact was continued with the children by doing a weekly pack of activities

We restarted face to face sessions on Sunday 14th March. To begin with, the children stayed out for the whole morning, but as restrictions were lifted, we were able to return to leaving part way through the service.

Although we have a small number of children, they are loyal and diligent during the sessions.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Hannah for all her hard work over the years in Connect. She and the family will be greatly missed when they move to Colchester.

Clare, Emma and Becky continue to lead the sessions with the help of Janet, Bill and Lee. Paula has stood down from the overseer role but continues to do the rota, and is still a great help and advisor when needed.

In August, the children had a summer party which went down well.

The first week in September was the prize-giving Sunday. Each child (age 0-16years) was given a Christian book, which is a great way of getting the word of God in their homes.

In December, the children (and adults!) put on a nativity, which went well. They had a party on the following week. It was lovely to see Ella, representing Connect by singing during the carol service.

Please continue to pray for the leaders and especially the children in this important work.

Clare Read

Enfold

Enfold has had another very difficult year.

Our intention had been to continue to offer tea and toast from the front of the Church. However, with the outbreak of the Delta Variant we were unable to operate in a safe manner. We made the difficult decision to suspend our service until it was safe to resume. This was the first time we had to close our doors and, it took a lot of soul searching to do so.

It was a relief when we were able to re-open and allow our visitors access to the Welcome Centre again. Thanks to our partnership with FoodCycle, we continue to offer additional items of food for our visitors to take away with them.

From October we were pleased to welcome the return of the Housing Support Workers from Peabody Housing. We have also welcomed support from the Homeless Outreach Team who are part of Tendring District Council. We are grateful for the links we have with both of these organisations.

As I am sure you will appreciate, our Parish Nurse was unable to fulfil her role in a COVID safe manner. As she was unable to perform her duties, Amanda was placed on furlough. We look forward to her return to duties when she is able.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who puts in so much time and effort into Enfold and for your support over this past year. I know many of you pray regularly for our visitors and I encourage you to continue to do so in the coming year.

Rev. Sean Fountain

Girls' Brigade



2021 began with another lockdown which meant that all youth groups had to suspend face-to-face activities. This continued until the middle of April, so we again sent out activity packs to our members to enable them to feel connected to Girls' Brigade. These took the theme of Mothers' Day and Easter including card making, scratch art frames, foam 2D flower pots, fridge magnets, book marks, gift bags, bead flowers, Easter Baskets, ingredients for chocolate nests, crosses to decorate, bead crosses and various quizzes and work sheets.

As we were unable to hold a Mothers' Day Parade Service where we would have given gifts to all the ladies, the leaders planted pansies in decorated flower pots with a Bible verse card attached. They were delivered to parents and church members and were very well received.

After Easter we were able to resume face-to-face activities albeit under certain restrictions, so we again held meetings on alternate weeks for the different age groups. This made it difficult to maintain our badge programme but with the dedicated work of the leaders the following subjects were covered in each group (Sept 20 – July 21).

Explorers	– Being Together, Out and About, GB At Home
Juniors	– Being Together, GB At Home
Seniors	– Our Emotions, Working Together, GB At Home
Brigaders	– Being Together, Current Affairs, GB At Home.

Each group would normally achieve 4 badges in a year with 5 for Brigaders

Our Duke of Edinburgh work continued to be on hold but girls remained keen to resume these activities as soon as we were allowed to restart the scheme.

When returning after the May half term we were allowed to meet on a weekly basis for all age groups as more restrictions had been lifted, which meant we could have more regular contact with the girls. We could revert back to some kind of normality.

Although our summer camp could again not take place, we organised a couple of events during August. We arranged a day at the beach with games and a paddle in the sea. Secondly, we took the girls to Thorington Scout Camp Site for activities including – human table football, pedal karts, assault course, treasure hunt, craft and games. We cooked sausages on an open fire for lunch and toasted marshmallows.

As we resumed in September several girls moved into an older section and we welcomed some new members in to our Explorer group. We lengthened our meeting times to an hour and a half as a wider range of activities could now be undertaken including cookery which the girls always enjoy. We were also able to hold our first Parade Service since January 2020. It was Harvest and we had been asked to provide the display for the front of the Church. Our theme was land and sea and items were brought along to help those in need in our local area.

We took part in the Remembrance Parade organised by the Clacton branch of the Royal British Legion, marching down to the War Memorial where a service was held to remember those lives lost in various wars. A good number attended.

The following week we held a sleepover when girls enjoyed various activities including, a quiz around the town, craft and games. The following day all but 4 girls attended our Enrolment parade service, when new girls were enrolled in to the Company while existing members renewed their commitment to us. It was good to see this well supported.

Also, during the service Caitlin was commissioned as an adult Leader, Elaine and Emma were presented with their 20 year service awards and I received my 40 year service badge.

In December it was good to be able to hold our Carol and nativity service, when girls from all sections told the Christmas story with the younger ones dressing up as the main characters. This was followed by a Christingle service when the Christingles the girls had made were lit as we sang Silent Night. The Brigaders then served refreshments with mince pies, cakes and biscuits which they had made the previous week.

The year concluded with our Christmas parties when girls from all sections enjoyed an evening of games and food. Several girls brought a friend and it was good to see them joining in with the others.

During the year we held some money raising events to boost our funds, as due to lockdowns and limited attendance even when returning, our income had been reduced. During this time our National fees still had to be paid (@ £25.50 per member) as well as other items purchased for the girls. We arranged a coffee morning and table top sale which made around £100, set up a 'Just giving' page online for people to make donations for the girls and Leaders recording the distance they walked, cycled or swam during the month of June which brought in £565. One of our Brigaders kindly did a sponsored walk from Walton to Clacton Pier which produced £160, an amazing contribution. We also received £1000 from Lloyds Bank through their Match Giving Scheme as a result of Emma being an employee at the Clacton branch. All these contributions were a huge answer to prayer.

We continue to send Birthday cards to the girls together with a Christian bookmark and the 'Thought for the Week' still goes on to our Facebook page.

Although our numbers remain at around 30 members it is good to have regular contact with them as most attend very regularly and remain loyal to the Company. The following comments have been made by the girls as to why they enjoy coming to GB:-

"We like meeting up with friends that we don't go to school with in a fun relaxed atmosphere"

"The activities are great, especially cooking also games, sleepovers, camps, D of E, badge work, going to pantomimes, parties."

"Being accepted for who we are."

"It gives me something to look forward to all week."

"It is fun because we learn in a fun way."

"It stops us getting bored and I get to learn stuff and I get treat food."

"Covid made it difficult but we had the activity packs to keep us entertained instead of being stuck on the internet."

"Covid affected the activities we would normally have done,"

"The lockdowns were hard especially home learning as my Mum was working, I missed all my clubs especially GB."

"I loved the GB packs as they were creative."

Several families have been affected by Covid, with a few being quite poorly, while others have had to isolate. Two Leaders also caught the virus. We are pleased all are well now.

It is good to be able to make a difference in the lives of the girls we have contact with and it was so important to keep in touch with them and their families during the lockdowns. We are blessed to have a team of 11 dedicated Leaders, who give up their time to provide activities for girls of all ages. We pray that our membership will grow so that we may continue to present the gospel to these young lives and see them come to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

We look forward to our Centenary year and celebrate 100 years of faithful witness at 1st Clacton Girls' Brigade. Long may it continue!!!!

Gill Stennings – Captain

Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups

Towards the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, we began to explore a partnership with the charity Kintsugi Hope. Founded by Patrick and Diane Regan and based in Chelmsford, Kintsugi Hope supports Churches to run mental health wellbeing groups.

The concept behind their work is fully in keeping with the values of Pier Avenue Baptist Church, and we could see these groups as helpful to Church, Enfold and the wider community. In February 2020, Bob Cooke and Rev Sean Fountain attended two days of group leader training.

In September, we welcomed Patrick Regan and his team to Pier Avenue in what was a very memorable service.

We look to continue to build our links with Kintsugi Hope and look to open our Wellbeing Group during 2022.

Rev. Sean Fountain

The Shed Project

The Shed project has been in the background for some time now.

With the completion of the building, we began to prepare to open in early 2020. Unfortunately, owing to the COVID situation we have been unable to take this project forward. For the present time, we do not feel it could operate in a COVID safe manner and so have had to put it on the “back burner” for now.

We will re-visit this project as soon as we are able to.

Rev. Sean Fountain

Clacton Street Pastors

Clacton Street Pastors has now been running for over ten years. Street Pastors aim is to help those in trouble on the streets on a Saturday night. Night time venues gradually opened up during 2021. To start with we went out onto the streets at the earlier time of 8.30 p.m. and were able to interact with families who were still out during the evenings. Once the night clubs opened again we started at 10.00 p.m. We then returned to our normal 11.00p.m. start time. We have seen that there are far less people about than there were before the pandemic started but still some who want to talk and a few who need support.

Two of the nine Street Pastors are from Pier Avenue Baptist Church.

Karen Rai

Tiny Treasures

(God's Beautifully Made Little Gems)

We were able to keep some links with Parents during lockdown through our two Facebook pages. One page is an open one that anyone can see and one was closed group where only those connected with the group could contribute. Regular recorded 'Story-times' were shared on both pages and were well received.

After lockdown, we were able to reopen Tiny Treasures on April 26th 2020. Numbers started slowly but built up to 26 children on register and for the first time for many years, we formed a waiting list, in December, for those wanting to join the group.

Before the sessions, the volunteers have fellowship and pray for the group. This is the most important part of the morning. We continue to follow the same routine of play, story & craft followed by snack and then singing. Due to COVID, we decided to shorten the session so we now run 9.30am-11am, which is 30mins less than before. Activities are planned to cover all areas of learning and are changed each week. The snack is pre-prepared by Karen, Richard and Maureen, who follow food hygiene and COVID practices.

In July, we ended the term with a slightly longer session and had a Teddy Bear's picnic. This included a bible story and prayer in the Church.

In August, we held a 'Picnic past and present' on the Greensward near the park. This was for anyone who had been involved in Tiny Treasures previously, as well as for the current families. It was a good time for the adults to chat. We had parachute games and then the children played on the park. It was a success and it will be something that we will probably do again in the future.

We restarted the term in September and finished the year with our Christmas party. We held a nativity in the church, where the children dressed up and the Christmas story was told, followed by prayer and 'Away in a Manger.' After some ring games, Santa arrived, and all received a present. We ended with party food.

It was lovely to see one of the parents reading the bible to represent Tiny Treasures at our church carol service

We thank the team for their commitment. Our thanks go to Elaine for putting out the tables and chairs. Georgina for putting out all the toys, Karen, Lynn, Maureen, Richard, Sylvia and Paula make up our usual team with Carol joining us when able. Thank you to those volunteers for all they are doing. Without them, we would not be able to run this group or have such a friendly and welcoming reputation.

We pray each week that God will give us opportunities to offer prayer, or a listening ear, to share the love of Jesus with all who come along to Tiny Treasures and we ask that you join us in that prayer. It would be great to build a greater link between families and the church and see some come through to know Christ.

We appreciate your prayers

Paula Fountain & the Tiny Treasures Team

Worship Group

We thank all the Worship team for their continued commitment.

Live services resumed on Sunday 14th March, following lockdown closure. As a worship group, it was an emotional time when we restarted playing our instruments and singing together. Due to COVID restrictions, we began to play 15mins before the service as people were unable to walk around and chat.

During lockdown, the music group area was moved to the opposite side of the church. This was done for a few reasons, the main one being that we are now on the same side of the screen so we can see peoples' faces which aids the leading of worship and the fellowship can see us better to follow our leading. We have found that as a group, we can hear the congregation better, which aids and encourages us in our worship. Unfortunately, we realised after moving that we had less space and microphone capacity, so were unable to involve the whole group at this time.

Our biweekly Tuesday night practices have restarted and we continue to meet early on Sunday morning before the services. We always begin the rehearsals with prayer.

In December, we managed to get the whole group together and with the aid of Dan and Alex (Dan's friend) borrowing microphones and lights, we were able to have the whole group together to sing a couple of songs in our Carols by Candlelight service.

A huge thanks go to Dan for all his hard work with playing the keyboard, sorting microphones, technical expertise and sorting the live-streaming etc. He has been part of the Worship group for the last 14 years. He and his family will be greatly missed when they move to Colchester. We pray that God will richly bless them as they begin a new stage in their lives.

Please join us in prayer for the coming year; that we will grow closer together with each other, but more importantly, grow closer to God as we follow His leading and serve him by serving our fellowship. Please pray for us as we plan and lead worship.

Karen Rai & Paula Fountain



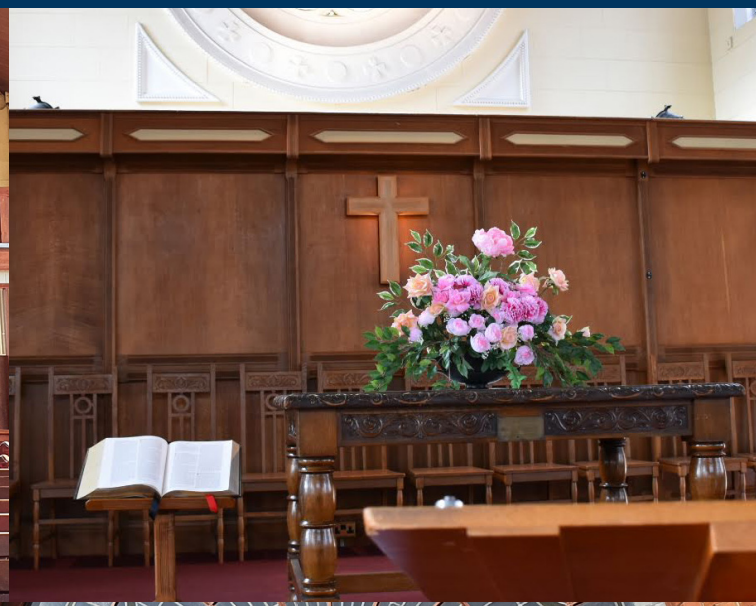
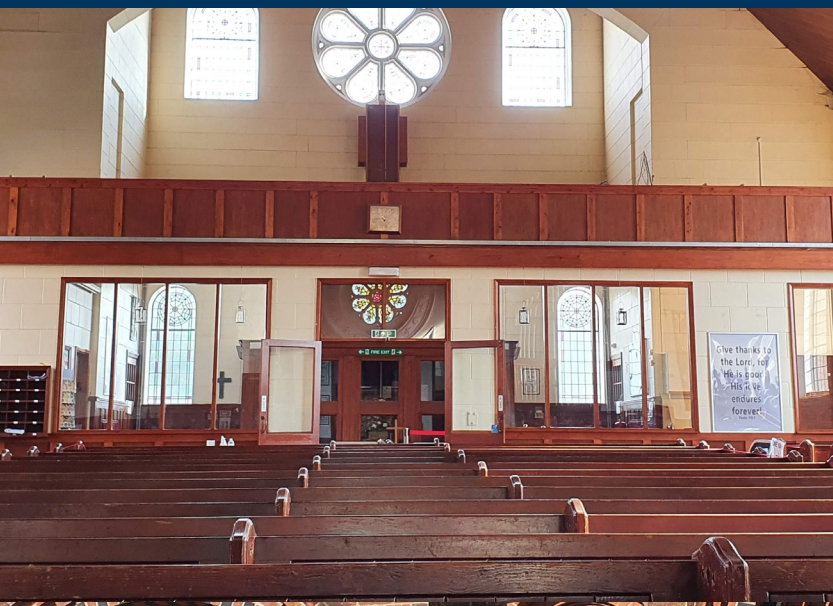
PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1135764

Accounts



Annual Report and Accounts 2020



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The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the independently examined financial statements of the charity for 2020.

Pier Avenue Baptist Church registered as an independent charity with the Charity Commission on 4th May, 2010. Our Charity Registration number is 1135764.

The church is administered by the Diaconate who are the Managing Trustees of the Charity and comprise:

Minister and Chairman:	Rev. Sean Fountain
Church Secretary:	Mrs Karen Rai
Church Treasurer:	Mrs Heather Baines
Deacons:	Mr David Baines
	Mr Antony Meloy
	Mr Richard Geddes
	Rev. Pauline Bailey
	Mr Ian Day
	Miss Elaine Hoadley

The Charity's bankers are Lloyds plc of 1 West Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1QP.

The Independent Examiner engaged by the Charity is Mrs Karen Payne

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Church's governing document is the Constitution for Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Clacton-on-Sea which sets out the objects of the charity. The revised Constitution was approved by the Church meeting on 24th March 2010.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Deacons, who are the Managing Trustees of the charity, are chosen from among existing church members who show the reality of their faith by the consistency of their Christian character and by their loyalty to the cause of Christ. The Diaconate consists of two Church Officers, Secretary and Treasurer, together with up to ten elected Deacons, making a possible twelve in all. Annual elections are held at the Church Members' meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 66% of those voting (eligibility is specified in the constitution). The Minister is also a Trustee.

Organisational Structure

The Church is governed and regulated by its own members, where all aspects of the work of the Church are subject to the approval of the Church Meeting, which is normally held bi-monthly. The Minister of the Church is a paid Managing Trustee and, together with the Deacons, gives leadership to the Church. The Minister and Secretary are responsible for preparing the business for the Church meeting.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Eastern Baptist Association

The Church is part of the wider Baptist family, and is therefore a member church of the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) and also of the national body, The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). Both organisations are registered charities. The Church pays an annual subscription to BUGB based upon its membership numbers and also makes a donation to the EBA for the Baptist family in the UK (Home Mission).

Relationships between the Charity and related parties

Churches Together in Clacton – the Church is a member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Clacton-on-Sea area. The Church continues to take part in community activities co-ordinated by Churches Together in Clacton through involvement in the Clacton's Street Pastors. The Church has joined with other denominations for activities at the beginning of the year before the first lockdown.

We also continue to build links with the Baptist Church at Holland-on-Sea and had begun to meet with them regularly. These activities had to stop once lockdown began in March.

The Church also supports a number of connected organisations including the Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade. These connected organisations of the Church exist as part of the work and mission of the Church and are open to the community. Each organisation has its own leaders and members, but they still fall within the scope of the Church Meeting and the Minister is entitled to be Chair of all meetings.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the Charity

Established for the purposes of advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the Church, these purposes include the provision and upkeep of the place of worship, the carrying on of religious services and the payment, housing and pensioning of a minister of religion employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's Aims

As a member of the Baptist Union, the Church subscribes to the Union's Declaration of its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations:

"The basis of this Union is:

- 1. That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.*
- 2. That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who "died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again on the third day."*
- 3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to take part in the evangelisation of the world."*

Pier Avenue Baptist Church seeks to be an active Christian community/fellowship bringing Christian witness and care to the town of Clacton-on-Sea. The Church also acknowledges its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.

Charity's Main Objectives For The Year

The Church premises are situated in an ideal location in Pier Avenue in Clacton-on-Sea which makes the use of our premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities. Unfortunately, in 2020, due to the pandemic, all this stopped in March.

Where able and appropriate, the Church aims to discern the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these. However, this year, we have been unable to do this, with the exception of Enfold, which was able to continue in a small way as those using the service are classes as vulnerable.

One of the ways in which the Church seeks to engage with others is not only the use of our premises by many varied groups, but to use our kitchen facility for the benefit of the community in as many ways as possible.

Our Coffee Morning and Tiny Treasures Parent and Toddler Group were regular opportunities for us to bring our objectives to life, until these had to stop in March 2020. The community initiative which commenced in 2012, the Enfold Project (to provide breakfast, an opportunity for a shower and access to support services, one morning a week, for the homeless and disadvantaged people of Clacton) is now a well established part of our Church. This included providing tea and toast on a Tuesday lunchtime as well. However, this had to change once lockdown began and breakfast was then made available on a take-away basis.

The Church continued to offer public worship on Sundays at 10.30a.m. weekly and 4.00p.m. twice a month until the first lockdown in March 2020. See the Minister's report for further details.

Conversations continue, where possible, with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of baptism and Church Membership.

A Women's Prayer afternoon continued bi-monthly but has not been held since March 2020 due to the pandemic.

The Church aims also to develop and grow as a fellowship through both study and social activities:

- a. Nationally – to assist in the development of denominational and inter-denominational churches and discover the experience of the church in Great Britain.

- b. Internationally – to discover more, the work of the Christian Church overseas and support that work wherever possible.

At the end of a very strange and unusual year in the life of Pier Avenue Baptist Church we give thanks and praise to God that we have been able to continue to worship together through online services (provided on DVD or CD for those without internet access).

Charity's Strategies

- a. Worship – to seek to provide appropriate worship to God and review our act of worship on a regular basis.
- b. Ecumenical – to actively encourage, promote and participate in ecumenical activities.
- c. Premises – to maintain the premises to good standard, to promote and provide community activities.
- d. Community needs – to review the work of the Church and discern the needs of the community and then develop strategies and actions to support as appropriate.
- e. Fellowship – to develop a programme to promote Christian knowledge and understanding and to enhance the social awareness of the Church. Such a programme to include educating the Church members and congregation about the Baptist denomination regionally and nationally and its links to international Christian activity through the Baptist Missionary Society – World Mission and other Christian organisations.

Achievements and Performance

Easter, Harvest and Christmas

Our Easter, Harvest and Christmas services were all held online this year.

AGM and Membership

The Annual General Meeting of the Church could not take place in the usual way. The Annual Report and Accounts were accepted and passed by the Trustees via a Zoom meeting.

Our membership stood at 62 on 1st January 2020 and had decreased to 58 by 31st December due to the passing of some of our members.

Our Sunday school (Connect) continues and work packs have been regularly sent out to the young people during lockdown. Our puppet ministry team, 'Reach Up Puppetry' have sadly been unable to function during the pandemic. Although they did produce a wonderful video where the puppets showed us how the church building had been made COVID secure, and how to access the one-way system!

Housekeeping, Hall Hire and Fabric

Looking after pre-war buildings remains a challenge so we are especially grateful to those Church Members and friends who oversee and help to maintain the building in good order.

The use of our premises by community groups was seriously curtailed by the pandemic. FoodCycle, a group of volunteers providing a meal for members of the community using food provided by local shops and businesses, were able to continue providing bags of food at first and then providing a take-away meal to members of the community. We have made our Church sanctuary, our halls and rooms 'COVID secure' and there has been the occasional time when they could be used during the pandemic, depending on the level of Government restrictions at the time.

Minister's Report

The words of James 4 vs. 13 – 14 could have easily been written about the year 2020.

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.

As 2020 began, nobody could have predicted what would happen during the course of the year, nor how it would impact the life of our Fellowship or our activities. In line with the Government's response to the Coronavirus pandemic, all face to face worship, social activities, groups and external hirers ceased from 23rd March.

During this time, worship was transferred to online. For those without internet access, a CD or DVD option was offered. As housegroups were not permitted to meet, I started a “Housegroup@Home” on a Wednesday evening via Zoom. I am grateful that the ‘24/7 Prayer’ organisation made their prayer course available for free, and so we were able to use their resources. We also did an 8 week ‘Emotionally Healthy Spirituality’ course.

Paula was kept incredibly busy with Tiny Treasures online. This involved a social time for stuck at home parents, singing and a story for the children. Paula also posted stories via Facebook for the children. At Christmas, the children had an online visit from Santa. Paula prepared Connect material which was sent out to the children and young people from the Church and an online learning link was also provided.

I would like to express my thanks to Dan and Hannah who took a very active part in supporting our online presence during lockdown. I would also like to thank Karen, Elaine, Lorraine and Anna who acted as our distributors, ensuring that those who were not online could be kept in touch with all that we were doing.

Lockdown did, however, bring an unexpected benefit. We had received a loan for our building project. With external hirers and regular users not accessing the building, it meant that all building work could be done with minimal disruption.

The Welcome Hall has sound baffles which means that the echo has gone. The Fellowship Hall has new flooring and has been re-vamped. The flat roofs over the towers at the front of the building have been replaced and the asbestos in the cellar has been removed. Thanks go to Heather and David who have done so much work in the co-ordinating and arranging the finances for these projects. I would also like to thank all those who have given of their finances and of their time to make these projects so successful.

Throughout the lockdown, we supported the work of the FoodCycle Project. They have been meeting in our building since January, providing a 3 course lunch on a Monday. As they were no longer able to provide meals, they moved over to providing food parcels. At its height, over 70 food parcels were leaving our building on a Monday lunchtime. The project was featured on Anglia News.

Enfold continued to be operational throughout lockdown. We were able to provide take away tea and toast as well as some food donations from FoodCycle. Although many of our regular volunteers were unable to help (due to circumstances), Sylvia Burns and Elaine Hoadley were able to help us in the early stages of lockdown. As the situation developed we were joined by Richard, Sam, Carol and Trisha. I would like to thank them all for their support.

As restrictions changed, we formed a “re-opening group”. Their role was to ensure that we were both aware of, and subsequently following, Government guidance. We kept the Trustees apprised of all information and the fellowship were regularly updated via email and letter.

As lockdown began to ease, we opened the building twice a week for private prayer from Saturday 27th June. Everything was opened in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Government and The Baptist Union of Great Britain. We did, however, take the decision not to re-open immediately for Worship from 5th July. The guidelines that were in place at that stage, would have meant that we would not have been able to have an act of worship that would have helped members or visitors.

As a Church, we began to move towards opening at the end of September and held our first “live” service on 1st November, only to re-enter lockdown and have to return to online worship!

I was due to take my Sabbatical from September to November 2020. Owing to the circumstances, I decided that it would be best to postpone. My current plan is to take my Sabbatical during 2022.

During the course of the year we lost our longest serving Church member, Marion Denton. Owing to the COVID restrictions, people had to either join online for the funerals or accept the minimal numbers allowed to attend. We also said “goodbye” to Jean Savage, Rose Crispin, Ida Hudson, Dorothy Hill, Betty Goddard, Jill Robbins, Peter Bailey and Julie Taylor. We also said farewell to Bernard Lambard. Although not a member of the fellowship, many of us knew him through his late wife Jean. We pray for their families and friends that God would comfort them in their sadness. Many of our friends will remember David and Margaret Hughes. David and Margaret moved to Harrogate some time ago to be closer to family. Sadly, Margaret passed away early 2020. We remember David and their other family members in our prayers.

I was able to continue in my role as a School Governor for Oakwood Infant and Nursery School. Online meetings proved to be not quite the same as meeting face to face! Unfortunately, school assemblies that had been booked for the major festivals had to be cancelled. However, I did record a number of online assemblies which, I have been told, were well received.

Whilst Air Cadets were unable to meet I, like other Padre’s, used the time to update my training. I completed the Government’s “Prevent” course and updated my Safeguarding training.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Deacons, Members and friends for their ongoing encouragement and support.

As we move into 2021, it is not clear when we can return to “normality”. I am confident, however, that the fellowship at Pier Avenue Baptist Church will continue to serve our community and worship God.

Rev. Sean Fountain

Treasurer's Report

Premises Project Appeal

We are pleased with work that has taken place to bring about vast improvements to parts of our Premises. The Cellar is now free from asbestos. The Fellowship Hall has been decorated and has a new good quality floor. The Welcome Hall was also decorated and acoustic panels were installed on the ceiling to significantly reduce its echo.

With all this work taking place in the Spring and the Church halls being 'out of bounds' on those few Sundays that we could meet for live worship, very few of our Friends and Members have yet seen the outcome of their generosity to the project, that began with an appeal in 2019. Our prayer is that it will soon be safe for our Fellowship to return to Church for worship and they will then see for themselves the results of their generosity. We look forward to being able to give thanks together for the improvements we have been able to achieve.

We are immensely grateful to all our Friends and Members for their dedication to the Premises Project and thankful too, that the Baptist Building Fund considered the project to be worthy of a BBF loan that we will repay over ten years.

Financial Stewardship

Our year started normally but as we all know, in March the Covid pandemic changed our lives beyond all recognition. The Charity Commission guidelines were amended allowing charities to act in a way that was best to monitor their financial activities during the pandemic. The Deacons monitored the business of the Church monthly via 'Zoom' but sadly we could not hold Church Meetings as it was not safe to meet.

Members and Friends were updated through Sean's letters and in November a Newsletter 'PABC Financial Times', detailed what was happening on premises and financial matters.

From our 2020 Budget, the desperately needed flat roof replacements to the North & South Towers (street end of the Church) were undertaken in the Spring. The excellent work by Holland Roofing means these two roofs should now be good for 25 years.

Despite the difficulties many of us have faced since the first lockdown, we are extremely grateful to everyone who worships in our Fellowship, to our friends/family further afield and to The Tudor Trust for all the financial support we have received this year. As Treasurer it is always very humbling to see prayers that are lifted to God being so graciously answered.

Our 2020 financial shortfall has mainly come from the lack of offerings we would normally have received on Sundays and for the months when we could not hire out our halls. Altogether, the General Fund shortfall was £25,000 but to help counterbalance this, there have been considerable savings on aspects of expenditure and additional donations that have helped significantly reduce that deficit. Members and Friends have maintained or increased their offerings/donations, allowing us to carefully sustain the financial cost of our Ministry and buildings. Many churches, charities and businesses have found it impossible to cope this year, but we must



be thankful to our God that through the generosity of His people at Pier Avenue and the Friends/Families associated with us, The Tudor Trust and the Government's Furlough Scheme we have found it possible to weather the Covid financial storm.

March's lockdown highlighted aspects of the Church's financial life that we need to improve. We will open a new online bank account to replace the existing account that proved inadequate in 2020; we will continue to encourage offerings/donations direct to the Church's bank account; and when we can worship together again, we will consider contactless giving since many of us are now well accustomed to 'tapping' our bank cards these days! We will also continue to encourage greater use of our Annual Giving envelopes which some people find helpful to organise their giving and for those paying any level of tax we will encourage use of the Gift Aid Scheme.

As the year ended, I described our financial position as 'healthy, but still quite tight'. Going forward we will continue to be prayerfully mindful of using all the gifts that God has bestowed upon us to benefit his Kingdom and continuing to give as we are able, working hard to avoid complacency in our efforts to support God's work in our locality and the wider world, for the Ministry in our fellowship and to maintain the upkeep of our spiritual home at PABC.

1 Chronicles 29:14—But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

Heather Baines

General Fund & Designated Funds Financial Statement
For the year ended: 31st December, 2020

	Note	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Receipts			
Weekly Offerings			
- Gift aid		25,433	24,085
- Other		6,986	14,055
Gift Aid/GASDS Income Tax Reclaim: General Fund		9,494	8,333
Gift Aid Income Tax Reclaim: Designated Funds		3,513	3
Church Premises Project	4	35,566	16,868
Legacies and memorial gifts	4	10,500	115
Community Activity Grants (Trust & Govt Furlough)	15	28,664	28,500
Charges for use of premises		8,002	20,357
Minibus Hire Income		213	1,314
Coffee Mornings proceeds		791	3,602
Funds raised for other causes	5	566	710
Tuesday Lunch		335	303
Donations & Other Receipts	4	3,017	12,492
Community Activities Income	4	863	6,098
Totals		£ 133,943	£ 136,835
Payments			
Ministry			
Ministerial Expenses incl stipend, travel, visitors	6	31,678	32,661
Manse upkeep	7	2,868	2,478
Mission & charitable causes	8	9,429	11,785
Upkeep of church premises	9	29,450	25,430
Administration	10	3,207	3,512
Operational expenses	11	1,809	3,323
Church Premises Project	12	53,947	
Community Activities Expenses	13	10,871	21,522
Other payments	14	2,533	1,328
Totals		£ 145,792	£ 102,039
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		-£ 11,849	£ -
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			£ 34,796
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		£ 55,400	£ 20,604
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD		£ 43,551	£ 55,400

Heather J Baines

H.J. Baines, Church Treasurer
22nd January, 2021

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year
1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 as approved by the Trustees/Deacons at
their Meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021.

Statement of Consolidated Assets and Liabilities
as at 31st December, 2020

	Note	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		55,445	63,831
Representing balances on the following accounts:-			
General Fund & Designated Funds		43,551	55,400
Church auxillary funds		11,894	8,431
		55,445	63,831
Non-monetary assets			
Held for church's own use	2	4,940,815	4,940,815
Liabilities			
Loans outstanding	3	33,000	-

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2020 (£)		2019 (£)	
1. Basis of Accounts				
These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis & accord with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011				
2. Non-monetary assets held for the 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 by the church's custodian trustee, the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd.				
Church premises at Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea	4,568,143		4,568,143	
Church manse at 36 Thorpe Rd, Clacton-on-Sea	260,823		193,070	
Fixtures, Furniture and equipment (all the above are shown at insured values)	179,602		179,602	
			4,940,815	
3. Liabilities - Loans outstanding (Baptist Building Fund)	33000		Nil	
4. Donations and Memorial Gifts				
Donations/Other Receipts (Church £38583 / CA £863)	39,446		35,764	
Memorial Gifts/Legacies: (Church)	10,500		115	
<i>Note: CA = Community Activities</i>			35,879	
	2020 (£)		2019 (£)	
5. Funds raised for other causes	Raised	Given	Raised	Given
BMS boxes/birthday scheme/donations	232	4,209	342	4,192
Operation Agri	109	60	315	315
Home Mission	-	4,062	-	3,955
Clacton Street Pastors	-	50	-	-
CTIC Clacton Soup Run	225	225	-	-
Love Into Action, Uganda	-	201	-	197
Bible Society	-	201	-	197
London City Mission	-	201	-	197
DEC Idai Cyclone Appeal & Gambia Englefield School	-	-	53	53
	566	9,209	710	9,106
	2020 (£)		2019 (£)	
6. Ministry				
Minister's stipend	24,720		24,153	
Employer's PAYE & Pension contribution	5,884		6,666	
Employer's National Insurance (net of Govt. rebate)	-		-	
Minister's Pastoral & General Mileage/Expenses		53		488
Minister's Training Course Fees & Mileage/Expenses		955		1,147
Visiting speakers/other expenses		66		207
		31,678		32,661
7. Manse Upkeep				
Includes council tax, water, insurance, repairs, telephone/broadband and grasscutting adjacent land		2,868		2,478
8. Mission				
Given to other causes (note 5)		9,209		9,105
Junior Church - 'Connect'		98		565
Outreach & 2019 'Hope Into Action' / 2018 'Time for God'		-		3,370
Tuesday Lunch		122		1,166
2019: Thankoffering (Pew Bibles) & Gift in Memoriam (Lecturn Bible)		-		878
		9,429		15,084
9. Upkeep of church premises				
Lighting, heating and water		4,620		6,228
Cleaning expenses		2,973		7,531
Insurance		3,822		4,714
Professional Fees (Premises related)		450		-
Repairs/Purchase/Maint equipment (2020 incl N&S Tower Roofs)		17,585		6,958
		29,450		25,431

10. Administration		
Payroll Agency + (2019 only) Pension Deficit Legal Fees	144	579
ICT software incl website	892	537
Telephone, stationery & postage	1,437	1,457
Photocopier rental and copies	734	939
	3,207	3,512
11. Operational Expenses		
Church copyright licenses	735	659
Organ/pianos, music, sound and projectors	52	171
Minibus hire	202	1,508
Resources/subscriptions/sundries	820	521
Training/Course Fees	-	465
	1,809	3,324
12. Church Premises Project		
Project Works (Asbestos, Hall Floor, Acoustic Panels)	49250	-
Redecoration	2485	-
Furniture	2172	-
Land Registry Admin Fee	40	-
	53,947	-
13. Community Activities		
Enfold Project & Parish Nurse	10,554	15,149
Tiny Treasures Parent/Toddler group	317	848
'Hope In Action' House (Project end 2019)	-	2,166
Shed Project	-	37
Job Club (including Sailship project) & ICT Club	-	22
	10,871	18,222
14. Other Payments		
Books/Equipment/Furniture/Supplies (Purchase & Repair)	2,437	1,168
Refreshments/sundries	96	160
	2,533	1,328
15. Grants received		
Grants: Tudor Trust Y2of3 £27,000: Enfold & Parish Nurse + Govt Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) £1664: Parish Nurse	£ 28,664	£ 28,500

Auxillary Accounts Financial Statement			
as at 31st December, 2020			
Boys' Brigade (Treasurer - Ian Smith)			
Bal b/fwd	3,202	Capitation	-
Subscriptions	206	Uniform etc	-
Other Income	-	Battalion & special events	-
		Equipment & Activity Support	280
		Stationery/Inkjets	125
		Refreshments & other expenses	18
		Bal c/fwd	2,985
	3,408		3,408
Girls' Brigade (Treasurer - Lorraine Adams)			
Bal b/fwd *	4,611	Stationery/Admin	1,582
Subscriptions	866	Training	-
Uniform/GB shop	201	Uniform/GB Shop	84
Donations/Fundraising	869	Fundraising	214
Outings/Tuck	62	Outings/Tuck	82
Activities/Sleepovers	510	Activities/Sleepovers	1,191
Camp/DofE	-	Camp/DofE	440
Admin/Training/Interest	23	Bal c/fwd (Current, Deposit, Cash)	3,549
	7,142		7,142
'Reach Up' Puppet Ministry (Treasurer - Dan Fountain)			
Bal b/fwd	610	Food & Refreshments	23
Subscriptions	40	Licence Costs/Event expenses	60
Ticket Sales	238	Costumes/Props/Set	77
Donations & Fundraising	304	Equipment, Lighting, Sound	34
Other Causes Fundraising	45	Team Building/Stationery	180
Team Building	92	Scripts, Bank, Advertising etc	116
Sale of Goods/Bank Interest	1	Bal c/fwd	840
	1,331		1,331
PABC Flower Fund (Treasurer - Sandra Adams-Salmon)			
Bal b/fwd	8	Flowers/oasis/materials	-
Donations received	5	Bal c/fwd	13
	13		13
Auxillary Accounts Summary			
Balances b/fwd	8,431	Payments	4,507
Receipts	3,463	Balances c/fwd	7,387
	11,894		11,894

All Auxillary Accounts have been audited by the Church Treasurer

24/01/2020



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Pier Avenue, Clacton on Sea, CO15 1NJ

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1135764

Set out on pages

11-15

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020

**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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

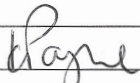
**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

25/01/2021

Name:

Karen Payne

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

AAT

Address:

25 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4BT

1st & 2nd Clacton-on-Sea Boys' Brigade

The 2019 report began with a comment that it was a year of two halves – well this year, for almost all of us, has been a year of 1st quarter 'normality' then 9 months of 'far from normal'.

Our start to 2020 was bright and optimistic with a number of new families and boys joining the group, and a lot of excitement with a programme in Q1 2020 of lots of making things and an exciting science evening.

Our first project of the year was in the area of woodworking, and each boy was challenged to make a bird box for their garden. This involved lots of measuring, cutting with hand and power saws, hammering, gluing and painting. The boys really took to the challenge and, with the help of the leaders, everyone managed to produce a bird box they could be very proud of. We worked over about 6 weeks and it was hard work, most of the time with only an hour or less available each week. Not even a plaster was needed as we worked with great care and proper safety equipment as needed.

Our science night was also a great success. The main focus was on making 'slime', great fun, quite messy, and not everyone liked having messy hands – one tried using disposable gloves but they then got stuck into the slime whereas using hands it came off very easily.

We did not have a public event for Pancake Day but made and created our own – and ate most of them – few went home.

BB Headquarters began producing new and very high quality and exciting teaching and meeting activity materials and new games and activities. These have greatly enhanced what we are able to share with the boys, week on week.

We were just about to make arrangement for our annual weekend camp in May and I attended a meeting in Ipswich on Monday 23rd March 2020 and while we were deliberating on whether it would be possible due to the evolving COVID outbreak the government were announcing the start of lockdown 1 and the abandonment of normal life for almost everyone and BB meetings in particular.

We continued meeting through Zoom every week but were only able to engage with two or three families but we tried out a few games, quizzes and watched some short movies including a Bible story of the life of Joseph.

The September re-start was delayed a bit and we tried a few Zoom catch up sessions but were not able to engage with the wider company so had to abandon that forum. We had hoped to start up with some COVID safe meetings at the church once these were possible but due to the time to clean and clear up safely, it was going to be difficult. Some leaders had new restrictions on time and availability as well.

At the end of 2020, our year, having begun so promisingly, ended with a fair degree of doubt and concern as to when we would be able to meet again face to face, and just how many of the boys would be keen and able to come back once we start up again – this is something to pray for going forward – not just for BB, but the Church as a whole, and nationally. A surprising number who would not have gone to church in the past have found online some very engaging services and perhaps to their surprise, have found themselves watching week on week. BB in the past has often had to compete with XBox and other home entertainments, but perhaps this period of lockdown has enabled boys to think about other face to face activities, like BB, and see benefits that they had not considered in the past.

2021 is to be an optimistic year, with hopefully some return of activities during the year but we may have to wait longer for that than the Easter start that we had hoped for – when it comes it will be great, and we look forward to whatever we can achieve in 2021.

Ian Smith

Connect

Connect continued to meet part way through the service until Lockdown in March.

We felt it was important to keep a link with the children, so produced weekly packs with a bible story and activities. I think the favourite was definitely the kites that the children decorated and flew to remind them of the Ascension!

We were able to meet for a few face-to-face sessions. Although we were limited in what we could do due to the COVID regulations, the sessions were enjoyed by the children attending.

The nativity was very different this year. Each child was recorded at home performing and then it was all sent to the 'Play it by Ear' drama group, who produced a virtual Nativity. This was shown during the Christmas day service on the DVDs and Online. Our thanks go to all who were involved.

We ask you to continue to pray that our Sunday Connect group keep on growing and that the children see it as fun as well as learning about Jesus. Please pray that the Lord will bless each child and that they will come to know Jesus as their personal friend and Saviour.

The Connect Team

Enfold

Enfold has, like many aspects of our Church life, faced a difficult year.

Like everybody else, we were faced with lockdown in March. However, as Enfold is classed as an essential service, we were able to run a limited service. Thanks to Sylvia Burns, Elaine Hoadley and Richard Geddes we were able to run a takeaway service throughout lockdown. We offered a simple tea and toast. In addition, thanks to our friends at FoodCycle, we were able to offer some additional food items to support the most vulnerable in our community.

During the March lockdown, we were not able to offer our Parish Nursing provision, so our Nurse was furloughed. As the measures began to ease, Amanda returned and was able to offer hygiene packs and face masks alongside health advice and support.

As measures began to ease and people returned to work, Sam Suttling, Trisha Bud and Carol Dakin re-joined the team and we continued to operate our takeaway service. Other than closing on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, we operated throughout the year.

We are pleased that FoodCycle now operates from Pier Avenue Baptist Church. In essence, FoodCycle offer a free three course vegetarian lunch to anybody from the community who would like to attend on a Monday. Although they have not been able to operate in their usual manner this year, they have offered food parcels and takeaway meals. Because of our partnership with FoodCycle, we have been able to support each other throughout the year.

At the time of writing this report, there is no sign of the easing of restrictions. It is our intention to keep running Enfold in our present manner for as long as it is safe to do so.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who puts in so much time and effort into Enfold and for your support over this past year. I know many of you pray regularly for our visitors and I encourage you to continue to do so in the coming year.

Rev. Sean Fountain

Girls' Brigade

Well, what a year! None of us were expecting that. We began 2020 with our usual planning meeting to discuss our activities and events for the first part of the year – Pancake Night, Sleepover, Mothers' Day Parade, Easter Coffee Morning, Easter Breakfast and even the June Car Wash fund raising event and our Summer Camp.

We were only able to hold our Shrove Tuesday Evening when we served pancakes with a choice of fillings and had cakes for sale. Although not so well attended as previous years we raised £100 which we donated to the Church for the hall renovation project. The other events were unable to take place and we had to refund the Sleepover payments, together with any Camp deposits made by the girls. We were allowed to transfer the deposit we had made to Thorrington Camp site to secure the event for 2021.

We had notification from Girls' Brigade Headquarters on 16th March that with immediate effect every Company had to cease all face-to-face activities due to the Coronavirus pandemic. So, we had to immediately contact all parents to inform them of the situation. We were told to look for ways to remain in contact with the girls and their families so they felt cared for during this upsetting time. GB launched GB@home for any who wished to engage in this way but this was not taken up by many, if any, of our girls. We could take our weekly meetings online via Zoom (as some Companies did quite successfully), but we chose not to go down this route for various reasons. Our final option was to send out activity packs to each of our 35 members, especially as we wanted to give them the opportunity to complete their year's badge subjects. We did this on a termly basis as follows:-

AFTER EASTER – Badge work. Explorers – Creativity. Juniors – Service. Seniors – Healthy living. Brigaders – First Aid. We asked for proof these had been done by photos/videos, completed work sheets.

BEGINNING OF JUNE – Theme – Butterflies. Included – quiz sheets, craft using paint and glitter, cross stitch, key rings and packets of cookie mix for the older girls. Also Juniors last badge – Self Control.

END OF JULY – To keep them busy over the summer holidays with sand art, Hama beads, bracelets, photo frames, colouring, more quizzes, packets of scone mix and symography.

In each pack the girls were given a Bible based activity/story book. At this time I also put together a pack for the Leaders so they would not feel left out, with various activities for them to complete.

At this point we collected the girls' badge bags and having obtained the ones they had worked for from the GB Trading company, attached them in the usual way. Those earned From Sept/19 were:-
EXPLORERS – Pets, Autumn, Our Country, Creativity.

JUNIORS – Faith, Co-Operation, Service, Self-Control.

SENIORS – My Community, Getting Creative, First Aid, Healthy Living.

BRIGADERS – Domestic Goddess, Pressure, Adventure. Emergency.

Anyone doing any of the activities at home also received a new GB@home badge that had been produced. We would present the bags to the girls when they returned to us. This would replace our cancelled Awards Evening.

Parents were phoned regularly, keeping them updated with information and to see how they were coping with all the restrictions. Some lengthy conversations were had, especially latterly, with issues such as home schooling, family members unwell, lack of confidence, anxiety (especially among the older girls regarding their education).

We continued to send Birthday Cards to our members together with a bookmark, on which is printed a Bible verse.

During the first lockdown the Leaders remained in contact via Zoom on a Tuesday evening which also saw us playing some board games. Each Sunday a 'Thought for the Week' was text to the Leaders which was in turn put on our GB Facebook page for those parents who had logged into this.

As restrictions were now easing groups were being encouraged to begin the process resuming face-to-face activities albeit under a different format. The Leaders met to undergo training and discuss the risk assessment that had to be completed before being allowed to reopen under the new strict guidelines. This included social distancing, individual equipment, separate entrances, cleaning and sanitising afterwards. We decided to have younger and older girls attend on alternate weeks for just one hour and discussed how to adapt activities so as to comply. Our risk assessment had to be agreed by the Church and then sent to GBHQ for acceptance. With all this in place we held our first night back on 13th October for Explorers and Juniors with Seniors and Brigaders the following week. Not all returned this time but it was good to catch up with those who came back.

Disappointingly, another lockdown happened, thus preventing us from continuing, so another pack was put together to deliver to the girls. This one was on a Christmas theme and included making cards, decorations, lanterns, scratch art, sponge cake mix, decorating a candle.

Although this year's Remembrance Day Parade was cancelled we were still able to purchase a wreath which was laid at the War Memorial as recognition of our support for this occasion. On Wednesday 11th November some parents posted picture on our Facebook page of their girls going to school wearing their GB uniforms – what a great witness.

As the second lockdown was lifted, we were able to return for a further two weeks in December (a week for each group). We provided Christmas activities and played some socially distanced games.

Our Duke of Edinburgh programme has obviously had to be put on hold, which was disappointing for the 7 girls who are registered at Bronze level. However, earlier in the year we received Gold Awards for two young ladies who had completed this highest level. One was sent up to Scotland where Ainsley now lives and the second is waiting to be presented to Holly when a suitable occasion can be organised.

Also waiting to be recognised are – a promotion to adult Leader for one of our Young Leaders and a 40 years' service for a certain longer serving Officer.

Please continue to pray for the girls, their families and the dedicated team of Leaders during these stressful times, especially as we are unsure of when we will be able to recommence our activities. Also that we will be able to remain in touch with everyone continuing to uphold our motto: - 'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ'. We must trust in God to bring us through these difficult times.

Gill Stennings

Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups

Towards the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, we began to explore a partnership with the charity Kintsugi Hope. Founded by Patrick and Diane Regan and based in Chelmsford, Kintsugi Hope supports Churches to run mental health wellbeing groups.

The concept behind their work is fully in keeping with the values of Pier Avenue Baptist Church, and we could see these groups as helpful to Church, Enfold and the wider community. In February 2020, Bob Cooke and Rev Sean Fountain attended two days of group leader training.

The initial plan was that Patrick Regan would join our service on Palm Sunday and we would launch our first in-house group after Easter. As recorded throughout this report, other events got in the way!

Whilst we could have run a group online, we felt that, as this was new to us, we wanted to run face to face to gain the experience.

Given the current concerns raised about people's mental health, we are now well placed to offer support and help to our community.

Rev. Sean Fountain

Prayer @ Church

'Prayer @ Church' encompasses all the prayer activities within the church.

Prayer is an essential part of the life and growth of the Church. When we pray together, we are stronger.

From January to March, the Prayer & Church group met together to pray for our fellowship and town. We have not been able to physically meet together for prayer since March due to the pandemic.

However, the prayer emails have continued and there has been prayer during the recorded services and the online housegroup. I am sure that many of us have been praying individually for our fellowship and families. The WhatsApp Encouragement group has been a source of prayer requests and also prayers as part of the devotions shared etc.

If you have things that you wish us to pray about either at church, via the prayer email or in person, please contact Sean or Paula.

Our prayer for 2021, is that we will continue to grow in our faith and stronger as a church as we experience God answering our prayers.

May God bless you as you bless others by faithfully praying for them

Paula Fountain

Shed Project

The Shed project has been in the background for a little while now. The concept behind the project is that men tend to talk “shoulder to shoulder” rather than “face to face”. As they work together and share skills, a community is built that supports one another. Our project is a little different to the traditional men’s shed in the sense that, we are available for both men and women.

We began to prepare to open in early 2020. We met with a small group of men and began to formulate what sort of work we could undertake. Unfortunately, this was both the first and the last meeting.

Whilst some sheds within the Essex network were able to offer some services, we were unable to.

Hopefully, this is a project that we can come back to once we return to normality.

Rev. Sean Fountain

Street Pastors

Clacton Street Pastors has now been running for over nine years. A team went out on most Saturday nights until lockdown. The Street Pastors aim to help those in trouble on the streets on a Saturday night. Unfortunately, as night time venues have been closed since March, we have been unable to do this work.

However, we did support a scheme called Journey Makers. This ran for 6 weeks. It was started by the Ministry of Transport and, following training, we were able to provide 3 people each morning, Monday to Friday between 7.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. at Clacton railway station to help and support confidence in travelling on the train again. This was a successful time.

2 of the 11 Street Pastors are from Pier Avenue Baptist Church. We are hopeful to start up again, once things are a little more normal.

Karen Rai

Tiny Treasures

Tiny Treasures usually meet on Monday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30am during term time. Children aged between 0-4years, along with their Parents and Grandparents attend the sessions. We had to stop meeting due to the Lockdown. From March to July, we carried out Tiny Treasures online, where we ‘met’ on Zoom for a story and songs. Sally, the puppet, was popular. We also put stories online each week for the kids to listen to. A Facebook group was set up so we could chat together.

In December, we had a Christmas special Zoom session, where the Nativity story was told and then we were able to talk to Santa (thank you, Tony!). A few Christmas stories were also recorded and put online. At the moment, it is impossible to say when we will be able to meet face-to-face. Please pray that, when we do restart, the children and carers will return and we will gain some more families. Please pray that the team will be able to reach out and show the love of Christ to them all.

The Tiny Treasures Team

Use of our Halls

This report is to let you know what has gone on in our halls week by week.

Firstly there are our own organisations:

- Girls Brigade
- Boys Brigade
- Connect (Sunday School)
- Tiny Treasures
- Meet and make
- GB sleepovers
- Prayer Meetings
- Fellowship Lunches
- Coffee Mornings
- Enfold Project
- Prayer Afternoons for women
- Church members' meetings
- Homemakers' reunions
- Puppet ministry
- Worship Group practices

- Joint events with Holland Baptist Church
- Street Pastors meetings and as a base

Then there are those from outside:

- Tendring District Council - Election
- Food Cycle
- Dance classes
- Dance exercise classes
- Darby and Joan club
- Birthday Parties
- Music 'Jam' evenings
- Gardening club
- History club
- Rainbows, Brownies and Guides
- Alzheimer's Society
- Singing for the Brain (run by the Alzheimer's Society)
- Bric-a-brac sales (in aid of Puppet ministry)
- Thanksgiving (funeral) services
- Careline
- Fundraisers

Worship Team

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the music group and singers for their commitment.

Like everything else, the pandemic has affected our worship group. As guidance has allowed, we have been able to meet occasionally either to practice or play at live services. We did spend one Saturday recording the carols for all the Christmas services. I think we were feeling a little 'carolled' out by the end!

Please pray that as we return, we will be able to work together to bring glory to God through our music.

Karen Rai & Paula Fountain



Pier Avenue Baptist Church

Pier Avenue
Clacton-on-Sea
Essex, CO15 1NJ

Tel: 01255 474 391

www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk
info@pieravenue.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1135764