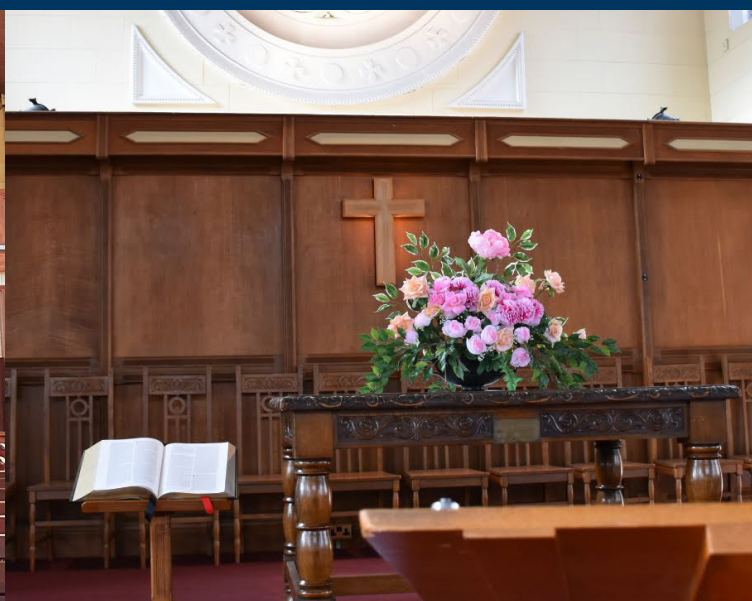
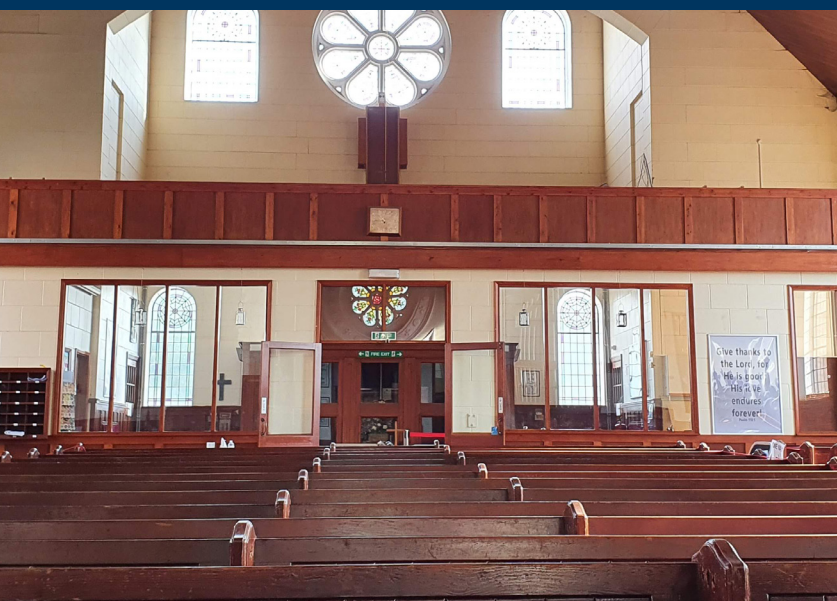




Pier Avenue  
Baptist Church

# Annual Report and Accounts 2020



Registered charity number 1135764. Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1NJ.  
[www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk) [info@pieravenue.org.uk](mailto: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 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 (£)
<b>Receipts</b>			
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
<b>Totals</b>		<b>£ 133,943</b>	<b>£ 136,835</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
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
<b>Totals</b>		<b>£ 145,792</b>	<b>£ 102,039</b>
<b>DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>-£ 11,849</b>	<b>£ -</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>£ 34,796</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>£ 55,400</b>	<b>£ 20,604</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>£ 43,551</b>	<b>£ 55,400</b>

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



## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
<b>1. Basis of Accounts</b>		
These accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis & accord with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011		
<b>2. Non-monetary assets held for the church's own use</b>		
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	179,602	179,602
(all the above are shown at insured values)		<b>4,940,815</b>
<b>3. Liabilities - Loans outstanding</b> (Baptist Building Fund)	<b>33000</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>4. Donations and Memorial Gifts</b>		
Donations/Other Receipts (Church £38583 / CA £863)	39,446	35,764
Memorial Gifts/Legacies: (Church)	10,500	115
<i>Note: CA = Community Activities</i>		<b>35,879</b>
	<b>2020 (£)</b>	<b>2019 (£)</b>
<b>5. Funds raised for other causes</b>		
	<b>Raised</b>	<b>Given</b>
BMS boxes/birthday scheme/donations	232	4,209
Operation Agri	109	60
Home Mission	-	4,062
Clacton Street Pastors	-	50
CTIC Clacton Soup Run	225	225
Love Into Action, Uganda	-	201
Bible Society	-	201
London City Mission	-	201
DEC Idai Cyclone Appeal & Gambia Englefield School	-	53
	<b>566</b>	<b>9,209</b>
	<b>2020 (£)</b>	<b>2019 (£)</b>
<b>6. Ministry</b>		
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
	<b>31,678</b>	<b>32,661</b>
<b>7. Manse Upkeep</b>		
Includes council tax, water, insurance, repairs, telephone/broadband and grasscutting adjacent land	<b>2,868</b>	<b>2,478</b>
<b>8. Mission</b>		
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
	<b>9,429</b>	<b>15,084</b>
<b>9. Upkeep of church premises</b>		
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
	<b>29,450</b>	<b>25,431</b>

<b>10. Administration</b>		
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
	<b>3,207</b>	<b>3,512</b>
<b>11. Operational Expenses</b>		
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
	<b>1,809</b>	<b>3,324</b>
<b>12. Church Premises Project</b>		
Project Works (Asbestos, Hall Floor, Acoustic Panels)	49250	-
Redecoration	2485	-
Furniture	2172	-
Land Registry Admin Fee	40	-
	<b>53,947</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>13. Community Activities</b>		
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
	<b>10,871</b>	<b>18,222</b>
<b>14. Other Payments</b>		
Books/Equipment/Furniture/Supplies (Purchase & Repair)	2,437	1,168
Refreshments/sundries	96	160
	<b>2,533</b>	<b>1,328</b>
<b>15. Grants received</b>		
Grants: Tudor Trust Y2of3 £27,000: Enfold & Parish Nurse + Govt Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) £1664: Parish Nurse	<b>£ 28,664</b>	<b>£ 28,500</b>

<b>Auxillary Accounts Financial Statement</b>			
<b>as at 31st December, 2020</b>			
<b>Boys' Brigade (Treasurer - Ian Smith)</b>			
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
	<b>3,408</b>		<b>3,408</b>
<b>Girls' Brigade (Treasurer - Lorraine Adams)</b>			
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
	<b>7,142</b>		<b>7,142</b>
<b>'Reach Up' Puppet Ministry (Treasurer - Dan Fountain)</b>			
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
	<b>1,331</b>		<b>1,331</b>
<b>PABC Flower Fund (Treasurer - Sandra Adams-Salmon)</b>			
Bal b/fwd	8	Flowers/oasis/materials	-
Donations received	5	Bal c/fwd	13
	<b>13</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>Auxillary Accounts Summary</b>			
Balances b/fwd	8,431	Payments	4,507
Receipts	3,463	Balances c/fwd	7,387
	<b>11,894</b>		<b>11,894</b>
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**

31<sup>st</sup> 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.

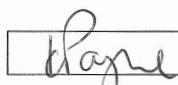
**Independent  
examiner's statement**

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  
Clacton-on-Sea  
Essex, CO15 1NJ

Tel: 01255 474 391

[www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk)  
[info@pieravenue.org.uk](mailto:info@pieravenue.org.uk)

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