

BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST) EXMOUTH

England & Wales · Charity number 1139968

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2011-01-20

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

Contact

Address Brixington Community Church
Churchill Road
Exmouth
Devon
EX8 4JJ

Phone 01395 268720

Email admin@brixingtonchurch.org.uk

Website www.brixingtonchurch.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: Brixington Community Church is established for the purposes of advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the Church. This includes the provision and upkeep of a place of worship whilst having facilities for community use. We also provide support for the local community by helping those who are isolated, lonely and in need through a number of different activities and community support.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **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.
- Devon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£157,595	£150,368	-	-
2024-09-30	£152,634	£151,055	-	-
2023-09-30	£132,347	£124,052	-	-
2022-09-30	£138,629	£140,545	-	-
2021-09-30	£157,332	£113,498	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REV SIMON ATKINSON BA	Chair	
Claire Jackson		2024-11-13
Deborah Frances Goodwin		2021-11-24
Geraint Hughes		2013-11-13
JILL CLARK		
Maria Carvalho		2018-11-21
Michael John Greaves		2022-11-23
Norman Sydney Fryer-Saxby		2021-11-24
Rebekah Lindsey Brooks		2025-01-30
Robert Edmund Smith		2023-11-22

BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST) EXMOUTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139968

Accounts



Brixington Community Church (Baptist)

**Trustees' Report and Accounts
1st October 2024**

to

30th September 2025



Our Vision: 'To be a Christ centred people
demonstrating the love of God in the community'

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Annual Report for the Year 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers:

Charity Status

Brixington Community Church (Baptist) is a registered charity under the Charities Act 2011, Registered Charity Number 1139968.

Managing Trustees

The church is administered by the Managing Trustees of the Charity comprising: -

Minister and Chair of Trustees	Reverend S Atkinson
Administrator	Miss R Brooks
Treasurer	Mr G Hughes
Elders	Mr N Fryer-Saxby Mrs J Corney (co-opted member)
Deacons	Mrs M Carvalho Mrs J Clark Mrs D Goodwin Mr M Greaves Miss C Jackson Mr R Smith

Principal Advisers

Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ.
Independent Examiner	Streets Bush Chartered Accountants, 2 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter, EX1 1QT.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The church's governing document is a declaration of model trust deed dated 17th June 1974 which sets out the objects of the charity. The current land site has been occupied since 1972 when the first building was erected.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) are the Managing Trustees of the charity and 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. Annual elections are held at the church Annual General Meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 60% of those present and eligible to vote.

Induction and Training of Trustees

New Trustees appointed during the reporting period receive one-to-one briefings with the Chair of Trustees on operational policy, the Charity Trust Deed and Constitution. They are also briefed on the responsibilities of a Trustee based on the Charity Commission guidance booklet CC3 - 'The Essential Trustee' and in line with our Induction Policy.

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 church meetings which are normally held bi-monthly. The Minister of the church is a paid Managing Trustee and with the Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) gives leadership to the church. The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Trustees (Deacons) assist the Minister in his role and are also responsible for preparing the business for the church meetings.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and the South West Baptist Association

The church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the South West Baptist Association (SWBA) and 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 donates to the BUGB Home Mission Fund for the Baptist Family in the UK.

Relationships between the Charity and Related Parties

Churches in Exmouth - the church is an active member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Exmouth area.

The church supports *Open Door in Exmouth*.

These connected organisations of the church exist as part of the work and mission of the church which are open to the community.

The church also allocates some of the Minister's time to fulfil the role of *Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club*.

Exmouth Foodbank - the church works in partnership with Exmouth Foodbank and supports people in the local area.

Evangelical Alliance - The church is a member of The Evangelical Alliance which is an umbrella grouping for Evangelical Christians in the UK. Formed in 1846, the Alliance aims to bring Christians together and help them listen to, and be heard by, the government, media and society.

Risk Management

The Trustees examine on a rolling basis all major strategic business and operational risks that the charity faces. Controls and action plans are developed to address any additional risks that are identified during this process.

Risk Assessments are carried out for each event held in the church to identify any risks posed, and these continue to be monitored on a regular basis.

Objectives and Activities

Objects of the Charity

The Charity is established for the purposes of the advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the church. These purposes include the provision and upkeep of a place of worship, carrying out religious services, the payment, housing and pensioning of a Minister of Religion and other persons employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's Aims

Under the Baptist Union Declaration of Principle (below), Brixington Community Church seeks to be an active Christian community/fellowship bringing Christian witness and care to the area known as Brixington within the town of Exmouth. The church also acknowledges its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.

Declaration of Principle

A three-part "Declaration of Principle" forms the basis of understanding for all who belong to the Baptist Union. It was introduced in 1873 with the intent of holding in union Baptists with widely different theological understandings, and progressively refined (1904, 1906, and 1938).

It is rooted in Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) with its threefold pattern of authority, baptism and mission. The first clause of the Declaration focuses on the absolute authority of Jesus Christ, with clause two on baptism into the life of God. Clause three is all about mission.

The Basis of the Baptist 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 Spirit, 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 the third day'.
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal 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 continues to offer public worship on Sunday mornings together with a selection of Mid-week activities. We continue to stream our Sunday morning worship services through our YouTube page.

Conversations continued with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of baptism and church Membership.

The church continues to be involved in Mission activities locally, nationally and internationally.

1. *Locally* – Exmouth Food Bank; the Open Door project, including Haven; Seniors' Lunches; Coffee Mornings; Messy Church; Parent Pop In; Exeter Chiefs and Street Pastors.
2. *Nationally* - As part of Home Mission within the Baptist Union, New Wine and Sports Chaplaincy.
3. *Internationally* - Supports two individuals on long term overseas mission in Mozambique and Romania, as well as supporting the Baptist Missionary Society.

The church continues to develop and grow through Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, Servanthood and Evangelism.

The church premises are situated in an ideal location within Brixington which makes the premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities. Where possible and appropriate, the church aims to recognise the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these needs.

Work has continued throughout the year to develop the church buildings into a hub serving the growing needs of both church and community. This year £27,246 has been raised towards this goal.

The Charity's Vision and Purposes

Vision

The Charity's vision is 'To be a Christ centred people demonstrating the love of God in the community'.

Purposes

Fellowship:

We believe we are called by God to be part of His family (the body of Christ) in Exmouth expressing our faith through love for others.

(John 13:35, Romans 12:10 & Hebrews 10:25)

Worship:

We seek to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, thus surrendering (offering) our lives as an act of worship.

(Psalm 95:6-7 & Romans 12:1)

Discipleship:

We seek to make disciples of all ages, encouraging people to grow and mature in faith by the study and application of the living Word of God through the power and the joy of prayer, which is at the heart of all we do and by the equipping (empowering) of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us.

(Acts 2:42, Hebrews 5:13-14 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Servanthood:

We believe that each person has been given gifts and talents to use to fulfil the plans and purposes of God in this and future generations by being fruitful and serving others.

(John 13:14-15, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:10 & 1 Peter 4:10)

Mission/Outreach:

We aim to actively seek the lost and be a door of hope in the community by demonstrating and declaring the good news of Jesus Christ because we are convinced that He is able to save all who believe in Him.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 19:10 & Acts 20:24)

Mission Statements

Fellowship

Church Family: We aim to encourage all people to live Christ centred lives. To:

- Value people of all ages and abilities.
- Encourage all members of the church family to have a role to play in the life of the church.
- Evaluate and empower people to use their skills.
- Offer support and training.
- Provide opportunities to know each other better by meeting together socially.

Youth and Children's Work: Young people are important to the life of the church. We aim to:

- Recognise that they are individuals, having different backgrounds and different needs.
- Provide teaching and a variety of activities to serve the needs of all young people.

Worship:

Services: Worship is important to the life of the church and includes the study and application of the Word of God. We aim to:

- Develop services under the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer different styles of services to reflect the diversity of our community.

Prayer: Prayer is important in everything we do. Therefore, we seek to:

- Promote the importance of prayer and provide the environment, support and resources for participation.

Discipleship:

Church growth: We believe that God desires this church to grow numerically and spiritually. We:

- Encourage personal spiritual growth at every stage of the Christian journey.
- Train, equip and release disciples.

Growth Groups: Growth Groups are necessary for the spiritual growth of the church. We seek to:

- Encourage all members to become part of a Growth Group.
- Provide pastoral care within each Growth Group.

Servanthood:

Serving the community: Our aim is to demonstrate the love of God in the community by:

- Developing Brixington Community Church to be the hub of the community.
- Providing a place of sanctuary and support for the community.
- Facilitating a range of activities to support the needs of the community.
- Encouraging individuals to serve in the community.

Buildings: Our aim is for the building to be an asset valued by both church and community by:

- Developing an attractive building to cater for a wide range of activities and to accommodate growth.

Mission/Outreach: We believe everyone has a role to play in mission and outreach. Therefore we:

- Encourage people to make the most of mission opportunities in the community, and in their daily lives.
- Support those who are called to undertake local, national or international mission.
- Provide training opportunities.
- Provide opportunities to share relevant testimonies to encourage others.

Achievements and Performance

Pastor's Annual Report

Thank you for being part of the journey over this last year. We began the year with a dedicated week of prayer, seeking God's direction for us as a fellowship. This focus on prayer continued into the start of 2025 with another week of seeking the Lord together. Throughout the year, our monthly church prayer meetings have remained a key part of our rhythm.

We truly believe prayer is foundational to everything we do — it sustains us, guides us, and brings change. Prayer isn't just something we do; it's at the heart of who we are as a church.

One of the most significant highlights of the year has been the 7 baptisms that have taken place as we have twice opened the baptistry this last year. It is always a joy to see people commit their lives to following Jesus and becoming part of the membership.

In the lead-up to Easter this year, we marked the occasion with a well-attended Passover meal, which was a wonderful time of fellowship. Food continues to be an important part of our community life, with events like Coffee Mornings, the Senior's Lunch Club, and various fellowship gatherings bringing people together. I'm pleased to share that we have once again received a 5-star food hygiene rating. A big thank you and well done to the team for maintaining such high standards and keeping everyone safe.

Throughout the year, a group of musicians led by Eve has come together to rehearse and lead us in live worship on several occasions. It has been a great source of encouragement to witness this development. Please continue to pray as we seek to grow and strengthen this ministry within the life of the church.

Our Growth Groups again have played a vital role in helping develop people with their Christian walk. We now have 10 groups mainly meeting once a week to pray, study God's word, encourage one another and have fellowship together. Thank you to our group leaders for the time they invest in preparing and leading their groups.

Over the past year, we've had the pleasure of welcoming Ben as our South West Youth Ministries (SWYM) trainee, joining us while undertaking the *Be Transformed* course with SWYM. We are grateful for the contribution he's made to the life of our fellowship during his time with us. Ben has successfully completed his course, and we wish him every blessing as he steps into whatever God has in store for him next.

Our Youth and Children's department has continued with all its different activities throughout the year and a big thank you to Bradley for leading this for us and to the team that support this important ministry.

At the start of the year, we welcomed Rebekah as our new Administrator, following Tricia's departure as she relocated to North Devon. We are grateful to Rebekah for all the dedication and hard work she contributes behind the scenes. I'd also like to express sincere thanks to Geraint, who has faithfully continued in the role of Treasurer as we seek someone to take on this important position at BCC. Please continue to pray with us as we wait on the right person to step into this vital role in the life of our church.

Our Leadership Team also includes our Deacons, who are committed to supporting the practical aspects of church life. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued dedication and service to the fellowship.

One of the major pieces of work the Leadership team have been working on is to prepare the church for a change in charitable status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with a particular focus on agreeing a new constitution/governing document. As the church has now formally agreed to adopt this new constitution, and we are currently in the process of registering the change with the Charity Commission.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Norman and Jo. As we've met together regularly as Elders over the past year, their wisdom, encouragement, and partnership have been a great blessing. It has been a privilege to pray and share fellowship together as we've carried the responsibility of providing spiritual oversight for the church.

This has been another full and active year as we continue reaching out into the community and working toward our vision: *to be a Christ-centred people, demonstrating the love of God in the community*. Thank you for your contribution—whether big or small—to the life of BCC. We're especially grateful to God for His continued faithfulness throughout the year.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

Administration Annual Report

We currently have 81 Members worshipping at Brixington Community Church alongside regular visitors and people joining worship through our online streaming. In November 2024 we observed 4 people give their lives through baptism; Joy Mundy, Sean Bennet, Leah Condliffe and Prudence Mbimbi. We welcomed Eve and Jamie Burns into membership in December 2024. We also saw 3 new members baptised in January 2025 and welcomed into fellowship in May and June; Gill Haggerty, Joy Carson and Maggie Sumner followed by Mike and Sue Martin joining us in September 2025 as well as celebrating the arrival of baby Brodie Goodwin.

We received official resignation from Tricia Hill in June 2025 following her many years of faithfulness and dedication as she moved to be closer to family. She rallied the troops as Administrator for 10 years and leaves some very big shoes to fill.

This year has seen the need to hold a number of special and additional Church Meetings as we worked to adopt the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status and constitution. We have also sought guidance in supporting Bradley Goodwin's spiritual development as he begins to undertake Ministerial Training.

We welcomed Amanda Heyworth to the team as Cleaner in April and have been more than pleased with her commitment, positive attitude and burgeoning interest in supporting the wider life of the Church.

The Trustees and Deacons have seen a 'rebranding' to become part of the Leadership Team in line with the new CIO document. They continue to meet once a month to discuss the life of the Church and continue seeking Gods wisdom in future endeavours.

I have been so appreciative of everyone's support and encouragement while stepping in to the role of Administrator and finding a balance between other commitments. As I became privy to more of the 'behind the scenes' of Church life it was clear to see just how much time and effort from individuals goes into making our Church a home. I have grown up in Brixington Community Church and it has always felt like an extended family to me. There is a clear dedication and purpose in providing for our local community and sharing the love of God despite the need to make some tricky decisions and what can seem like a never ending 'to do' list. Following my first official Deacons meeting I had a song stuck in my head and was timely reminded that 'Christ is my firm foundation – the rock on which I stand. When everything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad that I put my faith in Jesus because He's never let me down.'

Rebekah Brooks
Administrator

Servanthood Annual Report

The giving of financial support and the offering of practical ministry are rooted in scripture and seen as examples in the early church. Therefore, they are essential to the ministry of BCC, both the church itself and witness in the community.

1. Financial support

The major proportion of our income is given to supporting the practical operation of BCC, e.g. salaries, activities, running costs and building maintenance etc. Following the covid pandemic, when our new building project was suspended, we are beginning to bring this back onto our main agenda. This presents a further challenge to our funding and our faith in God, that he will provide what we need.

We continue to tithe our general income at 10%. This enables us to bless other missionary enterprises, in addition to other designated giving. This year, our servanthood fund was divided between two supported missionary workers, Andrew in Romania and Elena in Mozambique, plus our food distribution ministry and the Bible Society.

2. Practical ministry

As part of our local outreach, we continue to provide a wide range of activities to support the community and offer support, friendship and advice. It is encouraging to see many members of the congregation involved in this valuable ministry. Our desire is that all our community work has an outward looking focus. Also, that we ensure all our activities are engaging with the community and effective in promoting the gospel. Our aim is to develop a bridge to those linked to BCC via these activities.

Norman Fryer-Saxby
Elder

Youth and Children's Annual Report

Shine: is our after-school club that meets every Friday from 3:30PM to 4:30PM during term time. Over the past year, the club has experienced remarkable success in engaging the wider community. The average weekly attendance has increased significantly, rising from 6 to 8 children last year to an impressive average of 16 to 17 children this year. Furthermore, we have noticed a growing number of parents and guardians staying for the duration of the sessions and actively participating alongside their children, particularly during craft sessions and action worship songs. The peak attendance period for Shine occurred during the second half of the children's second term at school, specifically from 28th February 2025 to 04th April 2025. During this timeframe, we observed an average attendance of 22 to 23 children, with our highest club attendance reaching 25 children.

Ignite: In the past year, on November 8, 2024, we launched a youth club aimed at secondary school students. This initiative takes place every Friday during term time from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The club began modestly, with only one child attending on the inaugural night, followed by two the next week. However, as we became more established in our operations, the group steadily grew, reaching a total of nine children over the course of six sessions.

Throughout the year, we continued to invest in this group, fostering strong relationships with a core group of four to five regular attendees. The highest attendance recorded was twelve children, with an average of five to six participants by the end of July 2025. We are excited to further develop this group, strengthen our connections with the youth in the Brixington and Exmouth areas, and explore future opportunities.

Messy Church: We have consistently hosted our Messy Church event on a monthly basis, typically occurring on the first Saturday of each month from 10-1130AM, although this may be adjusted due to local school holidays and



calendars. Over the past year, we

have experienced a commendable turnout, averaging 19 to 20 children and young people per session, with a peak attendance of 29 children and young people at a single event. In addition to providing crafts and activities suitable for children of all ages and abilities, we were fortunate this year to collaborate with a local firefighting crew in Exmouth. This partnership allowed us to celebrate International Firefighters' Day on May 4th, during which the crew showcased their fire engine and equipment, offering the children a hands-on experience with the fire hose.

The "Who Let the Dads Out?" sessions experienced a significant decline in attendance toward the end of 2024. In response, our team decided to place the group on hold from September until Christmas, aiming to reassess our approach and develop a strategy for moving forward. Following a thorough review conducted in early 2025, we concluded that it was time to bring "Who Let the Dads Out?" to a natural end.



As a team, we explored alternative offerings that were not currently available in the area. Ultimately, we conceived a new initiative called “Play and Praise.” This program will provide children with a space to engage with toys and equipment, followed by a snack and a puppet show that conveys clear Christian teachings and messages. These sessions will replace “Who Let the Dads Out?” and will typically occur on the third Saturday of each month from 10-1130AM, welcoming all children and young people to attend no matter their ages and abilities.

One-Off Family Events:

Throughout the year, we organize a variety of special events, including a three-day holiday club and seasonal celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, and light parties. Historically, these events have been immensely popular among the children and families in our local community.

Our annual Light Party, held on November 2, 2024, marked the beginning of our series of youth, children, and family events. This year, we welcomed an impressive total of 104 attendees, comprising 75 children and young people along with 29 parents and guardians from both the local community and beyond.

Later in 2024, on December 14, we hosted an all-age Christmas party. This event served as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the festive season while sharing the nativity story as recounted in the Bible. We were able to bless many children and young people with gifts, accompanied by a generous buffet spread donated by church members who regularly attend Sunday services. That evening, we experienced a turnout of 107 individuals, including 65 children and young people and 42 parents and guardians, along with a dedicated team of volunteers.

During the February 2025 half-term, we facilitated a highly successful royal-themed event over three days—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. This initiative was led by myself and my exceptional youth and children's volunteers, who ensured that all participants had an engaging and enjoyable experience. We averaged 26 to 27 children each day, with the most popular session attracting 32 children. Over the three-day period, we welcomed a total of 80 children and 47 parents and guardians who participated in the activities.



Finally, our culminating event was the Church’s Easter Egg-stravaganza, which boasted the highest attendance of any youth and children’s event of the year, drawing a total of 173 attendees. This included 90 adults over the age of 18, 72 children and youth under 18, and a committed team of volunteers who facilitated everything from the kitchen and BBQ to the bouncy castle, Easter egg hunt, and various games.

Schools Engagement: Over the past year, we have had the privilege of continuing our support and collaboration with two local primary schools in Brixington. Our efforts have included preparing and delivering a series of assemblies at both Brixington Primary Academy and Bassetts Farm Primary School.

At Brixington Academy, we successfully conducted weekly assemblies every Tuesday afternoon, focusing on the school's PSHE curriculum. Additionally, we welcomed the entire school to the church on two occasions: once for a Christmas-themed assembly and again for an Easter assembly. This past year, we also partnered with the school to host a special assembly on the school grounds, encouraging students to bring dried or canned food items for donation to the food distribution program operated by Brixington Community Church during Spring Harvest.

At Bassetts Farm Primary School, we were granted the opportunity to run assemblies on a weekly basis every other half term for students in Key Stage Two.

Furthermore, I continued my involvement at Exmouth Community College alongside Rose and the Haven team from Exmouth Open Door. On Fridays, I assisted in running a lunchtime safe space known as the Haven Hub, where students could engage in card and board games, as well as converse with trusted adults within the school. I also provided one-on-one mentorship to several boys facing various challenges, including mental health issues, anxiety, and academic difficulties. Towards the end of the academic year in 2025, I collaborated with Rose to facilitate a series of transition days. Additionally, we participated in Exmouth Community College's multi-faith and worldview day, where we had the opportunity to share our beliefs as a church and discuss our community work with Year 7 students.

Team Update: A Fond Farewell to Ben Culshaw: We are thrilled to share that Ben Culshaw has had an outstanding year with us at Brixington Community Church while studying alongside everyone at South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). During his time here, Ben has gained invaluable experience and increased his confidence by working with various volunteer teams, including our youth and children's ministries, as well as the Open Door Exmouth's Haven team.

Since the beginning of his journey, Ben has shown remarkable personal growth in both his work and spiritual life. As a church community, we take pride in having contributed to his development.

On Sunday 17th August, we celebrated the conclusion of Ben's time with us by hosting a Family and Friends BBQ after the service, honouring all his achievements. He has since returned home to Honiton, where he is preparing to embark on the next chapter of his studies with South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). As a church, we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Bradley Goodwin
Youth and Children's Leader

Growth Groups Annual Report

We are committed to walking alongside individuals in their faith journeys, and our Growth Groups are a key part of that mission. These groups provide a welcoming space to explore faith-related topics, study Scripture, pray together, and offer mutual encouragement and support.

At present, we have ten Growth Groups meeting regularly, including one that gathers online. We are grateful that more than 75% of our fellowship is actively involved in these groups.

This year, we were also blessed to host an Alpha course, which was well attended and deeply enriching for those who participated.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our Growth Group leaders for their dedication, preparation, and faithful leadership each week as they guide and care for their groups.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Trustee responsible

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Annual Report

Safeguarding: Brixington Community Church (BCC) aims to provide a safe and creative place for children, young people and adults in a vulnerable situation, to be valued and nurtured.

The church has a robust safeguarding policy structure in place and a reporting procedure for issues of concern. Our policy demonstrates that every member of the fellowship has a part to play in creating and valuing a safe community. Within the annually updated policy there are also guidelines for 'best practice' for all who work alongside the vulnerable, along with an efficient and prompt system to respond to any safeguarding issues surrounding children, young people or adults in a vulnerable situation. Our policy includes guidelines in the use of media, mobile phones and the use of photographs and has been highlighted in the 'best practice' section of our policy for all members to observe.

The policy statement is read out annually to the fellowship at the AGM, who are reminded of our collective responsibility for the well-being of all and the reporting procedure in the event of any concern.

Our safeguarding team of Lead Trustee, Safeguarding Administrator and Youth Worker meet every 6-8 weeks with an agenda of overview and support of our work with children and young people. Our relationship with the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) workers, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team and the SW Baptist Association Safeguarding Lead, ensures that BCC's Lead Trustee can process any urgent reported concerns within 24 hours to the appropriate authorities or support services.

All who work alongside the vulnerable groups, Trustees and Elders are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and have received 'Safe to Grow' and 'Safe to Belong' training. I can report that all such workers are up to date in their accreditation. In addition, our existing policy for 'Working Alone' is also implemented into our working practice. A risk assessment is prepared and carried out before any activities, both on and off-site, can take place. These risk assessments also include activities such as senior lunches, all youth work and any home visits.

The Lead Trustee reports to the church Trustees at their monthly meetings.

Pastoral Care: The primary purpose of Pastoral Care at BCC is to care, support and nurture people so that the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is a resource for every situation.

Although the primary responsibility for Pastoral Care lies with the Pastor, he is assisted by the Elders, Trustees and Growth group leaders. They review the pastoral needs of individual members of the fellowship and liaise with the Pastoral Care team. This year the team of 4 have been most effective in their response to the needs of an ageing fellowship, with ill health, family loss & bereavement, providing emotional and prayerful support.

Pastoral Care is also exercised through the prayerful and practical support within smaller Growth Groups. The Prayer Chain, which exists for members of the fellowship facing immediate crises, ensures a prompt prayer support covering when needed.

The church office and growth group leaders have remained a point of contact for anyone experiencing difficulties with shopping, medication collections, hospital appointments, or needing a re-assuring chat or home visit during the year. The Minister and Trustees diarise any pastoral care visits and are accompanied where possible, in line with current Pastoral Care training.

Plans are in place to monitor any vulnerable adults who may experience physical and financial hardship during the Winter season and to offer assistance for their well-being, alongside the weekly food bag deliveries already in place for families.

It has been heartening to see how caring and supportive all fellowship members have been for one another during this year.

Jill Clark

Trustee Responsible

Health and Safety Annual Report

I am pleased to report that we are fully compliant with current H&S regulations.

In terms of reported accidents, they are thankfully few and minor in nature.

We carried out a recent fire evacuation practice in order to observe and learn about the implications of a newly positioned RVP (assembly point). This evacuation did highlight points for improvement, which will be communicated back to you in due course.

I continue to enjoy serving in the role of a Deacon at Brixington Community Church, supporting and discerning direction given by the church elders.

We work together to also support each other in our various roles, so a special thank you to my fellow Deacons.

If you have any questions or wish to bring to my attention any H&S issues, I will endeavour to help.

Michael Greaves
Trustee Responsible

Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club Chaplaincy Annual Report

Serving as Chaplain to the Exeter Chiefs presents a distinctive opportunity to engage with players, coaches and staff. It is a ministry founded on presence—one that enables me to build meaningful relationships so that, when life's challenges arise, I am already a trusted and familiar face. While I do not initiate conversations about faith, I remain open to sharing my beliefs when invited to do so. My role encompasses the provision of pastoral and spiritual care through attentive listening, encouragement, and support for all individuals, irrespective of their faith background. This year has brought significant changes to the playing squad and coaches, with a number of experienced players moving on and a new generation of younger talent joining the team along with some international talent. Among them are several players of Christian faith, whom I have had the privilege of encouraging in their personal journeys. As I commence my fifteenth year as the club's Chaplain, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the church for permitting me three hours each week to serve the Exeter Chiefs in this capacity.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs

Hospitality Annual Report

We are grateful to the Lord for the blessings and the sense of unity we have experienced through all our events and activities this year.

Coffee Mornings

Our weekly Coffee Morning continues to be a joyful space for fellowship. Average attendance has grown from 17 to 25. I would like to thank everyone from our congregation who attends and helps us spread God's love and care. A special thank you goes to **Michelle Mulcahy, Sue and Stuart Sutton, Pauline Bedford, Jean Bell, Debby Goodwin, Paul and Maggie Sumner** for their continued and selfless support. Without you, our Coffee Mornings would simply not exist.

May the Lord bless you abundantly!

Sunday Coffee

I would like to thank our team of volunteers for their dedication and hard work in providing refreshments every Sunday. Thank you, **Pauline Bedford, Jo Corney, Gill Haggerty, Jean Bell, Chris Bird, and Viv Doran.**

God bless you always!

Seniors' Brunches

The Seniors' Brunches have consistently provided a warm atmosphere, delicious food, and a platform to celebrate birthdays. Attendance has been encouraging, fostering meaningful connections and enriching the lives of our seniors. A special thank you goes to **Jean Honey** and her dedicated team for all their hard work in maintaining such high standards for this event.

Prayer

We continue to pray for more volunteers to join our teams and help us support our growing numbers.

Acknowledgments

We thank the Lord for **Pastor Simon Atkinson, Bradley Goodwin, Ben Culshaw, Debby Goodwin, Becky Brooks, our Trustees, and all volunteers** for their invaluable contributions in their various ministries.

Closing

We look forward to continued growth and engagement as we share God's love in our community.

Maria Carvalho

Trustee Responsible

Worship Annual Report

Worship

As in last year's Report, I include this statement – 'With Out Reservation Serve Him In Praise'. This statement says that our true worship is to be found in our service to God, and we do so with praise to Him. This is an essential characteristic in the life of BCC. Not just on a Sunday but seven days a week and in every part of our individual lives and together as a community of God's people.

- Help develop people's prayer life
- Encourage everyone to have a time of daily devotion
- Help and encourage people to encounter the Holy Spirit

We are praying that in future our style of worship will:

- reflect these aims and the needs of individual people that attend
- when we come together to sing, pray, read the Bible and listen to what God is saying our meetings will be Spirit led and appropriate to all who attend, with music and songs that reflect both the modern era and the heritage we have of Christian music.
- include appropriate biblical teaching and application
- encourage people to have an expectation that the Spirit of God is at work
- see the frequency of live music with a band increase

Norman Fryer-Saxby

Trustee Responsible

Community Engagement Annual Report

In this role I work alongside some of the other Deacons and Staff and reach out to the Community, advertising events and helping in clubs and weekly events, trying to engage new and old people as they join us here at Brixington and as we attend other events away from Church.

During the past year as Community Engagement Deacon, I have continued to reach out to the community making contacts and organising events to make this happen.

In November the year started for me with the annual Christmas fair with several sellers of festive treats and lots of festive refreshments. The Church was decorated readily with all the decorations and the tree was put up ready to go. The public came new and old, and it was very well attended. £500 funds were made.

In December I joined forces with Bradley and a small team to hold our annual Christmas party. The children who attended got to interact with festive fun and feast on a festive buffet where they received the Christmas message and a small gift each before leaving. Sadly due to a shortage of volunteers and attendance we had to cease parent pop-in at the end of December after many years.

As the year started Shine started to climb in numbers and the outreach with young families became much stronger and new faces were coming through the door weekly with an average attendance of 17.8 children.

February, we held our half term holiday club with a theme of Kings and Queens. An average of 26.6 attended over the three days and great conversations were had with the families involved and some of the families even attended the following Sunday at the family service.

March, I continued to advertise the weekly events such as Coffee Morning but concentrated on a big clean within the church and sorted all the cupboards in the office and the toy cupboards in the small hall.

April is always a busy month in Church as we bless the public with our one free event - the annual eggstravaganza. Complete with easter egg hunt and BBQ this is a great opportunity to engage with the young families that attend. This year we had 72 children and 172 overall in attendance. Once again, a great outcome.

Other months I continue to help Bradley with youth clubs, Messy Church and Play and Praise and Maria with Coffee Mornings. Whilst Maria had to have some time off this summer, I had a chat with her and took it as an opportunity to reboot Coffee Mornings with Michelle. Our numbers have jumped to an average attendance of 20 a week which peaked at 36 people. We now offer a weekly menu of homemade cakes and bacon rolls as well as a warm safe space and friendship. We are also looking at having a small sales table to raise a few more funds. A regular amount of funds although small is now coming in and covering costs which is great.

July was our peak time for Shine. We had 31 attending one Friday which was a little manic but totally awesome and felt like a massive achievement. The Church was also starting to look tired, so I refurbished all the noticeboards ready for our Summer Fair when our visitors entered the Church. I also had another tidy up session and big clean this time in the kitchen.

Our Summer Fair was a great hit this year and we had some great feedback from people who attended as well as from stall holders. We had our usual BBQ and bouncy castle but this year we had our local fire engine and ice cream van which were a great success. Even though the day began with heavy rain, the clouds lifted and we all had an amazing day and still managed to raise £950 for the funding pot which was amazing.

Debby Goodwin
Trustee Responsible

Premises Annual Report

The work to maintain the premises has continued with jobs being carried out in-house, by a band of volunteers to whom I am very grateful, and by external contractors.

The largest task carried out by volunteers was painting Simon's Study and the vestry, many thanks to Christine and Marian for their assistance.

Among the plethora of other tasks were: -

Repainting lines in the car park

PAT testing - many thanks to Stuart

I am very grateful that Chris continues with grass cutting and many other maintenance tasks.

Shrub trimming - many thanks to Andrew

The major contracted tasks were: -

Extension of guttering around the office to resolve the drainage issues.

Replacement of the side doors to the Small Hall due to storm damage.

Marcom Road Property

Continues to be managed by Belvoir. No issues to report.

My aim is to expand the number of volunteers to spread the load.

Bob Smith
Trustee Responsible

Stewardship - Treasurer's Annual Report

As part of the Church's vision and values, the role of the Stewardship team is to provide good stewardship of the church's financial resources by:

- ensuring the church's Trustees are accountable to the church members for the church's finances, and meet the legal and financial requirements of the Charity Commission, HMRC and the Baptist Pension Scheme
- ensuring sustainable budget planning for the church by monitoring and advising on expenditure, and maximising income including Gift Aid
- enabling and supporting teams and individuals in their ministries by managing church funds to provide "tools for the job" as needed to further the church's spiritual and community goals
- promoting generous giving as people feel led, as a reflection of their Christian life
- supporting the progress of the Building Development project (BDF)



Each year at the AGM the Treasurer presents a draft budget on behalf of the Trustees for the new church financial year. Once approved by members, this is then monitored monthly throughout the year and circulated to the Trustees with an analysis by the Treasurer of income and expenditure issues, projections and trends.

The Leadership Team would like to express their sincere thanks to members and friends for consistent and generous giving in 2024/25 against a background of continuing challenges for many people's personal finances. God's timely provision, both for the ministries of the church and its fixed and running costs, is testament again to meeting the needs within the fellowship and in the local community.

INCOME

Sources of income included regular giving, donations, legacies, Gift Aid, property letting, premises hire, small grants funding, some staffing support costs and a grant from South West Baptist Association towards our SWYM student placement.

The budget setting process aims to reflect a faithful but realistic approach to the levels of anticipated giving set against likely expenditure, with any shortfall being covered by church general funds/reserves. It should be noted moreover that the expenditure budget takes into account the church's corporate giving/tithing to other ministries (see below).

The *overall* income target of £126,770 (including a grant but *excluding* Building Fund donations and staff health insurance award) was exceeded at £136,601. While church members have felt led to give generously and consistently as in the previous year's giving, the year target of £70,000 for regular giving and weekly offerings came in 3% below at £67,626. These gifts provided half of the annual income target achieved. Maximising Gift Aid refunds from HMRC resulted in £15,488 which contributed 10% of total income.

Alongside its regular Coffee Mornings and Seniors' Lunch activities for local people and church members, as a Community Church Brixington also hires its premises to link with local community groups, hosting activities including craft sessions, a model gaming club and a carers group, as well as private hire and being a regular polling station. This hire of premises contributed over £8,770 (5% of the church's income) towards meeting running costs.

The Building Development Fund (BDF) is part of a faith journey to Build the Church as a fellowship and as a Community Hub is a major and ambitious vision for the church. With the impact of rising inflationary building costs and charges, the re-valued project cost is now estimated at well over £5 million, and the church has committed to fundraising locally and at a national level from grant-funders to move the project forward. In the meantime, a total of £10,529 was raised in 2024/25 from members' ongoing giving and donations (excluding Gift Aid).

Savings investments - primarily BDF funds - have achieved positive results through higher interest rates being applied throughout the year, and this brought a welcome return of £17,568 from a mix of Charity Bond investments and bank interest. The donations above plus this interest took the total Building Fund to nearly £365k.

EXPENDITURE

The expenditure budget represents the various areas of ministry and church activity covering Fellowship (Community, Children and Families outreach), Worship, Discipleship (including training and development of staff, SWYM workers and volunteers) and the committed/ fixed costs under Ministry support (i.e. staffing, payroll and pensions), Administration and Finance, and Property-related spending.

The Expenditure budget of £132,190 was exceeded by £18,178 to total £150,368, mainly arising from church commitment to a SWYM (South West Youth Ministries) intern placement along with significant property-related spending on the church premises, the upgrading/replacement of multi-media equipment, professional fees and some increases to annual running costs. Staffing-related costs comprised over 60% of total spend but were offset by payments awarded from the BU Pension scheme to cover long-term sickness. The SWYM training costs for the intern placement were partially offset by a South-West Baptist Association grant, but the church nevertheless committed to £6,408 training and food and accommodation costs being met from general funds.

On a positive note expenditure also included spending from grants, legacies and donations for Family Support, Food Distribution etc. It also reflected the church's corporate tithe giving to other Christian organisations working locally, nationally and internationally. This included the Baptist Home Mission Fund (HMF), Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), Bible Society, TEAR Fund, Exmouth Open Door's community support, the Persecuted Church and to church members working on mission in Romania and Mozambique. This year's total giving of £11,810 equated to just under 10% of total income (excl Building Fund and staff health insurance award).

Reserves Policy: It is important to note that as part of its total reserves and in line with the annual assessment of financial risks under the church's Stewardship (Finance) Policy, the Trustees have stipulated that unrestricted "emergency" reserves of £52,000 are maintained within the church's working reserves. This is made up of £25,000 to ensure salaries and related costs can be met in the event of extenuating or extraordinary circumstances e.g. impending church closure, staff reductions, and £27,000 to cover regular operating costs for a 3-month period if the church cannot maintain an adequate level of net income for any unforeseen reason.

My heartfelt thanks as always to Katie Hughes and Sally Vince for their highly valued support and continuing commitment every week throughout the year toward ensuring that stewardship of the church's finances does what it should on behalf of Brixington Community Church.

On a personal note from myself as Treasurer and Interim Treasurer, a huge Thank You again to all members and friends as you have each felt led to celebrate God's generosity by being generous yourselves over many years.

Geraint Hughes

Trustees Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a regular basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signature and Declaration

I declare in my capacity as Chair of Charity Trustees that:

- The Trustees have approved the report above and
- Have authorised me to sign the report on their behalf.

Signed:



Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

Dated: 8 February 2026



2024-2025 ACCOUNTS

Year from 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS						
	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts						
Offerings		67,626.53	-	-	67,626.53	64,395.85
Donations & other income	2	22,861.80	3,244.99	22,025.80	48,132.59	54,111.04
Income TAX recovered on gifts (Gift Aid)		13,877.01	-	1,611.75	15,488.76	13,310.03
Bank Interest		17,568.57	-	-	17,568.57	12,789.91
Use of premises		8,778.78	-	-	8,778.78	8,026.90
Sub Total		130,712.69	3,244.99	23,637.55	157,595.23	152,633.73
Total Receipts		130,712.69	3,244.99	23,637.55	157,595.23	152,633.73
Payments						
Ministry costs	3	82,080.94	-	8,819.50	90,900.44	84,823.37
External mission	4	11,810.00	-	-	11,810.00	11,533.40
Internal mission	5	1,017.36	1,989.35	2,612.64	5,619.35	6,915.49
Upkeep of church premises	6	23,730.78	-	1,464.98	25,195.76	27,013.28
Administration & ministry support	7	8,847.01	-	6,717.83	15,564.84	16,251.38
Professional fees		1,278.00	-	-	1,278.00	4,518.00
Sub Total		128,764.09	1,989.35	19,614.95	150,368.39	151,054.92
Total Payments		128,764.09	1,989.35	19,614.95	150,368.39	151,054.92
		Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Net of receipts/(payments)		1,948.60	1,255.64	4,022.60	7,226.84	1,578.81
Cash funds b/f 30.09.24		38,020.70	53,989.72	347,071.94	439,082.36	437,503.55
Transfer between funds		(21,547.44)	-	21,547.44	-	-
Cash funds c/f at 30.09.25		18,421.86	55,245.36	372,641.98	446,309.20	439,082.36
Cash funds represented by: -						
Church general account and stipulated reserves		18,421.86	52,000.00	-	70,421.86	90,020.70
Building fund		-	-	364,827.82	364,827.82	337,581.29
Youth fund		-	3,245.36	650.68	3,896.04	2,640.40
Grants & legacies		-	-	3,380.70	3,380.70	3,345.68
Family Support		-	-	686.56	686.56	1,193.56
Food Distribution		-	-	1,105.04	1,105.04	1,587.41
Queens Jubilee Fund		-	-	1,473.18	1,473.18	2,195.32
Other restricted funds		-	-	518.00	518.00	518.00
Totals		18,421.86	55,245.36	372,641.98	446,309.20	439,082.36
Notes						
2. Donations and other income						
Grants & Legacies		-	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Communities & Families		-	-	171.67	171.67	762.35
Youth work		-	3,244.99	-	3,244.99	4,056.73
Building Fund		-	-	10,529.55	10,529.55	13,225.63
Letting of Marcom Close		18,100.00	-	-	18,100.00	16,090.00
Food Distribution		-	-	930.00	930.00	875.00
Queens Jubilee Fund		-	-	-	-	10.00
Others		2,233.52	-	-	2,233.52	638.00
Seniors		1,427.00	-	-	1,427.00	2,086.57
Coffee Morning		1,101.28	-	-	1,101.28	840.70
Aviva Insurance Income Protection (Staff)		-	-	8,694.58	8,694.58	8,421.06
SWYM Placement		-	-	200.00	200.00	7,105.00
Totals		22,861.80	3,244.99	22,025.80	48,132.59	54,111.04
3. Ministry costs						
Staff salaries including pension/payroll expenses		65,184.90	-	8,694.58	73,879.48	68,556.13
Travel Expenses		1,067.71	-	124.92	1,192.63	766.39
Manse Running Costs		3,291.34	-	-	3,291.34	3,144.79
Other items (inc. guest speakers)		536.99	-	-	536.99	356.06
Manse Lease		12,000.00	-	-	12,000.00	12,000.00
Totals		82,080.94	-	8,819.50	90,900.44	84,823.37

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
4. Mission (External)					
Baptist Missionary Society	3,500.04	-	-	3,500.04	3,500.04
Home Mission	6,249.96	-	-	6,249.96	5,499.96
Open Door Exmouth	600.00	-	-	600.00	933.40
Tithing	1,050.00	-	-	1,050.00	1,400.00
Others	410.00	-	-	410.00	200.00
Totals	11,810.00	-	-	11,810.00	11,533.40
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
5. Mission (Internal)					
Youth Work	-	1,989.35	-	1,989.35	2,809.48
Seniors	963.21	-	-	963.21	1,345.45
Community & Families	-	-	569.39	569.39	621.24
Food Distribution	-	-	1,321.11	1,321.11	1,949.40
Queens Jubilee Fund	-	-	722.14	722.14	162.51
Coffee Morning	54.15	-	-	54.15	14.93
Pastoral Care	-	-	-	-	12.48
Totals	1,017.36	1,989.35	2,612.64	5,619.35	6,915.49
6. Upkeep of church premises					
Cleaning	272.20	-	-	272.20	333.58
Insurance	2,382.95	-	-	2,382.95	2,264.14
Energy	5,764.38	-	-	5,764.38	5,517.38
Water rates	1,628.61	-	-	1,628.61	1,143.35
Equipment purchase and maintenance	2,242.31	-	-	2,242.31	1,095.48
Multi-Media and online equipment	737.31	-	1,464.98	2,202.29	2,042.42
Church Maintenance	8,496.62	-	-	8,496.62	11,956.81
Marcom Close Let Maintenance/Agency Fee	2,206.40	-	-	2,206.40	2,660.12
Totals	23,730.78	-	1,464.98	25,195.76	27,013.28
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
7. Administration & ministry support					
Communications & Media	144.00	-	-	144.00	1,544.00
Catering Expenses	970.19	-	-	970.19	520.88
Photocopier costs	888.00	-	-	888.00	888.00
Stationery	275.75	-	-	275.75	412.55
Subscriptions	3,805.94	-	-	3,805.94	1,382.81
Telephone/Broadband	401.60	-	109.28	510.88	261.46
Sundries	358.42	-	-	358.42	1,931.42
Training & Development (inc SWYM Placement)	1,802.54	-	6,608.55	8,411.09	8,994.95
Others : Bank charges/travel/postage/music download	200.57	-	-	200.57	315.31
Totals	8,847.01	-	6,717.83	15,564.84	16,251.38
Statement of assets and liabilities at 30th September 2025					
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
CAF Bank - current a/c	7,317.50	-	-	7,317.50	6,978.17
CAF Bank - Gold a/c	10,984.73	55,245.72	10,149.98	76,380.43	95,948.98
CAF Bank - Gold BDF	-	-	55,194.50	55,194.50	43,228.34
United Trust Bank Charity Bond 1yr fixed (1)	-	-	147,358.56	147,358.56	59,741.29
United Trust Bank Charity Bond 1yr fixed (2)	-	-	62,738.94	62,738.94	92,790.08
Cambridge & Counties 1 year Fixed	-	-	97,200.00	97,200.00	92,576.38
BU 1 Yr fixed account	-	-	-	-	47,627.04
Petty cash	119.27	-	-	119.27	192.08
Sub Total	18,421.50	55,245.72	372,641.98	446,309.20	439,082.36
Assets retained for charity's own use					
Church premises, Churchill Road, Exmouth	1,308,409.00	-	-	1,308,409.00	1,270,297.00
Marcom Close let, Exmouth	309,065.00	-	-	309,065.00	300,063.00
Church Fixtures & fittings	135,353.00	-	-	135,353.00	131,140.00
Sub Total	1,752,827.00	-	-	1,752,827.00	1,701,500.00
Assets for 24/25 received beyond year-end					
HMRC Gift Aid	3,642.25	-	-	3,642.25	4,076.63
Sub Total	3,642.25	-	-	3,642.25	4,076.63
Total Assets	1,774,890.75	55,245.72	372,641.98	2,202,778.45	2,144,658.99
Liabilities for 24/25 due within one year					
Independent Examiner fees (Streets Bush Limited)	1,440.00	-	-	1,440.00	810.00
BU Pension fund: (Employer liability) estimated	-	-	-	-	12.00
Total Current Liabilities	1,440.00	-	-	1,440.00	822.00
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,773,450.75	55,245.72	372,641.98	2,201,338.45	2,143,836.99

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

08.02.2026

Signature

S. Brooks

Signature

R. Brooks

Print Name

S. A. Atkinson

Print Name

REBEKAH
BROOKS

Reverend S A Atkinson
(Chairman)

Miss R Brooks
(Administrator)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2025 in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 ("the Regulations") and Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

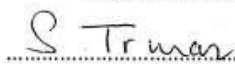
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


S Truman FCCA FCA
Streets Bush Limited
Melrose House
Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5AZ
Date: 13 February 2026

BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST) EXMOUTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139968

Accounts



Brixington Community Church (Baptist)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

**1st October 2023 to
30th September 2024**



Our Vision: ‘To be a Christ centred people
demonstrating the love of God in the community’

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Annual Report for the Year to 30th September 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers:

Charity Status

Brixington Community Church (Baptist) is a registered charity under the Charities Act 2011, Registered Charity Number 1139968.

Managing Trustees

The church is administered by the Managing Trustees of the Charity comprising: -

Minister and Chair of Trustees	Reverend S Atkinson
Administrator	Miss P Hill (Until 13 November 2024)
Treasurer	Mr G Hughes (Until 13 November 2024)
Elder	Mr N Fryer-Saxby
Trustees/Deacons	Mrs M Carvalho
	Mrs J Clark
	Mrs D Goodwin
	Mr M Greaves
	Mr R Smith (From 22 November 2023)

Principal Advisers

Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ.
Independent Examiner	Streets Bush Chartered Accountants, 2 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter, EX1 1QT.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The church's governing document is a declaration of model trust deed dated 17th June 1974 which sets out the objects of the charity. The current land site has been occupied since 1972 when the first building was erected.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) are the Managing Trustees of the charity and 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. Annual elections are held at the church Annual General Meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 60% of those present and eligible to vote.

Induction and Training of Trustees

New Trustees appointed during the reporting period receive one-to-one briefings with the Chair of Trustees on operational policy, the Charity Trust Deed and Constitution. They are also briefed on the responsibilities of a Trustee based on the Charity Commission guidance booklet CC3 - 'The Essential Trustee' and in line with our Induction Policy.

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 church meetings which are normally held bi-monthly. The Minister of the church is a paid Managing Trustee and with the Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) gives leadership to the church. The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Trustees (Deacons) assist the Minister in his role and are also responsible for preparing the business for the church meetings.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and the South West Baptist Association

The church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the South West Baptist Association (SWBA) and 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 donates to the BUGB Home Mission Fund for the Baptist Family in the UK.

Relationships between the Charity and Related Parties

Churches in Exmouth - the church is an active member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Exmouth area.

The church supports *Open Door in Exmouth*.

These connected organisations of the church exist as part of the work and mission of the church which are open to the community.

The church also allocates some of the Minister's time to fulfil the role of *Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club*.

Exmouth Foodbank - the church works in partnership with Exmouth Foodbank and supports people in the local area.

Evangelical Alliance - The church is a member of The Evangelical Alliance which is an umbrella grouping for Evangelical Christians in the UK. Formed in 1846, the Alliance aims to bring Christians together and help them listen to, and be heard by, the government, media and society.

Risk Management

The Trustees examine on a rolling basis all major strategic business and operational risks that the charity faces. Controls and action plans are developed to address any additional risks that are identified during this process.

Risk Assessments are carried out for each event held in the church to identify any risks posed, and these continue to be monitored on a regular basis.

Objectives and Activities

Objects of the Charity

The Charity is established for the purposes of the advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the church. These purposes include the provision and upkeep of a place of worship, carrying out religious services, the payment, housing and pensioning of a Minister of Religion and other persons employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's Aims

Under the Baptist Union Declaration of Principle (below), Brixington Community Church seeks to be an active Christian community/fellowship bringing Christian witness and care to the area known as Brixington within the town of Exmouth. 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 continues to offer public worship on Sunday mornings together with a selection of Mid-week activities. We continue to stream our Sunday morning worship services through our YouTube page.

Conversations continued with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of baptism and church Membership.

The church continues to be involved in Mission activities locally, nationally and internationally.

1. *Locally* – Exmouth Food Bank; the Open Door project, including Haven; Seniors' Lunches; Coffee Mornings; Messy Church; Brixington Family Support; Parent Pop In; Exeter Chiefs and Street Pastors.
2. *Nationally* - As part of Home Mission within the Baptist Union, New Wine and Sports Chaplaincy.
3. *Internationally* - Supports two individuals on long term overseas mission in Mozambique and Romania, as well as supporting the Baptist Missionary Society.

The church continues to develop and grow through Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, Servanthood and Evangelism.

The church premises are situated in an ideal location within Brixington which makes the premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities. Where possible and appropriate, the church aims to recognise the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these needs.

Work has continued throughout the year to develop the church buildings into a hub serving the growing needs of both church and community. This year £13, 226 has been raised towards this goal.

The Charity's Vision and Purposes

Vision

The Charity's vision is 'To be a Christ centred people demonstrating the love of God in the community'.

Purposes

Fellowship:

We believe we are called by God to be part of His family (the body of Christ) in Exmouth expressing our faith through love for others.

(John 13:35, Romans 12:10 & Hebrews 10:25)

Worship:

We seek to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, thus surrendering (offering) our lives as an act of worship.

(Psalm 95:6-7 & Romans 12:1)

Discipleship:

We seek to make disciples of all ages, encouraging people to grow and mature in faith by the study and application of the living Word of God through the power and the joy of prayer, which is at the heart of all we do and by the equipping (empowering) of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us.

(Acts 2:42, Hebrews 5:13-14 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Servanthood:

We believe that each person has been given gifts and talents to use to fulfil the plans and purposes of God in this and future generations by being fruitful and serving others.

(John 13:14-15, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:10 & 1 Peter 4:10)

Mission/Outreach:

We aim to actively seek the lost and be a door of hope in the community by demonstrating and declaring the good news of Jesus Christ because we are convinced that He is able to save all who believe in Him.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 19:10 & Acts 20:24)

Mission Statements

Fellowship

Church Family: We aim to encourage all people to live Christ centred lives. To:

- Value people of all ages and abilities.
- Encourage all members of the church family to have a role to play in the life of the church.
- Evaluate and empower people to use their skills.
- Offer support and training.
- Provide opportunities to know each other better by meeting together socially.

Youth and Children's Work: Young people are important to the life of the church. We aim to:

- Recognise that they are individuals, having different backgrounds and different needs.
- Provide teaching and a variety of activities to serve the needs of all young people.

Worship:

Services: Worship is important to the life of the church and includes the study and application of the Word of God. We aim to:

- Develop services under the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer different styles of services to reflect the diversity of our community.

Prayer: Prayer is important in everything we do. Therefore, we seek to:

- Promote the importance of prayer and provide the environment, support and resources for participation.

Discipleship:

Church growth: We believe that God desires this church to grow numerically and spiritually. We:

- Encourage personal spiritual growth at every stage of the Christian journey.
- Train, equip and release disciples.

Growth Groups: Growth Groups are necessary for the spiritual growth of the church. We seek to:

- Encourage all members to become part of a Growth Group.
- Provide pastoral care within each Growth Group.

Servanthood:

Serving the community: Our aim is to demonstrate the love of God in the community by:

- Developing Brixington Community Church to be the hub of the community.
- Providing a place of sanctuary and support for the community.
- Facilitating a range of activities to support the needs of the community.
- Encouraging individuals to serve in the community.

Buildings: Our aim is for the building to be an asset valued by both church and community by:

- Developing an attractive building to cater for a wide range of activities and to accommodate growth.

Mission/Outreach: We believe everyone has a role to play in mission and outreach. Therefore we:

- Encourage people to make the most of mission opportunities in the community, and in their daily lives.
- Support those who are called to undertake local, national or international mission.
- Provide training opportunities.
- Provide opportunities to share relevant testimonies to encourage others.

Achievements and Performance

Pastor's Annual Report

This year has been another busy one in the life of Brixington Community Church as the church continues to develop its outreach into the local community. Our work with children and families continues to be a key focus for us alongside other areas of ministry.

Our ongoing work within our local community continues to play a central role in seeing our vision fulfilled 'To be a Christ centred people demonstrating the love of God in the community'. We have continued to deliver food to local families in need and as part of this we have teamed up with the Exmouth Food Bank. I would like to thank our army of volunteers that help with this important ministry especially as we continue to see the cost-of-living increases having a bigger negative affect on local families. Also to thank those who generously donate food or cash to this project.

It has been encouraging to see our regular Wednesday coffee morning continue to attract new local people. We have also seen a number of outside speakers come and share about the work that they are involved in. Our Seniors' Lunches have continued, but due to staffing constraints, the team are now trialling a slightly different format.

Our Youth and Children's Leader, Bradley Goodwin, continues to lead our children's and youth department. Alongside him this year we have had an overseas student from America placed with us from South West Youth Ministries (SWYM) and INVEST, which has been interesting. We have continued with Shine, our afterschool club, for Primary children, Messy Church, Who Let The Dads Out and our school's work. Bradley ran a successful holiday club at February half term, a bright lights party and a Christmas party. I would like to thank the team, who support Bradley and this important work.

During the Christmas season we were invited to have a stand and run a form of Messy Church in a very large marquee located in the Strand as part of the Christian witness called 'Christmas Encounters'. A large number of Churches were involved in the day with the event seeing many visitors pass through, including several families we have been working with. It was great to share the good news of Christmas with so many people.

We started 2024 off with a week of prayer and it was good to see various people getting involved in this. During the year we have run a successful Alpha Course and seen the launch of a new Growth Group, hence we now have 8 groups meeting regularly. This means we have an average of 100 people meeting to worship, study the Word of God, pray and fellowship together. I would like to thank our Growth Group leaders for the time they invest each week in preparing to lead their groups and for the care they provide.

During the year we have seen a number of people start to worship with us regularly and this has been encouraging. We pray that God will continue to draw new people to us.

I would like to thank Norman for his work as an Elder at the church for his time and wisdom and friendship over this last year. We generally meet weekly to pray, to discuss any issues and develop the vision for the church. Thank you to those who continue to hold us both in prayer.

I would also like to thank our team of Deacons for their time, commitment and the energy they invest in helping organise the practical aspects of leading a church. A special vote of thanks to our Administrator and Treasurer who are both stepping down this year. They have both served the church for many years in their current roles and we appreciate the work they have undertaken and honour them for their commitment to serve God and his church.

As we look forward to this next year, there are many opportunities that lie ahead of us as we seek to work together in order to see God's kingdom come. It is going to take a whole team effort, and no matter how small your part is, it will help us to fulfil God's vision for Brixington Community Church and the local community.

Thank you for being part of the Journey.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

Administration Annual Report

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give hope and a future".

The Church membership currently stands at 78 in number and we have been delighted to welcome Becky Brooks, Mandi Condliffe, Jane Margaret Nesbitt and Sue Wright formally into membership this year. We have also shared fellowship with quite a number of new faces this year, which we praise God for.

We have said goodbye to four of our church family during the year, namely – Eric Hitchings in October 2023, Andy Kidson in June, Helen Sussex and Stella Wood both in August 2024. All four will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered.

The Pastor and Elder meet on a weekly basis to evaluate church matters, with the Trustees and Deacons meeting each month to carry out the church business. This includes reviewing and assessing all the necessary procedures to achieve a safe and viable environment for people who visit the church.

This year has seen a renewed emphasis on the commitment to prayer within the life of the fellowship, and we know that with God's help, we can achieve all that He wants us to accomplish. The church Prayer Meetings continue on the first Wednesday of the month and they enrich the church life immensely.

I end this report on a sad note as this will be my last report as your Administrator. It has been my honour and privilege to have served you for the last 10 years and I want to thank you all for putting up with me and making the job such a joy. When I think of my journey with you, here at Brixington Community Church, I thank God for all the support you lovely people have given me. I cannot think of a better place that I could have "retired" to! You have been a great part of my life for all that time, so thank you all.

Vaya con Dios – Go with God.

Tricia Hill
Administrator

Servanthood Annual Report

There are two parts to this key activity in BCC - the giving of financial support and the offering of practical ministry.

Financial support:

We continue to tithe our general income at 10%. This enables us to bless others, in addition to other designated giving. This year, our servanthood fund was divided between two supported missionary workers - Andrew in Romania and Elena in Mozambique; our food distribution ministry and the Bible Society.

Practical ministry

We provide a wide range of activities to support the needs of the community and offer support, friendship and advice. It is encouraging to see many members of the congregation, involved in this valuable ministry. Our current Draft Development Plan asks that all our community work has an outward looking focus. Also, that we ensure all our activities are engaging with the community and effective in promoting the gospel. Our aim is to develop a bridge to those linked to BCC via these activities.

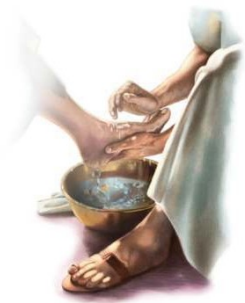
Norman Fryer-Saxby
Elder

Youth and Children's Annual Report

Shine: Our weekly children's club, Shine, has lots of fun games and crafts for the children to do. We are seeing between 6-8 Children on a weekly basis, with the highest point being 12 Children plus six parents/guardians who stayed while the club was going on. These numbers continue to grow as we step into September 2024 and a new academic year.

Messy Church: Is a great opportunity to share and to grow our children's and young people's ministries. This has been a successful year, seeing lots of growth since the last year. Messy Church caters to the needs of both children, young people and their families. The attendance records show an average of 21-22 children and 14-15 parents/guardians each month. It is worth mentioning that Messy Church continues to bring new families into the church where we can get to know them and build great relationships with them.

Who Let The Dads' Out?: This year we organized seven, 1½ hour sessions, of "Who Let the Dads Out?". Attendance for this club has fluctuated throughout the year. The highlight was a session that welcomed twelve new dads and male carers, along with fifteen children, many of whom had never participated in church events before. Conversely, we faced a significant drop in attendance in May when no children attended a session. This negatively impacted our average



numbers. Overall, the average attendance for children this year was between 5 and 6, while for dads and caregivers, it ranged from 3 to 4.

'One off' Children's and Youth Events: Over the past year, we have successfully hosted several prominent events to commemorate significant occasions in the Christian calendar, including Easter, Christmas, and a Bright Lights party for Halloween. These gatherings have been highly successful, drawing numerous families, children, and youth to our church.

Nativity Play

The first event was the Light Party on Saturday 28 October 2023, when we welcomed forty-four children, along with their parents and caregivers, resulting in a total of ninety-eight attendees, which included a dedicated team of volunteers. Participants enjoyed the festivities while learning about Jesus as the light of the world.

Later in 2023, on Saturday 16 December, we organized a Christmas party that garnered a strong turnout from the community. This event attracted forty-eight children and teenagers under the age of eighteen, along with forty-five parents and caregivers, in addition to a team of twelve volunteers. In total one hundred and five individuals came together to celebrate Christmas at the church.

Our final and most well-attended event was the Easter Egg-stravaganza, which drew participants of all ages. We were delighted to host a total of two hundred and six individuals on the church premises. This celebration included one hundred and sixteen children and youth under eighteen, seventy-four adults, and a team of helpers. Attendees enjoyed various activities, such as a bouncy castle, games, an Easter egg hunt, a barbecue, and learned about the significance of Easter.

Holiday Club Summary: In our planning for this past year, we decided to host another Holiday Club, building on the success of previous events. This year's Holiday Club took place over three days - Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 August - from 10am to 12 pm. The theme for this event was "Time Travel", allowing participants to experience various biblical time periods as time agents. The event proved to be a great success, as evidenced by the attendance, which averaged 29 to 30 children each day.



Sunday School: This year, we have experienced an increase in the number of families with children attending our Sunday services, which prompted us to re-establish a Sunday school program. We launched a new initiative called Focus Junior Church. Throughout the year, attendance in this group has fluctuated significantly; at times, we have had no children present, while on other occasions, attendance has reached as high as eight or nine participants. However, we have recognized the value of this program, particularly as it has facilitated discussions about baptism among some of the older siblings, around the age of 16.

Schools Work: Over the past year, we have had the opportunity to visit two primary schools in the Brixington area. At Brixington Primary Academy, we conducted weekly assemblies for children aged 5 to 7, centred around themes selected by the school in alignment with the Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) education framework. This approach ensured that the assemblies were both relevant and engaging for the students. Additionally, we organized three whole-school assemblies at Brixington Primary, one of which took place at our church building during the Easter season.

At Bassetts Farm Primary School, we implemented similar assemblies, but tailored them to suit an older audience, specifically targeting Key Stage 2 students aged 8 to 10. Furthermore, our collaboration with Exmouth Community College continued, where I supported the Haven team from Open Doors Exmouth in facilitating a lunchtime hub. This initiative provided a space for students to engage in games, discuss their activities, and receive one-on-one mentoring for those facing various challenges.

Team changes: We are delighted to announce that Brandon Sweat has had an exceptional year with us at Brixington Community Church. Throughout his time here, he has gained invaluable experience working alongside various volunteer teams, including our youth and children's ministries, as well as with South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). Since the beginning of his journey, Brandon has demonstrated remarkable personal growth and maturity, and as a church, we are proud to have played a role in his development. At the end of August, he returned to his home town in the United States, where he is currently residing with a family from his home church. He appears to be thriving and effectively applying what he has learned during his stay with us.

In September 2024, we were pleased to welcome Ben Culshaw to our team as our new SWYM trainee. He will be commencing a Level 3 qualification in Applied Theology and will be actively involved in various church services, including the establishment of a new youth club for teenagers and pre-teens. We look forward to witnessing Ben's journey this year and the growth of his faith in God.

Bradley Goodwin
Youth and Children's Leader

Growth Groups Annual Report

We are dedicated to supporting individuals on their faith journeys, and our Growth Groups play a vital role in this mission. These groups offer a space for discussing faith-related topics, studying scripture, praying, encouraging and uplifting one another.

Currently, we have eight Growth Groups that meet regularly, including one that connects online. Over 75% of our fellowship participates in these groups consistently.

During the year we have been able to run an Alpha course which was well attended.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Growth Group leaders for their commitment to preparing, leading, and nurturing their groups each week.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Trustee responsible

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Annual Report

Safeguarding: Brixington Community Church (BCC) aims to provide a safe and creative place for children, young people and adults in a vulnerable situation, to be safe, valued and nurtured.

The church has a robust safeguarding policy structure in place and a reporting procedure for issues of concern. This is updated annually in line with the South West Baptists safeguarding recommendations.

Our policy demonstrates that every member of the fellowship has a part to play in creating and valuing a safer community. Within the policy there are also guidelines for 'best practice' for all who work alongside the vulnerable, along with an efficient and prompt system to respond to any safeguarding issues surrounding children, young people or adults. Significant updated information on digital communication with young people, abuse of trust, live streaming and working with alleged and known offenders, has been expanded and incorporated into the policy this year.

The policy statement is read annually to the fellowship at the AGM, who are reminded of our collective responsibility for the well-being of all and the reporting procedure in the event of any concern.

The safeguarding team meet every 6-8 weeks with an agenda of overview and support. Our relationship with the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) workers and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team, ensures that the Lead Trustee can process any urgent reported concerns within 24 hours to the appropriate authorities or support services.

All who work alongside the vulnerable groups are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and have received 'Safe to Grow' and 'Safe to Belong' training. In addition, our existing policy for 'Working Alone' is also implemented into our working practice. A risk assessment is prepared and carried out before any activities, both on and off-site, can take place. These risk assessments also include activities such as seniors' activities, youth work and any home visits.

The Lead Deacon reports to the church Deacons at their monthly meetings.

Pastoral Care: The primary purpose of Pastoral Care at BCC is to care, support and nurture people so that the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is a resource for every situation.

Although the primary responsibility for Pastoral Care lies with the Pastor, he is assisted by the Elder, Deacons, Growth

group leaders and the newly formed Pastoral Care team. Any pastoral needs of the congregation are reviewed on a regular basis.

Pastoral Care is also exercised through the prayerful and practical support through smaller Growth Groups. The WhatsApp prayer chain exists for members of the fellowship facing immediate crisis to request prompt prayer support, from a significant number of fellowship members who are part of the chain.

During the winter months the church will continue to offer a 'Safe and Warm place' for fellowship, a warm drink and warm space to anyone experiencing problems of loneliness and heating poverty.

The church office and growth group leaders have remained a point of contact for anyone experiencing difficulties with shopping, medication collections, hospital appointments, or needing a re-assuring chat or visit during these difficult times, whilst exercising all the required precautions during this year. The Pastoral Care team will respond to these needs accordingly.

It has been heartening to see how caring and supportive all fellowship members have been for one another during this year.

Jill Clark

Trustee Responsible

Health and Safety Annual Report

Our Health and Safety record continues to be of a high standard.



Earlier in the year, we were inspected by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and I am pleased to announce that our fire safety standards passed muster.

Equally, considering the many activities held at the church, we continue to maintain an excellent record in terms of accidents requiring first aid or emergency treatment. There have only been a few minor injuries which required the odd plaster to fix. This is largely due in part to everyone being aware and playing their role in ensuring a safe

environment, keeping pace with risk assessments, combining a good standard of housekeeping and repair of the fabric.

A Fire Exercise was carried out on a Wednesday morning when the church was busy, and I can report that this went well.

Michael Greaves

Trustee Responsible

Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club Chaplaincy Annual Report

Serving as the Chaplain for Exeter Chiefs offers a unique opportunity to connect with both players and staff. It's a ministry rooted in presence, allowing me to build relationships so that when life's challenges arise, I'm a familiar face. While I don't initiate conversations about faith, I'm open to sharing my beliefs when prompted. My role involves providing pastoral and spiritual care by listening, encouraging, and supporting everyone - regardless of their faith background.

This year has brought significant changes to the playing squad, with many veteran players moving on and a fresh influx of younger talent. There is a number players with a Christian faith and I have been able to encourage them in their personal journey.

As I enter my fourteenth year as the club's Chaplain. I'd like to express my gratitude to the church for allowing me three hours each week to serve the Exeter Chiefs in this role.

Reverend Simon Atkinson

Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs

Hospitality Annual Report

We are deeply grateful to God for the blessings and sense of unity that have defined our events and activities this year.

The Environmental Health Inspector visited for the annual inspection of the kitchen in November 2023 and I am pleased to report that the church retained the 5 rating gained last year. Given the constraints of our incredibly small kitchen this bears testament to the various Catering Teams capability.

Coffee Mornings:

Our weekly Coffee Mornings continue to be a joyful space for fellowship, with an average attendance of 17. The Shoebox Workshops have been a meaningful addition, allowing us to send essential items to children in Romania.

Seniors' Lunches:

These lunches have provided a warm and celebratory environment for our seniors. We thank Jean Honey and her team for ensuring high-quality meals and experiences, with birthdays and guest speakers making each event special.

Parent Pop-In:

This continues to be a welcoming event for children and caregivers, fostering community through light snacks, coffee, and enjoyable interaction. It is a veritable hive of activity on a Thursday afternoon.

Messy Church:

Still a popular event, Messy Church offers both spiritual growth and fellowship for all who attend, benefiting participants and volunteers alike.

Prayers and Future Hopes:

We pray for better attendance at events like Coffee Mornings and Seniors' Lunches, and for more volunteers to support our growing mission.

Acknowledgments:

We thank Pastor Simon Atkinson, Mrs. K Atkinson, Mr. Bradley Goodwin, Mrs. Debby Goodwin, Miss Tricia Hill, our Trustees, and all volunteers for their invaluable contributions.

In closing, we look forward to continued growth and community engagement and sharing God's love through our efforts.

Maria Carvalho

Trustee Responsible

Worship Annual Report

With Out Reservation Serve Him In Praise. This statement is one that describes what we seek to do, it is important to the life of Brixington Community Church. Not just on a Sunday, but seven days a week, and in every part of our individual lives and together as community of God's people. Our Draft Development plan for 2023/24 details some of what we are seeking to achieve, including:

- Help develop people's prayer life
- Encourage everyone to have a time of daily devotion
- Help and encourage people to encounter the Holy Spirit

We are praying that in future, our style of worship will:

- reflect these aims and the needs of individual people that attend
- include appropriate biblical teaching and application
- encourage people to have an expectation that the Spirit of God is at work



Norman Fryer-Saxby

Trustee Responsible

Community Engagement Annual Report

In this role I work alongside some of the other deacons and staff and reach out to the community, advertising events and helping in clubs and weekly events, trying to engage with people new and old as they visit us here at Brixington and as we attend other events away from church.

During the past year as Community Engagement Deacon, I have continued to reach out to the community making contacts and organising events. In December, I joined Bradley and volunteers from BCC along with other Exmouth churches at the Christmas Fayre in the Strand, where we were able to meet lots of people and give out leaflets for our events over the Christmas period and put our church on the map. This was very successful, and we had great outreach.

As the year started, we undertook a few car boot and table sales, the first one being in February. This was very successful in that we saw a lot of new faces and had new conversations with people who had never been to our church before. We have managed to raise some much-needed funds for the church doing this too, although not a lot in the grand scheme of things, it all helps and great fun has been had whilst doing it. In March I helped Bradley with the Easter 'Eggstavaganza' and again some great community contacts were made, as literally hundreds of people came through the church doors. My main event this year has been the annual Brix Fayre which is always very well attended and again this year it did not fail us. In total, around £800 was made for the building fund, and great relationships have been made with small companies who wish to support us in future events.

In the summer I attended the Brixington Schools summer Fayre with our gazebo and a few craft things for sale. I also handed out flyers promoting the various church events and spent time chatting to parents and children about what we do.

I have been standing in for Kay and helping run Parent Pop In on Thursdays during term time. Our weekly numbers range from anything between 8 and 40 and it offers a warm safe space for people to come and engage with others with their children. There is a small affordable café each week, offering light refreshments. It has been lovely to see the children grow and move on to nursery and later return to other church events such as Messy Church. It is great to see relationships and friendships being forged.

Debby Goodwin
Trustee Responsible

Premises Annual Report

The work to maintain the premises has continued with jobs being carried out in-house, by a band of volunteers to whom I am very grateful, and by external contractors.

The largest task carried out by volunteers was painting the church office. Also the church foyer carpet was replaced with carpet tiles this year. I would like to record my thanks to Chris Wright who undertook this mammoth task.

An outside contractor was employed to replace the tired office flat roof, which was in danger of leaking.

Among the plethora of other tasks undertaken were:

- Replacing taps – gents toilet
- Replacing toilet seats
- Repainting lines in the car park
- PAT testing – Thank you to Stuart Sutton for undertaking this task
- Routine grass cutting.

I am grateful to people for flagging up things that need attention and to Chris who just gets on with all sorts of jobs large and small.

My aim is to expand the number of volunteers to spread the load.

Bob Smith
Trustee Responsible

Stewardship - Treasurer's Annual Report

As part of the Church's vision and values, the role of the Stewardship team is to provide good stewardship of the church's financial resources by:

- ensuring the church's Trustees are accountable to the church members for the church's finances, and meet the legal and financial requirements of the Charity Commission, HMRC and the Baptist Pension Scheme
- ensuring sustainable budget planning for the church by monitoring and advising on expenditure, and maximising income including Gift Aid
- enabling and supporting teams and individuals in their ministries by managing church funds to provide "tools for the job" as needed to further the church's spiritual and community goals
- promoting generous giving as people feel led, as a reflection of their Christian life
- supporting the progress of the Building Development project (BDF)



Each year at the AGM the Treasurer presents a draft budget on behalf of the Trustees for the new church financial year. Once approved by members, this is then monitored monthly throughout the year and circulated to the Trustees with an analysis by the Treasurer of income and expenditure issues, projections and trends.

The Trustees would like to express their sincere thanks to members and friends for consistent and generous giving in 2023/24 in what has proved a challenging year for many people's personal finances. God's timely provision, both for the ministries of the church and its fixed and running costs, is testament again to meeting the needs within the fellowship and wider in the local community.

INCOME

Sources of income included regular giving, donations, legacies, Gift Aid, property letting, premises hire, small grants funding, some staffing support costs and a grant from South West Baptist Association towards our SWYM student placement.

This was the second year of setting a "deficit" budget insofar as the respective budget targets for income and expenditure were different, reflecting a faithful but realistic approach to the levels of anticipated giving set against likely expenditure, with any shortfall being covered by church general funds/reserves. Part of the expenditure, it should be noted, is in fact the church's corporate giving/tithing to other ministries (see below).

The *overall* income target of £122,700 (excluding Building Fund donations and staffing support award) was exceeded at £129,383. While church members have felt led to give generously (including legacy donations) and consistently as in the previous year's giving, changes in people's personal circumstances/finances impacted the year target of £70,000 for regular giving and weekly offerings, which came in 8% below at £64,396. These gifts provided nearly half of the annual income target achieved. Maximising Gift Aid refunds from HMRC resulted in £13,310 which contributed nearly 9% of total income.

Alongside its regular Coffee Mornings and Seniors' Lunch activities for local people and church members, as a Community Church Brixington also hires its premises to link with local community groups, hosting activities including craft sessions, a model gaming club and a carers group, as well as private hire and being a regular polling station. This hire of premises contributed over £8,000 (5% of the church's income) towards meeting running costs.

The Building Development Fund (BDF) set up to Build the Church as a fellowship and as a Community Hub is a major and ambitious vision for the church. With the impact of rising inflationary building costs and charges, the re-valued project cost is now estimated at over £5 million, and the church has committed to fundraising locally and at a national level from grant-funders to move the project forward. In the meantime, a total of £13,226 was raised in 2023/24 from members' ongoing giving and donations (excluding Gift Aid) to take the total BDF to £337k.

Savings investments - primarily BDF funds - have achieved positive results through higher interest rates being applied throughout the year, and this brought a welcome return of £12,790 from a mix of Charity Bond investments and bank interest.

EXPENDITURE

The expenditure budget represents the various areas of ministry and church activity covering Fellowship (Community, Children and Families outreach), Worship, Discipleship (including training and development of staff and volunteers) and the committed/ fixed costs under Ministry support (i.e. staffing, payroll and pensions), Administration and Finance and Property-related spending.

The overall expenditure budget of £135,525 (excluding BDF) was exceeded by £15,529 to total £151,054, partly arising from significant property-related spending on the church premises and to meet safety and maintenance requirements at the let property, but also some increases to annual running costs. Staffing-related costs comprised over 46% of total spend but were offset by payments awarded from the BU Pension scheme to cover long-term sickness. Coverage of SWYM training costs for the intern placement were met by a South-West Baptist Association grant and two generous church member donations, but food and accommodation costs were met from church general funds.

On a positive note Expenditure also included spending from grants, legacies and donations for Family Support, Food Distribution etc. It also reflected the church's corporate tithe giving to other Christian organisations working locally, nationally and internationally. This included the Baptist Home Mission Fund (HMF), Baptist Missionary Society

(BMS), Bible Society, Exmouth Open Door's community support, the Persecuted Church and to church members working on mission in Romania and Mozambique. This year's total giving of £11,533 equated to around 10% of total income.

Church members also agreed to invest £1400 in development work to improve and update the church's website, which is an important part of connecting with our community and welcoming new friends and visitors.

Reserves Policy: It is important to note that as part of its total reserves and in line with the annual assessment of financial risks under the church's Stewardship (Finance) Policy, the Trustees have stipulated that unrestricted "emergency" reserves of £52,000 are maintained within the church's working reserves. This is made up of £25,000 to ensure salaries and related costs can be met in the event of extenuating or extraordinary circumstances e.g. impending church closure, staff reductions, and £27,000 to cover regular operating costs for a 3-month period if the church cannot maintain an adequate level of net income for any unforeseen reason. Incorporating the above, the Church's general reserves are £90,020, and along with restricted and designated funds for specific purposes totalling £349,062, these make up the total of all funds and reserves at £439,082 (2023: £437,504) for the end of the year.

My thanks as always to Katie Hughes and Sally Vince for their highly valued support and continuing commitment every week throughout the year toward ensuring that stewardship of the church's finances does what it should.

Most of all, a heartfelt Thank You again to all members and friends - particularly on a personal note from myself as Treasurer - as you have each felt led to celebrate God's generosity by being generous yourselves.

Geraint Hughes
Treasurer

Trustees Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a regular basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signature and Declaration

I declare in my capacity as Chair of Charity Trustees that:

- The Trustees have approved the report above and
- Have authorised me to sign the report on their behalf.

Signed:

Reverer
Pastor



Dated: 13 November 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144() of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and • to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

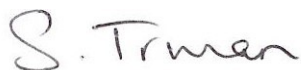
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act. have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S Truran FCCA FCA

Streets Bush Limited

2 Barnfield Crescent

Exeter

EXI IQT Date:

10 February 2025



2023-2024 ACCOUNTS

Year from 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS						
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Offerings		64,395.85	-	-	64,395.85	65,667.38
Donations & other income	2	19,137.27	2,556.73	32,417.04	54,111.04	38,603.58
Income TAX recovered on gifts (Gift Aid)		11,705.53	-	1,604.50	13,310.03	15,149.38
Bank Interest		12,789.91	-	-	12,789.91	5,610.97
Use of premises		8,026.90	-	-	8,026.90	7,315.84
Sub Total		116,055.46	2,556.73	34,021.54	152,633.73	132,347.15
Total Receipts		116,055.46	2,556.73	34,021.54	152,633.73	132,347.15
Payments						
Ministry costs	3	76,293.86	-	8,529.51	84,823.37	80,097.08
External mission	4	11,533.40	-	-	11,533.40	12,229.56
Internal mission	5	1,372.86	2,809.48	2,733.15	6,915.49	3,002.73
Upkeep of church premises	6	25,975.70	-	1,037.58	27,013.28	18,711.92
Administration & ministry support	7	8,171.74	-	8,079.64	16,251.38	9,321.09
Professional fees		3,738.00	-	780.00	4,518.00	690.00
Sub Total		127,085.56	2,809.48	21,159.88	151,054.92	124,052.38
Total Payments		127,085.56	2,809.48	21,159.88	151,054.92	124,052.38
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Net of receipts/(payments)		(11,030.10)	(252.75)	12,861.66	1,578.81	8,294.77
Cash funds b/f 30.09.23		47,355.89	54,242.47	335,905.19	437,503.55	429,208.78
Transfer between funds		1,694.91	-	(1,694.91)	-	-
Cash funds c/f at 30.09.24		38,020.70	53,989.72	347,071.94	439,082.36	437,503.55
Cash funds represented by: -						
Church general account and stipulated reserves		38,020.70	52,000.00	-	90,020.70	99,262.11
Building fund		-	-	337,581.29	337,581.29	323,563.16
Youth fund		-	1,989.72	650.68	2,640.40	2,524.51
Grants		-	-	3,345.68	3,345.68	6,091.68
Family Support		-	-	1,193.56	1,193.56	1,052.45
Food Distribution		-	-	1,587.41	1,587.41	2,661.81
Queens Jubilee Fund		-	-	2,195.32	2,195.32	2,347.83
Other restricted funds		-	-	518.00	518.00	-
Totals		38,020.70	53,989.72	347,071.94	439,082.36	437,503.55
Notes						
2. Donations and other income						
Grants & Legacies		-	-	-	-	1,000.00
Communities & Families		-	-	762.35	762.35	729.07
Youth work		-	2,556.73	1,500.00	4,056.73	1,574.45
Building Fund		-	-	13,225.63	13,225.63	14,479.91
Letting of Marcom Close		16,090.00	-	-	16,090.00	14,325.00
Food Distribution		-	-	875.00	875.00	954.00
Queens Jubilee Fund		-	-	10.00	10.00	991.85
Others		120.00	-	518.00	638.00	947.37
Seniors		2,086.57	-	-	2,086.57	2,130.00
Coffee Morning		840.70	-	-	840.70	1,471.93
Aviva Insurance Income Protection (Staff)		-	-	8,421.06	8,421.06	-
SWYM Placement		-	-	7,105.00	7,105.00	-
Totals		19,137.27	2,556.73	32,417.04	54,111.04	38,603.58

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
3. Ministry costs						
Staff salaries including pension/payroll expenses		60,135.07	-	8,421.06	68,556.13	63,907.70
Travel Expenses		657.94	-	108.45	766.39	925.27
Manse Running Costs		3,144.79	-	-	3,144.79	3,092.58
Other items (inc. guest speakers)		356.06	-	-	356.06	571.53
Manse Lease		12,000.00	-	-	12,000.00	11,600.00
Totals		76,293.86	-	8,529.51	84,823.37	80,097.08
4. Mission (External)						
Baptist Missionary Society		3,500.04	-	-	3,500.04	3,477.28
Home Mission		5,499.96	-	-	5,499.96	5,483.28
Open Door Exmouth		933.40	-	-	933.40	1,271.00
Tithing		1,400.00	-	-	1,400.00	1,998.00
Others		200.00	-	-	200.00	-
Totals		11,533.40	-	-	11,533.40	12,229.56

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
5. Mission (Internal)						
Youth Work		-	2,809.48	-	2,809.48	328.11
Seniors		1,345.45	-	-	1,345.45	1,332.26
Community & Families		-	-	621.24	621.24	435.96
Food Distribution		-	-	1,949.40	1,949.40	906.40
Queens Jubilee Fund		-	-	162.51	162.51	-
Coffee Morning		14.93	-	-	14.93	-
Pastoral Care		12.48	-	-	12.48	-
Totals		1,372.86	2,809.48	2,733.15	6,915.49	3,002.73
6. Upkeep of church premises						
Cleaning		333.58	-	-	333.58	405.87
Insurance		2,264.14	-	-	2,264.14	2,434.89
Energy		5,517.38	-	-	5,517.38	4,993.03
Water rates		1,143.35	-	-	1,143.35	1,004.22
Equipment purchase and maintenance		1,095.48	-	-	1,095.48	1,768.83
Multi-Media and online equipment		1,004.84	-	1,037.58	2,042.42	1,612.88
Health & Safety		-	-	-	-	7.29
Church Maintenance		11,956.81	-	-	11,956.81	3,657.04
Marcom Close Let Maintenance		2,660.12	-	-	2,660.12	2,827.87
Totals		25,975.70	-	1,037.58	27,013.28	18,711.92

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
7. Administration & ministry support						
Communications & Media		1,544.00	-	-	1,544.00	201.56
Catering Expenses		488.88	-	32.00	520.88	1,453.87
Photocopier costs		888.00	-	-	888.00	888.00
Stationery		412.55	-	-	412.55	475.90
Subscriptions		1,382.81	-	-	1,382.81	1,514.75
Telephone/Broadband		261.46	-	-	261.46	535.33
Sundries		1,878.25	-	53.17	1,931.42	1,955.09
Training & Development		1,000.48	-	7,994.47	8,994.95	1,924.75
Others : Bank charges/travel/postage/music download		315.31	-	-	315.31	371.84
Totals		8,171.74	-	8,079.64	16,251.38	9,321.09

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30th September 2024						
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Cash funds						
CAF Bank - current a/c	6,978.17	-	-	6,978.17	7,127.98	
CAF Bank - Gold a/c	30,850.45	53,989.72	11,108.81	95,948.98	107,104.32	
CAF Bank - Gold BDF	-	-	43,228.34	43,228.34	39,519.08	
United Trust Bank Charity Bond 1yr fixed (1)	-	-	59,741.29	59,741.29	58,797.62	
United Trust Bank Charity Bond 1yr fixed (2)	-	-	92,790.08	92,790.08	90,043.78	
BUC General Account	-	-	92,576.38	92,576.38	89,006.38	
BU 1 Yr fixed account	-	-	47,627.04	47,627.04	45,795.21	
Petty cash	192.08	-	-	192.08	109.18	
Sub Total	38,020.70	53,989.72	347,071.94	439,082.36	437,503.55	
Assets retained for charity's own use						
Church premises, Churchill Road, Exmouth	1,270,297.00	-	-	1,270,297.00	1,239,324.00	
Marcom Close let, Exmouth	300,063.00	-	-	300,063.00	294,179.00	
Church Fixtures & fittings	131,140.00	-	-	131,140.00	128,206.00	
Sub Total	1,701,500.00	-	-	1,701,500.00	1,661,709.00	
Assets for 23/24 received beyond year-end						
HMRC Gift Aid	4,076.63	-	-	4,076.63	2,567.00	
Sub Total	4,076.63	-	-	4,076.63	2,567.00	
Total Assets	1,743,597.33	53,989.72	347,071.94	2,144,658.99	2,101,779.55	
Liabilities for 23/24 due within one year						
Independent Examiner fees (Bush & Co)	810.00	-	-	810.00	738.00	
BU Pension fund: (Employer liability) estimated	12.00	-	-	12.00	12.00	
Total Current Liabilities	822.00	-	-	822.00	750.00	
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,742,775.33	53,989.72	347,071.94	2,143,836.99	2,101,029.55	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Print Name	Reverend S A Atkinson		
				(Chairman)		
	Signature		Print Name	Miss P G Hill		
				(Administrator)		

BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST) EXMOUTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139968

Accounts



Brixington Community Church (Baptist)

**Trustees' Report and Accounts
1st October 2022**

to

30th September 2023



Our Vision: ‘To be a Christ centred people
demonstrating the love of God in the community’

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Annual Report for the Year to 30th September 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers:

Charity Status

Brixington Community Church (Baptist) is a registered charity under the Charities Act 2011, Registered Charity Number 1139968.

Managing Trustees

The church is administered by the Managing Trustees of the Charity comprising: -

Minister and Chair of Trustees	Reverend S Atkinson
Administrator	Miss P Hill
Treasurer	Mr G Hughes
Elders	Mr N Fryer-Saxby
Trustees/Deacons	Mrs M Carvalho
	Mrs J Clark
	Mrs D Goodwin
	Mr M Greaves (From 23 November 2022)
	Mrs C Littlejohn

Principal Advisers

Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ.
Independent Examiner	Bush & Co Chartered Accountants, 2 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter, EX1 1QT.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The church's governing document is a declaration of model trust dated 17th June 1974 which sets out the objects of the charity. The current land site has been occupied since 1972 when the first building was erected.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) are the Managing Trustees of the charity and 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. Annual elections are held at the church Annual General Meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 60% of those present and eligible to vote.

Induction and Training of Trustees

New Trustees appointed during the reporting period receive one-to-one briefings with the Chair of Trustees on operational policy, the Charity Trust Deed and Constitution. They are also briefed on the responsibilities of a Trustee based on the Charity Commission guidance booklet CC3 - 'The Essential Trustee' and in line with our Induction Policy.

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 church meetings which are normally held bi-monthly. The Minister of the church is a paid Managing Trustee and with the Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) gives leadership to the church. The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Trustees (Deacons) assist the Minister in his role and are also responsible for preparing the business for the church meetings.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and the South West Baptist Association

The church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the South West Baptist Association (SWBA) and 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 donates to the BUGB Home Mission Fund for the Baptist Family in the UK.

Relationships between the Charity and Related Parties

Churches in Exmouth - the church is an active member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Exmouth area.

The church supports *Open Door in Exmouth*.

These connected organisations of the church exist as part of the work and mission of the church which are open to the community.

The church also allocates some of the Minister's time to fulfil the role of *Chaplain* to Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club.

Exmouth Foodbank - the church works in partnership with Exmouth Foodbank and supports people in the local area.

Evangelical Alliance - The church is a member of The Evangelical Alliance which is an umbrella grouping for Evangelical Christians in the UK. Formed in 1846, the Alliance aims to bring Christians together and help them listen to, and be heard by, the government, media and society.

Risk Management

The Trustees examine on a rolling basis all major strategic business and operational risks that the charity faces. Controls and action plans are developed to address any additional risks that are identified during this process.

Risk Assessments are carried out for each event held in the church to identify any risks posed, and these continue to be monitored on a regular basis.

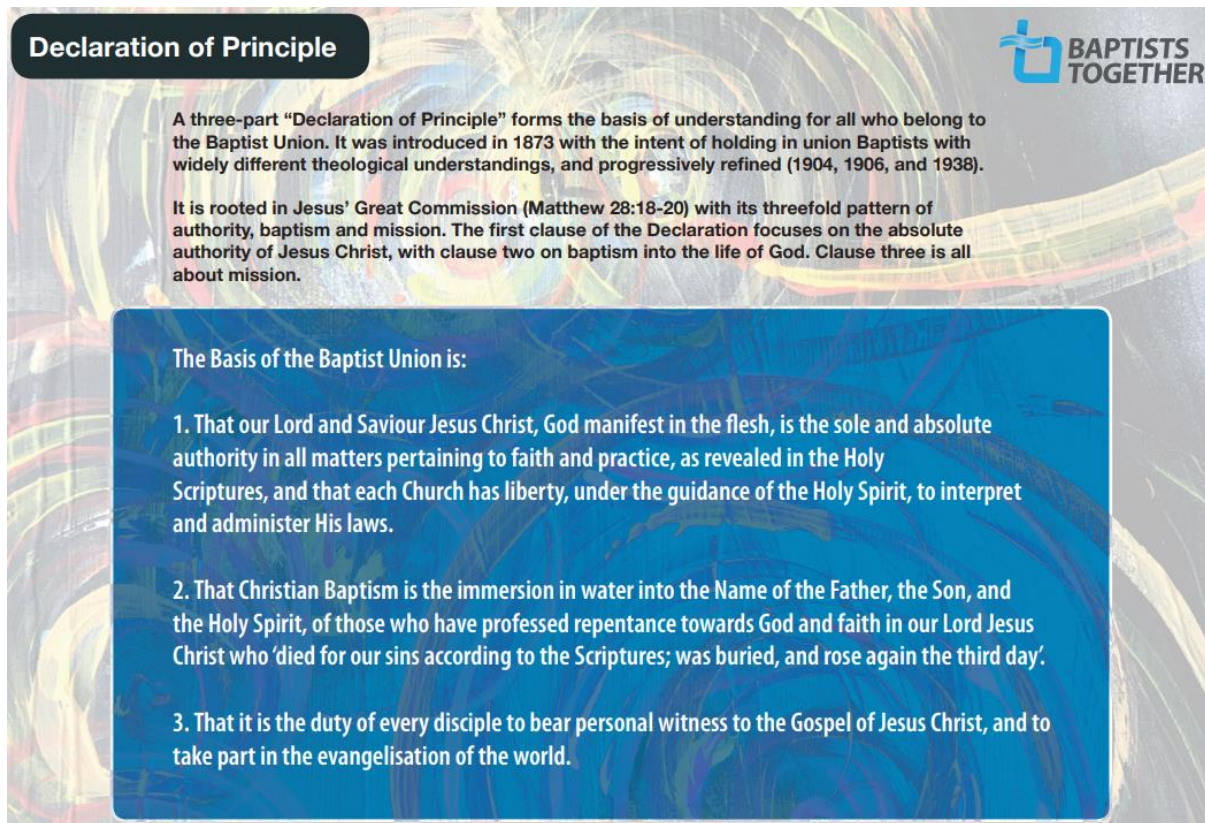
Objectives and Activities

Objects of the Charity

The Charity is established for the purposes of the advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the church. These purposes include the provision and upkeep of a place of worship, carrying out religious services, the payment, housing and pensioning of a Minister of Religion and other persons employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's Aims

Under the Baptist Union Declaration of Principle (See page 5), Brixington Community Church seeks to be an active Christian community/fellowship bringing Christian witness and care to the area known as Brixington within the town of Exmouth. The church also acknowledges its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.



Declaration of Principle

A three-part "Declaration of Principle" forms the basis of understanding for all who belong to the Baptist Union. It was introduced in 1873 with the intent of holding in union Baptists with widely different theological understandings, and progressively refined (1904, 1906, and 1938).

It is rooted in Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) with its threefold pattern of authority, baptism and mission. The first clause of the Declaration focuses on the absolute authority of Jesus Christ, with clause two on baptism into the life of God. Clause three is all about mission.

The Basis of the Baptist 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 Spirit, 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 the third day'.
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal 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 continues to offer public worship on Sunday mornings together with a selection of Mid-week activities. We continue to stream our Sunday morning worship services through our YouTube page.

Conversations continued with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of baptism and church Membership.

The church continues to be involved in Mission activities locally, nationally and internationally.

1. *Locally* – Exmouth Food Bank, the Open Door project including Haven, Seniors' lunches, Coffee mornings, Messy Church, Brixington Family Support, Parent Pop In, Exeter Chiefs, Street Pastors and Who Let the Dads Out, plus other outreach events.
2. *Nationally* - As part of Home Mission within the Baptist Union, New Wine and Sports Chaplaincy.
3. *Internationally* - Supports two individuals on long term overseas mission in Mozambique and Romania, as well as supporting the Baptist Missionary Society.

The church continues to develop and grow through Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, Servanthood and Evangelism.

The church premises are situated in an ideal location within Brixington which makes the premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities. Where possible and appropriate, the church aims to recognise the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these needs.

Work has continued throughout the year to develop the church buildings into a hub serving the growing needs of both church and community. This year £14,480 has been raised towards this goal.

The Charity's Vision and Purposes

Vision

The Charity's vision is 'To be a Christ centred people demonstrating the love of God in the community'.

Purposes

Fellowship:

We believe we are called by God to be part of His family (the body of Christ) in Exmouth expressing our faith through love for others.

(John 13:35, Romans 12:10 & Hebrews 10:25)

Worship:

We seek to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, thus surrendering (offering) our lives as an act of worship.

(Psalm 95:6-7 & Romans 12:1)

Discipleship:

We seek to make disciples of all ages, encouraging people to grow and mature in faith by the study and application of the living Word of God through the power and the joy of prayer, which is at the heart of all we do and by the equipping (empowering) of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us.

(Acts 2:42, Hebrews 5:13-14 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Servanthood:

We believe that each person has been given gifts and talents to use to fulfil the plans and purposes of God in this and future generations by being fruitful and serving others.

(John 13:14-15, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:10 & 1 Peter 4:10)

Mission/Outreach:

We aim to actively seek the lost and be a door of hope in the community by demonstrating and declaring the good news of Jesus Christ because we are convinced that He is able to save all who believe in Him.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 19:10 & Acts 20:24)

Mission Statements

Fellowship

Church Family: We aim to encourage all people to live Christ centred lives. To:

- Value people of all ages and abilities.
- Encourage all members of the church family to have a role to play in the life of the church.
- Evaluate and empower people to use their skills.
- Offer support and training.
- Provide opportunities to know each other better by meeting together socially.

Youth and Children's Work: Young people are important to the life of the church. We aim to:

- Recognise that they are individuals, having different backgrounds and different needs.
- Provide teaching and a variety of activities to serve the needs of all young people.

Worship:

Services: Worship is important to the life of the church and includes the study and application of the Word of God. We aim to:

- Develop services under the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer different styles of services to reflect the diversity of our community.

Prayer: Prayer is important in everything we do. Therefore, we seek to:

- Promote the importance of prayer and provide the environment, support and resources for participation.

Discipleship:

Church growth: We believe that God desires this church to grow numerically and spiritually. We:

- Encourage personal spiritual growth at every stage of the Christian journey.
- Train, equip and release disciples.

Growth Groups: Growth Groups are necessary for the spiritual growth of the church. We seek to:

- Encourage all members to become part of a Growth Group.
- Provide pastoral care within each Growth Group.

Servanthood:

Serving the community: Our aim is to demonstrate the love of God in the community by:

- Developing Brixington Community Church to be the hub of the community.
- Providing a place of sanctuary and support for the community.
- Facilitating a range of activities to support the needs of the community.
- Encouraging individuals to serve in the community.

Buildings: Our aim is for the building to be an asset valued by both church and community by:

- Developing an attractive building to cater for a wide range of activities and to accommodate growth.

Mission/Outreach: We believe everyone has a role to play in mission and outreach. Therefore we:

- Encourage people to make the most of mission opportunities in the community, and in their daily lives.
- Support those who are called to undertake local, national or international mission.
- Provide training opportunities.
- Provide opportunities to share relevant testimonies to encourage others.

Achievements and Performance**Pastor's Annual Report**

This last year has seen the church celebrate its 50th anniversary. We are grateful for the saints who have gone before us who had the vision to plant a church in, what was, a small development called Brixington. This estate, which is part of Exmouth, has grown to over 10,000 people living in the area. The estate continues to grow with the new development of the Goodmores Farm site and over 350 planned new homes to be built.

Our work in the community continues to play a key part of the vision and mission of the church. This work includes our youth and children's work, our schools work, our outreach events, our food distribution, our work with seniors, our work with families and coffee mornings. We have also been part of the warm spaces initiative and continue to do so. With the cost of living increasing and affecting many, especially those on low incomes, we have been able to support people in different ways through our various activities which has been a blessing to many in our community. These activities would not happen without a small army of volunteers, and I am grateful for the time and energy they invest for the Kingdom.

One of the key focuses for the year has been looking at how we build a bridgehead into the community, taking every opportunity to share something of the love of Jesus. We have been encouraged because we have seen a number of new faces join us directly from the work we have been undertaking in the community.

This last year we have been greatly encouraged as we have opened the baptistry twice and seen five people pass through the waters of baptism. I am grateful to God for lives changed and transformed.

At the beginning of the year, we undertook a whole church study called '40 days of prayer'. This course helped us to successfully raise the importance of prayer within people's own prayer lives and within the corporate prayer life of the church and I am pleased to report that we have seen a good attendance at our new monthly prayer meeting. I believe that prayer must underpin all that we do as a church, and we can never underestimate the power of prayer. As it says in James 5:16 'The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective'.

On Sundays we continue to live stream our service through our YouTube channel. The feedback we have received is positive especially for those who are unable to attend for whatever reason and also for those seeking to join us, it gives people a real flavour of what we are about. On average we are seeing between 30 to 50 views a week.

We have relaunched our commitment to seeking God for the building development and this continues to be a work in progress. Our priority is to continue to focus upon building the church – that is the people. We are trusting God for what lies ahead.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Norman for his work as an Elder, for the times we have shared praying and seeking the Lord together. He has been a great support and encouragement to me during this last year especially with all the personal challenges that we have faced this year.

There are many opportunities ahead of us and I look forward to working together to seek God's will for the future of Brixington Community Church. We know God has a plan for each of our lives and for the life of the church, thank you for being part of the journey in seeking to fulfil the vision of the church.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

Administration Annual Report

The Church membership currently stands at 79 and we have been delighted to share fellowship with a number of new faces this year, which we praise God for. Sadly we have said goodbye to a number of our church family during the year, namely – Jean Eccleston; Dave Fulls; Chris Beer; Pat Taverner; Tony Carvalho and Angela. They will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered.

There were five Baptisms this year which were wonderful celebrations of God moving in people's lives.

This year has seen a renewed emphasis on the commitment to prayer within the life of the fellowship, and we know that with God's help, we can achieve all that He wants us to accomplish.

The Elders and Trustees have met each month to carry out the church business and review all the necessary procedures. The Fire and Emergency Evacuation Plan has been re-written and updated this year, plus the Copyright and Complaints policies have been reviewed and revised to make sure that we are compliant with all necessary rules and regulations.

The Elders and Trustees meet regularly to support the Pastor in the leadership of the church. My thanks go to Christine Littlejohn who is standing down this year. She has been involved with the Communication side of church life and has done a sterling job on the Sunday overhead PowerPoint.

The Environmental Health Inspector visited for the annual inspection of the kitchen last October and I am pleased to report that the Seniors' Lunch team retained the 5 rating gained last year. Given the constraints of our incredibly small kitchen this bears testament to the Seniors' Catering Team, especially Diane and Katie who are the folk who field all the questions from the Inspector. So take a bow all.

A look back at the year: Our mission, as always, has been "To be a Christ centred people demonstrating the love of God in the community". This has been done in a variety of ways, mainly of course, featuring food! Events to which the community have been invited have ranged from a Summer Fayre, a few successful BBQs, Seniors' Lunches, Coffee Mornings and Parent Pop In to name a few.

I would just like to finish by saying a big 'Thank You' to all of you for your support of all the events that you help out at and have attended over the year. As always, a great job folks, thank you.

Tricia Hill
Administrator

Servanthood Annual Report

Servanthood is a key ministry in Brixington Community Church (BCC). (See page 7 above).

Financial support: We continue to support two missionary workers: Elena in Mozambique and Andrew in Romania, our food distribution ministry and the Bible Society. This is funded by direct giving and by tithing our general income at 10%. It is encouraging to hear how Elena and Andrew are using the gifts to bless others. Likewise, the weekly distribution of food is enabling us to bless others in the community. BCC is grateful to the team that collects the food, which now includes fresh food, prepare the bags for individual and family requirements and distributes them to some 40+ homes.



We remain reliant upon the Lord for all our needs, even more so as the UK economy faces some big challenges, that affect our personal incomes and expenditures. However, we have not let this restrict our reliance on God. This can be seen in Members deciding to adopt an annual budget with income slightly below predicted expenditure plus, in September, we welcomed Brandon to BCC. A young man from the USA, who for twelve months will be with us as our SWYM/INVEST student. We receive some external funding but BCC also has a financial commitment.

Practical ministry: Our Development Plan has been revised by the Leadership Team and will be brought to the AGM in November. The most significant change is to make our desire to build bridges with the community our top priority. This includes prayer and encouraging personal friendships, in addition to the many weekly activities. BCC is grateful to the various volunteers that faithfully ensure these activities are provided and used to reach the community. Building stronger bridges in relationships we pray, will enable people to respond to the gospel message.

Norman Fryer-Saxby
Trustee Responsible

Youth and Children's Annual Report

Shine: Our weekly children's club 'Shine', continued to operate successfully. We adjusted the club time from 1630-1730 to 1530-1630, specifically targeting children leaving their respective primary schools. This proved to be an effective strategy, resulting in an average attendance of 7-8 children, with a peak attendance of 13.

Messy Church: As an outreach program this has continued to be hugely successful, catering to the needs of both children and their families. Our attendance records show an average of 17-18 children and 12-13 parents/guardians on a monthly basis. It is noteworthy to mention that Messy Church is equally significant for the Adults who attend with their children, as it is for the children themselves. A recent incident where a parent's friend joined the session, prayed with members of the volunteer team, and later embraced Christianity by getting baptised illustrates this point. Moreover, our outreach has helped new families take their first steps into the Church. The work we have done in local primary schools has played a crucial role in spreading the word about Messy Church.



Who Let the Dads' Out?: This year, we hosted five 1½ hour sessions of 'Who let the dads out?' under the acronym WLTD0?. Although the attendance numbers were not as high as previous years, the smaller group size allowed for more meaningful conversations and deeper connections with each participant. This was particularly valuable given that the majority of the dads and guardians who attended came from non-church backgrounds. For some, this was also their inaugural visit to a church building.

Children, Youth and Families: Our most attended event was the Easter Funday, which drew in 96 children and youth, accompanied by 88 family members and caregivers. A team of 17 volunteers made the event possible, and the overall attendance reached 201 individuals. We also conducted a three-day holiday club during the February half term, with an average of 53 children attending each day, along with their parents. Our annual Bright Lights party in October and the Christmas party in mid-December were also well-attended, with 39 children and 28 parents/guardians present at the Bright Lights party and 41 children and 24 parents/guardians present at the Christmas Party.



The parents and families have demonstrated their gratitude for the efforts put in by the church, with numerous compliments and a handful of thank-you cards from some of the children.

Schools work: Over the past year, we have had the privilege of visiting two primary schools in the Brixington area. At Brixington Primary Academy, we conducted weekly assemblies for children aged between 5-7 years, focusing on a theme chosen by the school using the PSHE (personal, social, health, and economic) education scheme. This approach ensured that the assemblies were relevant and topical for the children and school. We also conducted three whole-school assemblies at the school, with two of them being held at our church building during Christmas and Easter. We conducted similar school assemblies at Bassetts Farm Primary School, but customized them to suit an older audience, as the children were in key stage 2 (8-10 years of age). Additionally, we continued our work at Exmouth Community College, where I assisted the Haven team from Open Doors Exmouth in running a lunchtime hub, providing a space for children to play games and discuss their ongoing activities.

New Team Member: We are pleased to announce that Brandon Sweat has joined us as a new trainee with South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). Brandon is participating in a gap year program called Invest, supported by the South West Baptist Association and SWYM. During his tenure, he will remain with the Church for one academic year while assisting with various children and youth programs. At the same time he will be studying theology. This arrangement benefits both parties, as the Church receives a young and enthusiastic helper with a passion for sharing the gospel with children and youth, while he is gaining a year's worth of experience and knowledge to take back to his home Church in the United States of America.

Bradley Goodwin
Youth and Children's Leader



Family Support Annual Report

Floating Support by Brix Family Support: We continue to help local families who need support. This work is undertaken by our Floating Support Worker. Clients are supported in their own homes with all types of advice and practical help. The full service has been unavailable for a while due to health reasons.

Food Bag Deliveries: This takes place on a Thursday where we collect food from local supermarkets via the Fair Share Scheme and sort, pack and deliver to those in need in the local community. This year the team has given out 1165 bags to feed 4044 people. We are grateful for the support we receive from church members who donate food or money to this project and to the volunteers who week by week undertake this service.

'Parent Pop In': This is our free Toddler group, including a community café, that takes place on Thursday afternoons from 1300 to 1515 during term time. During the year we have seen between 14 to 30 people attending each session. I would like to thank the team of Bradley, Ammie, Debby, Michelle, Maria and Simon for their commitment to this event.



I am amazed that the links between the community and all the Church events and activities are gelling so well. The awareness of our Church and our interaction with love in the Community is spreading. The connection between the community and Church events is growing, promoting an awareness of the church in the community. This leaves us feeling inspired to reach out in love to share the hope of Jesus with others.

Please keep praying for families to come into contact with our Church activities. Praise the Lord for His work and provision.

Kay Atkinson
Family Support Worker

Growth Groups Annual Report

We are committed to encouraging people in their faith journey and our Growth Groups play an important role in fulfilling this. They provide an opportunity for people to discuss issues of faith and study the scriptures together, pray and encourage each other.

There are currently 7 Growth Groups that meet regularly and one of those meets online. The percentage of people attending a group regularly is over 70% of the fellowship.



I would like to thank our Growth Group leaders for the time they invest in preparing, leading and caring for their groups each week.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Trustee responsible

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Annual Report

Safeguarding: Brixington Community Church (BCC) aims to provide a safe and creative place for children, young people and adults who are in a vulnerable situation, to be valued and nurtured.

The church has a robust safeguarding policy structure in place and a reporting procedure for issues of concern which is updated annually in line with the South West Baptists safeguarding recommendations.

Our policy demonstrates that every member of the fellowship has a part to play in creating and valuing a safer community. Within the policy there are also guidelines for 'best practice' for all who work alongside the vulnerable, along with an efficient and prompt system to respond to any safeguarding issues surrounding children, young people or adults in a vulnerable situation. Significant updated information on digital communication with young people, abuse of trust, live streaming and working with alleged and known offenders, has been expanded and incorporated into the policy this year.

The policy statement is read annually to the fellowship at the AGM, who are reminded of our collective responsibility for the well-being of all and the reporting procedure in the event of any concern.

Our safeguarding team of Lead Trustee, Safeguarding Administrator, Youth Worker and Family Support Worker meet every 6-8 weeks with an agenda of overview and support. Our relationship with the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) workers and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team, ensures that the Lead Trustee can process any urgent reported concerns within 24 hours to the appropriate authorities or support services.

All who work alongside the vulnerable groups are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and have received 'Safe to Grow' and 'Safe to Belong' training. In addition, our existing policy for 'Working Alone' is also implemented into our working practice. A risk assessment is prepared and carried out before any activities, both on and off-site, can take place. These risk assessments also include activities such as senior lunches and youth work.

The Lead Trustee reports to the church Trustees at their monthly meetings.

Pastoral Care: The primary purpose of Pastoral Care at BCC is to care, support and nurture people so that the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is a resource for every situation.

Although the primary responsibility for Pastoral Care lies with the Pastor, he is assisted by the Elders, Trustees and Growth group leaders.

Pastoral Care is also exercised through the prayerful and practical support through smaller Growth Groups. The 'WhatsApp' prayer chain exists for members of the fellowship facing immediate crises, to request prompt prayer support from a significant number of fellowship members who are part of this chain.

During the winter months the church will continue to be a 'Safe and Warm place' offering fellowship, a warm drink and warm space to anyone experiencing problems of loneliness and heating poverty.

The church office and growth group leaders have remained a point of contact for anyone experiencing difficulties with shopping, medication collections, hospital appointments, or needing a re-assuring chat or visit during these difficult times, whilst exercising all the required precautions during this year.

It has been heartening to see how caring and supportive all fellowship members have been for one another during this year.

Jill Clark
Trustee Responsible

Health and Safety Annual Report

Brixington Community Church continues to maintain a good Health and Safety record for 2022/23.



In my first year I have endeavoured to familiarise myself with the existing paperwork and policies held on administration files at Brixington Community Church. It is at this point I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to Tricia, for her dedication and willingness in helping me achieve this, in my new role.



The immediate challenge is to make sure that all events taking place at BCC continue to be carried out in the safest way possible, this is largely achieved through risk assessments.

Behind the scenes, I have spent a considerable amount of time producing an action plan. In time, I hope to implement some of the actions to ensure that a good understanding of our individual and collective health and safety responsibilities are at the forefront for everyone at BCC.

To date, in addition to the action plan, I have formulated an updated Fire Evacuation Policy and contributed to updating BCC's Health and Safety Policy. In June, a full practice fire drill was carried out, followed by further training for Duty Deacons and the implementation of personal emergency evacuation plan (PEEP) paperwork.

To conclude my report, a big thank you to each one of you for looking after each other and keeping each other safe!

Every Blessing

Michael Greaves
Trustee Responsible

Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club Chaplaincy Annual Report

Being the Chaplain at Exeter Chiefs provides a great opportunity to be a witness to the players and staff alike. It is a ministry of presence where you are able to build relationships so when the challenges of life come you are a familiar face. I do not look to instigate faith conversations but take the opportunity to share my faith when asked. The role of a Chaplain is to provide pastoral and spiritual care by having a listening ear; to encourage and offer support when it is needed; to those of faith and those with no faith alike.



A number of players have a faith and attend church close to where they live when they have opportunity to do so.

This is my thirteenth year as Chaplain to the club, and many of the players and staff refer to me as Rev. This year I again had the opportunity to lead a time of remembrance at the club before a game, which meant there would be over 10,000 people marking the moment of remembrance. It is a privilege to serve the club as their Chaplain.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs

Hospitality Annual Report



In reflection of the past year, we are immensely grateful to God for the many blessings and the sense of unity and purpose that has defined our community activities and events. This report outlines the highlights of the year emphasising our gratitude, successful events and aspirations for the future.

We begin by giving thanks to God for the blessings and opportunities bestowed upon us throughout the year. Our successes are a testament to His grace, guidance, and unwavering presence in our community. We express our deepest gratitude for the growth and positive impact we have achieved collectively.

Coffee Mornings: A Vibrant Hub of Fellowship

The Coffee Mornings held weekly have been a significant source of joy and connection for our community. The fantastic atmosphere and engaging discussions have made it a beloved event. The Friday coffee morning was appreciated by all who came during the 18 months trial period, but this has not proved to be the best day for either church or community members. Nor has it achieved the aim of re-establishing the link with Seniors' Lunch members returning after lockdown. Thank you to Katie and the team for their efforts during this time. The average attendance of 16 attendees reflects the consistent engagement and enthusiasm of our members. We are particularly grateful for the interesting Guest Speakers and the creative crafts that have enriched these gatherings. The Shoeboxes Workshops have added another dimension to the event. This initiative has allowed us to spread joy

and support to those in need through crafting shoeboxes filled with essentials and love. We cherish the impact and the sense of purpose it brings to the children in Romania.

Seniors' Lunches: Celebrating Life and Wisdom

The Seniors' Lunches have consistently provided a lovely atmosphere, good food, and a platform to celebrate birthdays and listen to amazing Guest Speakers. The average attendance has been encouraging, fostering meaningful connections and enhancing the lives of our seniors. A special acknowledgment goes to Mrs Jean Honey and her dedicated team for maintaining high standards for this event.

Parent Pop In: A Warm Gathering

Parent Pop In continues to be a cherished event, fostering enjoyable moments for children and their Mums/Caregivers. The provision of snacks, light meals, teas, coffees, and cake adds to the welcoming atmosphere, encouraging community bonding.

Messy Church: A Delightful and Popular Event

Messy Church remains a popular and delightful event, greatly appreciated by attendees and volunteers alike. It represents a unique opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship, and we are thankful for the positive impact it has on our community.

Ongoing Prayers and Future Aspirations

We remain committed to our mission of community engagement and spiritual growth. We consistently pray for better attendance at all our events, especially Coffee Mornings and Seniors' Lunches, recognizing them as valuable outreach tools. We also extend our prayers for more volunteers to join us in this meaningful journey, understanding their indispensable contribution to our success.

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all involved in making our events successful. Our sincere thanks go to our Pastor Rev. Simon Atkinson, Mrs. K Atkinson our Family Support Worker, Mr. Bradley Goodwin our Youth Worker, Mrs Debby Goodwin our Events Co-ordinator and all our invaluable volunteers. Your dedication and efforts have enriched our community and enhanced the impact of our events. May God bless you richly for your selfless service.

In conclusion, we celebrate the growth, unity, and blessings of the past year. We look forward to a future of continued community engagement and spiritual enrichment, aiming to touch more lives and spread love and positivity in our community.

Maria Carvalho

Trustee Responsible

Worship Annual Report

With Out Reservation Serve Him In Praise, continues to describe what we seek to do, and it is important to the life of the church. To focus our attention and service on worship being seven-day's a week and not just on a Sunday is central to our life in Christ. We aspire to radiate the love of God in our communities as well as in the church. How we seek to do this can be found in our Mission Statement on page 6.

Meeting together on Sunday mornings is a valuable opportunity to express praise and thanks to God. It is great to see individuals coming to know Christ, being baptised, and attend on Sundays. Our time together on Sundays is reflective of how the Holy Spirit is working through the life of the church, and our worship during the week.

We continue to stream our Sunday Services and our viewing figures remain encouraging with an average of 60 to 100 views each week.

Norman Fryer-Saxby

Trustee Responsible

Communication Annual Report

A booklet called 'Discovering Who We Are' has been produced this year. This helps people to understand more about the life of Brixington Community Church - what our purpose is, what we believe, what we do, our finances and who the leadership team are. This will be handed out to people who want to know more about us and are investigating becoming a member of the church.



At the moment we are reviewing the website with a view to making it more user friendly and up to date. A team has been set up to do this.

I also produce a weekly PowerPoint presentation for Sunday mornings which informs people about upcoming events and activities for the following two weeks.

An upgraded 'switcher' has been purchased to improve the online streaming of Sunday Services. This enables the service to be relayed into the smaller hall and also includes the family news segment after the service.

Christine Littlejohn
Trustee Responsible

Community Engagement Annual Report

My role, as the title suggests, is to engage with the community and make those connections with non-church members to encourage new people to attend church activities.

During the past year I have had great pleasure in leading several events including our milestone 50th birthday celebrations in February. This took place in the form of a dinner and dance style event with live entertainment and a 3-course meal.

In May we celebrated the King's coronation with a fair and BBQ. There was live entertainment on an outdoor stage and numerous stalls and lots of flag waving. Several outreach opportunities were had at this event and it was a great success with a number of new families joining in.



A large fair was held in the Summer, supported by outside businesses, which included *Exmouth in Bloom*, *the Candle Lady* and *Face Paints by Cara*. This was a very well attended event, and everyone enjoyed the conversations and BBQ.

In August another community BBQ was held. This was to celebrate a baptism service where three people took the next step in their faith journey by going through the waters of baptism.

Support of other events in church such as Messy Church, Shine youth club and Parent Pop-in has also been given. These are regular events held here at Brixington which have a great importance to our outreach into the community and have a constant turn over in numbers.

I also host a lot of the events and support the teams that help me to make them a great success. One way of doing this was to help put together a welcome leaflet for Goodmores, a new housing development in Exmouth, to welcome each family into the estate when they move in, complete with a small gift of one of our church pens.

To help engage the community with the events and happenings at church, a variety of social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube are employed. YouTube is used to stream Sunday Worship 'live' and on Facebook there is a church page where people can contact us with enquiries and post comments. On Facebook we have two groups, one is for *Parent Pop In*, where the latest information about the group can be found, and the second is for the *Youth and Children's* events where posts about the different youth and children's events are published, as well as for sharing photos of the groups and events. My thanks go to Bradley and Ammie for their help with this.

Our outreach has been great this year and we are seeing new members joining us and new families coming to our events all the time, and we pray that this continues. All these projects have generated monies for the church and we have been able to put some of it back into our community projects and support for our families.

We are still looking into auctioning an Exeter City FC signed football to raise more funds.

Debby Goodwin
Trustee Responsible

Premises Annual Report

The chief expenditure this year has been the replacement of the main Fuse Board which needed bringing up to current standards. All the tree stumps were removed on Health and Safety grounds in July. All the remaining chippings will be removed shortly, which will make mowing so much easier. The annual servicing of the Heaters has been carried out recently and all have passed the annual Gas Safety check and are in good working order.

Testing of all Smoke Alarms and checks of Fire Extinguishers are carried out on a weekly basis and results recorded in the Fire Safety Logbook.

Checks of the building are carried out on a regular basis and any defects noted and repairs subsequently undertaken by in-house or external trades people. Keeping up with the 'lawn' mowing and gardening tasks is always a challenge and time consuming.

My thanks, as ever, go to Chris Wright for his valued assistance and advice.

Tricia Hill

Trustee Responsible

Stewardship - Treasurer's Annual Report

As part of the Church's vision and values, the role of the Stewardship team is to provide good stewardship of the church's financial resources by:

- ensuring the church's Trustees are accountable to the church members for the church's finances, and meet the legal and financial requirements of the Charity Commission, HMRC and the Baptist Pension Scheme
- ensuring sustainable budget planning for the church by monitoring and advising on expenditure, and maximising income including Gift Aid
- enabling and supporting teams and individuals in their ministries by managing church funds to provide "tools for the job" as needed to further the church's spiritual and community goals
- promoting generous giving as people feel led, as a reflection of their Christian life
- supporting the progress of the Building and Development project (BDF)

Each year at the AGM the Treasurer presents a draft budget on behalf of the Trustees for the new church financial year. Once approved by members, this is then monitored monthly throughout the year and circulated to the Trustees with an analysis by the Treasurer of income and expenditure issues, projections and trends.

The Trustees would like to express their sincere thanks to members and friends for consistent and generous giving in 2022/23 in what has proved a more challenging year for many people's personal finances. God's timely provision, both for the ministries of the church and its fixed and running costs, is testament again to meeting the needs within the fellowship and out to the wider local community.

INCOME

This was the first year of setting a "deficit" budget insofar as the budget targets for income and expenditure were different, reflecting a faithful but realistic approach to the levels of anticipated giving set against likely expenditure, with any shortfall being covered by church general funds/reserves.

Sources of income included regular giving, donations, legacies, Gift Aid, property letting, premises hire, and some small grants funding. While church members have felt led to give generously including legacies - and consistently again as in the previous year's giving - nevertheless the overall income of £112,142 (excluding the Building and Development Fund BDF) was 7% less than the target of £120,720.

The year target of £70,000 for weekly offerings was 6% lower at £65,667 primarily reflecting changes in people's personal circumstances/finances. These gifts provided 55% of total income (excluding the BDF). Income was maximised by Gift Aid refunds from HMRC of £15,150 which contributed 13% of income and also contributed to BDF.

Alongside its regular Coffee mornings and Seniors' Lunch activities for local people and church members, as a Community Church it also hires its premises to link with local community groups, hosting activities including craft sessions, a model gaming club and a carers group, as well as private hire and being a regular polling station. Together these regular sources provided nearly 7% of the church's income to meet its costs.

The Building and Development Fund (BDF), set up to Build the Church both as a fellowship and as a Community Hub, is a major and ambitious commitment for the church. With the impact of rising inflationary building costs and charges, the original Building project is now estimated at over £6 million, and the church continues to seek guidance for the best way forward. In the meantime, a total of £14,479 was raised from members' ongoing giving and donations to exceed the year target of £10,000 and take the total BDF fund during the year to over £323k.

The availability of suitable grants and the capacity to achieve them has reduced the amount received in previous years. However, savings investments - primarily BDF funds - have been affected in a positive way by rises in interest rates throughout the year and brought a welcome return of £5611 interest from a mix of one-year and two-year bonds.

EXPENDITURE

The expenditure budget represents the various areas of ministry and church activity covering Fellowship (Community, Children and Families outreach), Worship, Discipleship (including training and development of staff and volunteers) and the committed/ fixed costs under Ministry support (including staffing, payroll and pensions), Administration, Finance and Property-related spending.

The overall expenditure budget of £126,830 came in on target at £124,052. On a positive note this reflected spending from grants, legacies and donations for Family Support, Food Distribution, the Jubilee Fund and the church's tithe giving to other ministries (see below). However, there was significant property-related expenditure for roofing and other maintenance of the church premises, and remedial repairs and replacement at the let property at Marcom Close. Staffing-related costs comprised around 51% of total spend.

The Expenditure budget also includes the church's corporate tithe giving to the work of other Christian organisations both locally and nationally. This includes the Baptist Home Mission Fund (HMF), Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), Bible Society, Exmouth Open Door's community support activities locally, and to church members working in Romania and Mozambique. This year's total of £12,230 equated to 10.5% of income.

Pension Deficit

The Baptist Union and the Trustees of the Baptist Pension Scheme agreed that the deficit recovery contribution from each participating employer in the scheme would reduce to just £1 per month from August 2022. In the Assets and Liabilities section of the Accounts we have therefore included a liability of £12 due within the one year. No liability due after one year has been included as we are unable to quantify the figure.

Reserves Policy: It is important to note that as part of its *total* reserves and BDF investments, and in line with the annual assessment of financial risks under the church's Stewardship (Finance) Policy, the Trustees have stipulated that unrestricted "emergency" reserves of £52,000 are maintained within the church's working reserves of £101,598 (year end). This is made up of £25,000 to ensure salaries and related costs can be met in the event of extenuating or extraordinary circumstances e.g. impending church closure, staff reductions, and £27,000 to cover regular operating costs for a 3-month period if the church cannot maintain an adequate level of net income for any unforeseen reason.

My thanks as always to Katie Hughes and Sally Vince for their highly valued support and continuing commitment every week throughout the year toward ensuring that stewardship of the church's finances does what it should.

Most of all, a big Thank You again to all members and friends as you have felt led to celebrate God's generosity by being generous yourselves.

Geraint Hughes
Treasurer

Trustees Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a regular basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.



The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signature and Declaration

I declare in my capacity as Chair of Charity Trustees that:

- The Trustees have approved the report above and
- Have authorised me to sign the report on their behalf.

Signed:



Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

Dated: 22 November 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144() of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act. have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S S Cann ACA FCCA CTA

Bush & Co Limited
2 Barnfield Crescent
Exeter
EX1 1QT
Date: 29.1.24

Financial Accounts for Period 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023

						
2022-2023 ACCOUNTS						
Period from 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023						
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS						
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Offerings		65,667.38			65,667.38	66,534.12
Donations & other income	2	20,400.75	-	18,202.83	38,603.58	45,774.61
Income TAX recovered on gifts (Gift Aid)		13,147.38		2,002.00	15,149.38	15,670.25
Bank Interest		5,610.97			5,610.97	2,609.14
Use of premises		7,315.84			7,315.84	8,045.00
Sub Total		112,142.32	-	20,204.83	132,347.15	138,633.12
Total Receipts		112,142.32	-	20,204.83	132,347.15	138,633.12
Payments						
Ministry costs	3	80,097.08	-	-	80,097.08	86,165.60
External mission	4	12,229.56			12,229.56	10,882.24
Internal mission	5	1,611.60	-	1,391.13	3,002.73	7,656.36
Upkeep of church premises	6	17,821.92	-	890.00	18,711.92	26,614.29
Administration & ministry support	7	9,185.52	-	135.57	9,321.09	8,567.12
Professional fees (Independent Examination of Accounts)		690.00			690.00	660.00
Sub Total		121,635.68	-	2,416.70	124,052.38	140,545.61
Total Payments		121,635.68	-	2,416.70	124,052.38	140,545.61
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Net of receipts/(payments)		(9,493.36)	-	17,788.13	8,294.77	(1,916.39)
Cash funds b/f 30.09.22		61,518.48	52,000.00	315,690.30	429,208.78	431,125.17
Transfer between funds		(2,426.76)		2,426.76	-	-
Cash funds c/f at 30.09.23		49,598.36	52,000.00	335,905.19	437,503.55	429,208.78
Cash funds represented by: -						
Church general account and stipulated reserves		47,262.11	52,000.00		99,262.11	111,728.93
Building fund				323,563.16	323,563.16	307,081.25
Youth fund		2,336.25		188.26	2,524.51	2,031.13
Grants				6,091.68	6,091.68	6,096.53
Family Support				1,052.45	1,052.45	754.79
Food Distribution				2,661.81	2,661.81	-
Queens Jubilee Fund				2,347.83	2,347.83	1,516.15
Totals		49,598.36	52,000.00	335,905.19	437,503.55	429,208.78
Notes						
2. Donations and other income						
Grants & Legacies				1,000.00	1,000.00	6,720.00
Communities & Families				729.07	729.07	1,464.71
Youth work		1,574.45			1,574.45	2,202.20
Building Fund				14,479.91	14,479.91	14,678.10
Letting of Marcom Close		14,325.00			14,325.00	14,500.00
Food Distribution				954.00	954.00	
Queens Jubilee Fund				991.85	991.85	1,516.15
Others		899.37		48.00	947.37	1,396.62
Seniors		2,130.00			2,130.00	1,811.50
Coffee Morning		1,471.93			1,471.93	1,485.33
Totals		20,400.75		18,202.83	38,603.58	45,774.61

Financial Accounts for Period 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023 continued

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
3. Ministry costs					
Staff salaries including pension/payroll expenses	63,907.70			63,907.70	69,286.19
Employers National Insurance					
Travel Expenses	925.27			925.27	1,469.96
Manse Running Costs	3,092.58			3,092.58	2,845.98
Other items (inc. guest speakers)	571.53			571.53	563.47
Manse Lease	11,600.00			11,600.00	12,000.00
Totals	80,097.08		-	80,097.08	86,165.60
4. Mission (External)					
Baptist Missionary Society	3,477.28			3,477.28	2,931.76
Home Mission	5,483.28			5,483.28	4,749.92
Open Door Exmouth	1,271.00			1,271.00	1,812.84
Tithing	1,998.00			1,998.00	1,387.72
Totals	12,229.56		-	12,229.56	10,882.24
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
5. Mission (Internal)					
Youth Work	274.79		53.32	328.11	817.74
Seniors	1,332.26			1,332.26	1,417.98
Community & Families	4.55		431.41	435.96	5,420.64
Food Distribution			906.40	906.40	
Totals	1,611.60	-	1,391.13	3,002.73	7,656.36
6. Upkeep of church premises					
Cleaning	405.87			405.87	137.31
Insurance	2,434.89			2,434.89	1,841.92
Energy	4,993.03			4,993.03	4,584.47
Water rates	1,004.22			1,004.22	509.53
Equipment purchase and maintenance	1,768.83			1,768.83	937.15
Multi-Media and online equipment	1,612.88			1,612.88	1,972.02
Health & Safety	7.29			7.29	80.74
Church Maintenance	2,767.04		890.00	3,657.04	13,229.90
Marcom Close Let Maintenance	2,827.87			2,827.87	3,321.25
Totals	17,821.92		890.00	18,711.92	26,614.29
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
7. Administration & ministry support					
Advertising/Publicity	201.56			201.56	144.00
Catering Expenses	1,318.30		135.57	1,453.87	1,167.53
Photocopier costs	888.00			888.00	827.30
Stationery	475.90			475.90	317.02
Subscriptions	1,514.75			1,514.75	994.56
Telephone/Broadband	535.33			535.33	632.32
Sundries	1,955.09			1,955.09	3,096.76
Training & Development	1,924.75			1,924.75	1,127.79
Others : Bank charges/travel/postage/music download	371.84			371.84	259.84
Totals	9,185.52		135.57	9,321.09	8,567.12

Financial Accounts for Period 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023 continued

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30th September 2023						
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds						
CAF Bank - current a/c		7,127.98			7,127.98	4,987.35
CAF Bank - Gold a/c		42,361.20	52,000.00	12,743.12	107,104.32	117,034.11
CAF Bank - Gold BDF				39,519.08	39,519.08	26,915.63
United Trust Bank Charity 1yr notice a/c				90,043.78	90,043.78	88,932.10
BUC General Account				89,006.38	89,006.38	87,907.55
UTB 2 yr Charity Bond				58,797.62	58,797.62	57,871.67
BU 1 Yr fixed account				45,795.21	45,795.21	45,454.30
Petty cash		109.18			109.18	106.07
Sub Total		49,598.36	52,000.00	335,905.19	437,503.55	429,208.78
Assets retained for charity's own use						
Church premises, Churchill Road, Exmouth		1,239,324.00			1,239,324.00	1,125,622.00
Marcom Close let, Exmouth		294,179.00			294,179.00	249,304.00
Church Fixtures & fittings		128,206.00			128,206.00	116,444.00
Sub Total		1,661,709.00			1,661,709.00	1,491,370.00
Assets for 22/23 received beyond year-end						
HMRC Gift Aid					2,567.00	3,929.00
Sub Total		-		-		3,929.00
Total Assets		1,711,307.36	52,000.00	335,905.19	2,099,212.55	1,924,507.78
Liabilities for 22/23 due within one year						
Independent Examiner fees (Bush & Co)		738.00			738.00	690.00
BU Pension fund: (Employer liability) estimated		12.00			12.00	6,100.00
Total Current Liabilities		750.00		-	750.00	6,790.00
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		1,710,557.36	52,000.00	335,905.19	2,098,462.55	1,917,717.78
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the Trustees						
	Signature			Print Name	Reverend S A Atkinson (Chair)	
	Signature			Print Name	Miss P G Hill (Administrator)	

Appendix 1***Definition of Restricted and Designated Funds*****Restricted funds**

These are funds that can only be used for particular, restricted purposes within the Church's objectives and ministries.

Designated funds

These are funds designated by the Trustees for specified purposes or projects.

Building Development Fund

These funds are for the preparation and eventual building of a new Brixington Church and Community Hub.

Outreach and Community Mission Funds

Money donated for the sole purpose of mission and community outreach projects in Exmouth and specifically in the Brixington Community.

Youth and Children's Funds

This is where grant monies, donations and subscriptions from weekly activities are placed to purchase items and equipment to support the young people's work and related activities.

Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) and Home Mission Funds (HMF)

Monies are held in these funds pending donations to the BMS and HMF solely for their respective use.

Accounts



Brixington Community Church (Baptist)

**Trustees' Report and Accounts
1st October 2021**

to

30th September 2022



Our Vision: ‘To be a Christ centred people
demonstrating the love of God in the community’

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Annual Report for the Year to 30th September 2022

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers:

Charity Status

Brixington Community Church (Baptist) is a registered charity under the Charities Act 2011, Registered Charity Number 1139968.

Managing Trustees

The church is administered by the Managing Trustees of the Charity comprising: -

Minister and Chair of Trustees	Reverend S Atkinson
Administrator	Miss P Hill
Treasurer	Mr G Hughes
Elders	Reverend R Elston (Until July 22) Mr N Fryer-Saxby (From 24 November 2021)
Trustees/Deacons	Mrs M Carvalho Mrs J Clark Mrs D Goodwin (From 24 November 2021) Miss A Galashan (Until 24 November 2021) Mrs C Littlejohn

Principal Advisers

Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ.
Independent Examiner	Bush & Co Chartered Accountants, 2 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter, EX1 1QT.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The church's governing document is a declaration of model trust dated 17th June 1974 which sets out the objects of the charity. The current land site has been occupied since 1972 when the first building was erected.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) are the Managing Trustees of the charity and 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. Annual elections are held at the church Annual General Meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 60% of those present and eligible to vote.

Induction and Training of Trustees

New Trustees appointed during the reporting period, receive one-to-one briefings with the Chair of Trustees on operational policy, the Charity Trust deed and Constitution. They are also briefed on the responsibilities of a Trustee based on the Charity Commission guidance booklet CC3 - 'The Essential Trustee' and in line with our Induction Policy.

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 with the Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) gives leadership to

the church. The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Trustees (Deacons) assist the Minister in his role and are also responsible for preparing the business for the church meetings.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and the South West Baptist Association

The church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the South West Baptist Association (SWBA) and 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 donates to the BUGB (Home Mission Fund) for the Baptist Family in the UK.

Relationships between the Charity and Related Parties

Christians Together in Exmouth (CTE) - the church is an active member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Exmouth area.

The church also supports *Initiative in Christian Education (ICE)* and *Open Door, Exmouth*. These connected organisations of the church exist as part of the work and mission of the church which are open to the community.

The church also allocates some of the Minister's time to fulfil the role of *Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club*.

Exmouth Foodbank - the church contributes regularly to the foodbank (formerly known as Exmouth Community Larder) and several church members are involved in this project.

Evangelical Alliance - The church is a member of The Evangelical Alliance which is an umbrella grouping for Evangelical Christians in the UK. Formed in 1846, the Alliance aims to bring Christians together and help them listen to, and be heard by, the government, media and society.

Risk Management

The Trustees examine on a rolling basis all major strategic business and operational risks that the charity faces. Controls and action plans are developed to address any additional risks that are identified during this process.

A robust Risk Assessment has been undertaken in the light of COVID-19, to identify and implement the risks that the church faces and continues to be monitored on a regular basis.

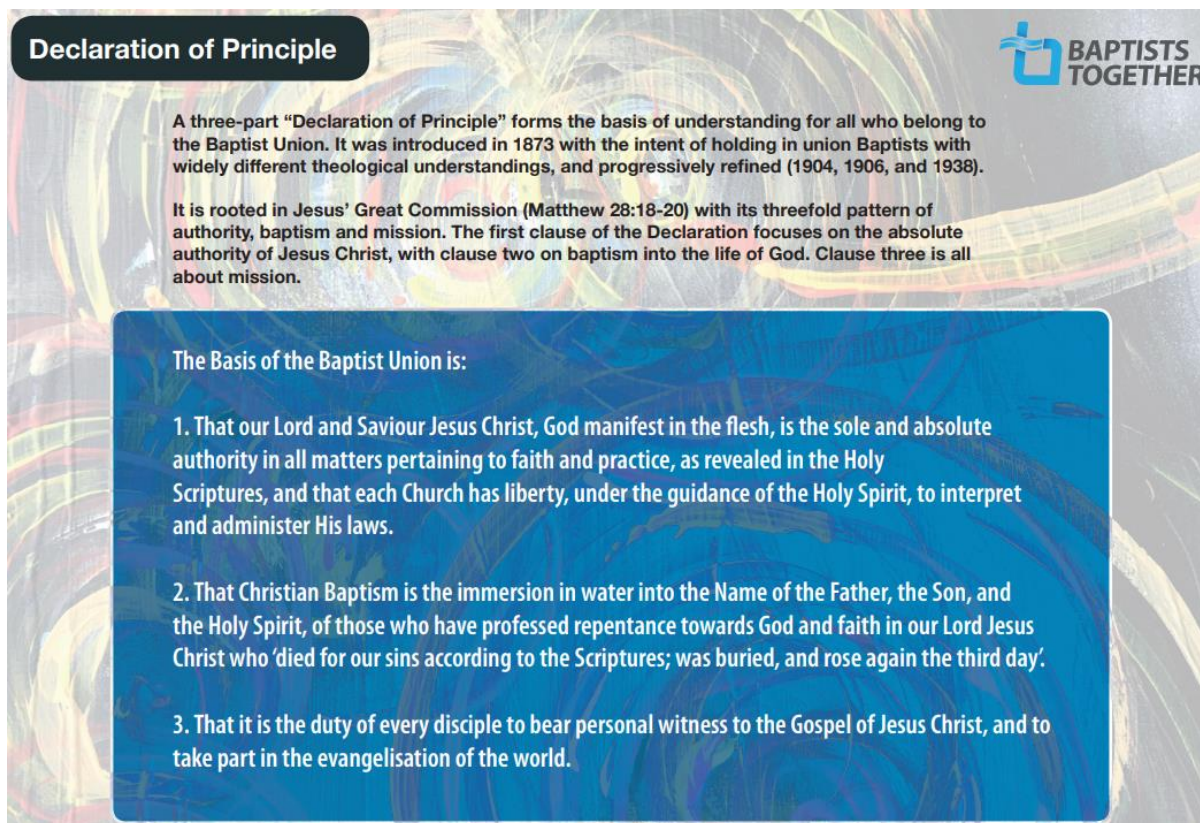
Objectives and Activities

Objects of the Charity

The Charity is established for the purposes of the advancement of religion through the spiritual work of the church. These purposes include the provision and upkeep of a place of worship, carrying out religious services, the payment, housing and pensioning of a Minister of Religion and other persons employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's Aims

Under the Baptist Union Declaration of Principle (See page 5), Brixington Community Church seeks to be an active Christian community/fellowship bringing Christian witness and care to the area known as Brixington within the town of Exmouth. The church also acknowledges its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.



Declaration of Principle

A three-part "Declaration of Principle" forms the basis of understanding for all who belong to the Baptist Union. It was introduced in 1873 with the intent of holding in union Baptists with widely different theological understandings, and progressively refined (1904, 1906, and 1938).

It is rooted in Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) with its threefold pattern of authority, baptism and mission. The first clause of the Declaration focuses on the absolute authority of Jesus Christ, with clause two on baptism into the life of God. Clause three is all about mission.

The Basis of the Baptist 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 Spirit, 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 the third day'.
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal 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 continues to offer public worship on Sunday mornings together with a selection of Mid-week activities. We continue to stream our Sunday morning worship services through our YouTube page.

Conversations continued with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of baptism and church Membership.

The church continues to be involved in Mission activities locally, nationally and internationally.

1. *Locally* – Exmouth Food Bank, Initiative in Christian Education (ICE), the Open Door project, Seniors' lunches, Coffee mornings, Messy Church, Brixington Family Support, Parent Pop In, Exeter Chiefs, Street Pastors and Who Let the Dads Out, a new initiative this year, plus other outreach events.
2. *Nationally* - As part of Home Mission within the Baptist Union, New Wine and Sports Chaplaincy.
3. *Internationally* - Supports two individuals on short to medium term overseas mission in Mozambique and Romania, as well as supporting the Baptist Missionary Society.

The church continues to develop and grow through Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, Servanthood and Evangelism.

The church premises are situated in an ideal location within Brixington which makes the premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities. Where possible and appropriate, the church aims to recognise the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these needs.

Work has continued throughout the year on the plans to develop the church buildings into a hub serving the growing needs of both church and community. This year £16,279 has been raised towards this goal.

At the end of another year in the life of Brixington Community Church, we give thanks and praise God for all that has been accomplished, and for the fellowship we have shared as we continue our journey together.

The Charity's Vision and Purposes

Vision

The Charity's vision is 'To be a Christ centred people demonstrating the love of God in the community'.

Purposes

Fellowship:

We believe we are called by God to be part of His family (the body of Christ) in Exmouth expressing our faith through love for others.

(John 13:35, Romans 12:10 & Hebrews 10:25)

Worship:

We seek to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, thus surrendering (offering) our lives as an act of worship.

(Psalm 95:6-7 & Romans 12:1)

Discipleship:

We seek to make disciples of all ages, encouraging people to grow and mature in faith by the study and application of the living Word of God through the power and the joy of prayer, which is at the heart of all we do and by the equipping (empowering) of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us.

(Acts 2:42, Hebrews 5:13-14 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Servanthood:

We believe that each person has been given gifts and talents to use to fulfil the plans and purposes of God in this and future generations by being fruitful and serving others.

(John 13:14-15, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:10 & 1 Peter 4:10)

Mission/Outreach:

We aim to actively seek the lost and be a door of hope in the community by demonstrating and declaring the good news of Jesus Christ because we are convinced that He is able to save all who believe in Him.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 19:10 & Acts 20:24)

Mission Statements

Fellowship

Church Family: We aim to encourage all people to live Christ centred lives. To:

- Value people of all ages and abilities.
- Encourage all members of the church family to have a role to play in the life of the church.
- Evaluate and empower people to use their skills.
- Offer support and training.
- Provide opportunities to know each other better by meeting together socially.

Youth and Children's Work: Young people are important to the life of the church. We aim to:

- Recognise that they are individuals, having different backgrounds and different needs.
- Provide teaching and a variety of activities to serve the needs of all young people.

Worship:

Services: Worship is important to the life of the church and includes the study and application of the Word of God. We aim to:

- Develop services under the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer different styles of services to reflect the diversity of our community.

Prayer: Prayer is important in everything we do. Therefore, we seek to:

- Promote the importance of prayer and provide the environment, support and resources for participation.

Discipleship:

Church growth: We believe that God desires this church to grow numerically and spiritually. We:

- Encourage personal spiritual growth at every stage of the Christian journey.
- Train, equip and release disciples.

Growth Groups: Growth Groups are necessary for the spiritual growth of the church. We seek to:

- Encourage all members to become part of a Growth Group.
- Provide pastoral care within each Growth Group.

Servanthood:

Serving the community: Our aim is to demonstrate the love of God in the community by:

- Developing Brixington Community Church to be the hub of the community.
- Providing a place of sanctuary and support for the community.
- Facilitating a range of activities to support the needs of the community.
- Encouraging individuals to serve in the community.

Buildings: Our aim is for the building to be an asset valued by both church and community by:

- Developing an attractive building to cater for a wide range of activities and to accommodate growth.

Mission/Outreach: We believe everyone has a role to play in mission and outreach. Therefore we:

- Encourage people to make the most of mission opportunities in the community, and in their daily lives.
- Support those who are called to undertake local, national or international mission.
- Provide training opportunities.
- Provide opportunities to share relevant testimonies to encourage others.

Achievements and Performance

Pastor's Annual Report

This last year has felt like we have been emerging out of the COVID pandemic a bit like the transformation that happens with a caterpillar to a butterfly. It has been encouraging to see people returning to meet in person whilst still seeing people participating through our online services.

During the year we have had a number of new people starting to worship with us and all of them started watching us online before even stepping into the building. By viewing us online before attending enables people to have a preview of what our services are like and so get a sense of the life of the church. Having an online presence still remains to be an important part of our ministry. We initially found that our Facebook page was a good platform to stream our services on, but now, due to their algorithms, our stream is getting blocked because of their perceived breaches of copyright, even though we have a copyright licence that permits us to stream. We have therefore, now moved all our streaming to our YouTube account.

This year we were able to run an Alpha course virtually and this was well attended. The result of the course saw two people get baptised for which we give thanks for.

We remain committed to supporting people in our community. During the year we have received a number of grants that have enabled us to provide financial support to those who have been struggling. We have continued to receive food donations via the Foodshare scheme, and we have been able to distribute these donations to people who we are currently working with or who are struggling. These donations have been topped up with non-perishable items donated by friends and members of Brixington Community Church. It is very encouraging to hear the stories of those we have helped and the difference we have made. Thank you to Kay for leading this important ministry and to the team that help to make this happen.

Our work with families and children continues to be strong and Bradley plays a key role in planning and facilitating this work. It has been great to see him develop and grow into the role he now does. Thank you to the team who work in this area of the life of the church.

I took a sabbatical for 3 months during the year with the focus of looking how God is building His church. I spent a month in America visiting a number of states and key churches. My time away affirmed the direction we were seeking to travel in as a fellowship. I would like to thank our Elders and Deacons who stepped up during my absence to ensure that the church continued to run smoothly as they sought to lead the church on a parallel sabbatical.

One of the key focuses we set for the year was to, 'raise the spiritual bar' especially coming out of COVID restrictions and to look at ways in which we can help people grow in the faith. We are also drawing together a development plan which helps us be intentional about growing disciples.

Thank you all for making this year such a positive one in many ways. I am excited about what lies ahead for us as a church, as we continue to press into our vision 'To be a Christ centred people demonstrating the love of God in the community'.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

Administration Annual Report

With the relaxation of all the COVID restrictions, the church has continued to 'open up' to all the usual church activities and these have been a boon to the church fellowship. Two long-term premises hire have either moved on or closed, but an additional long-term hire has been taken on and the party bookings are swelling which is great news.

I can report that the church membership is at 88 members. We have said goodbye this year to Audrey Lofthouse, Alan Clark, Roland Fensome and Pete Corney. We miss them and remember them all with affection. There have been a number of people moving away from the area which also reflects in the lower numbers. In April we received four new people into membership, and there are a number of people exploring membership which is good to hear.

There were two Baptisms this year which were wonderful celebrations of God moving in people's lives.

The Elders and Trustees continue to meet each month to carry out necessary church business and put in place or update all the required procedures as needed.

In May our Office Assistant, Julia Dale, was made redundant due to budget constraints. However, some of her administration tasks have been taken on by two volunteers in the figures of Christine Littlejohn and Michael Greaves, for which I thank them.

I would like to thank you for all your support of the church over this last year – 'well done' folks.

Tricia Hill
Administrator

Servanthood Annual Report

There are two parts to this key activity in BCC, the giving of financial support and the offering of practical ministry:

Financial support: We continue to tithe our general income at 10%. This enables us to bless others, in addition to other designated giving. This year we also supported two missionary workers: Andrew in Romania and Elena in Mozambique; our food distribution ministry and the Bible Society.

Practical ministry: We provide a wide range of activities to support the needs of the community and offer support, friendship and advice. It is encouraging to see many members of the congregation involved in this valuable ministry. Our current Draft Development Plan asks that all our community work has an outward looking focus. We also ensure all our activities are engaging with the community and effective in promoting the gospel. Our aim is to develop a bridge to those linked to BCC via these activities.

Norman Fryer-Saxby
Elder

Youth and Children's Worker Annual Report

Messy Church: Since leading Messy Church online via Zoom during the pandemic and seeing an average of 11 children a month, a meeting with my team of volunteers was held towards the end of 2021. We discussed what precautions could be put in place to help stop the spread of Covid-19 within Messy Church. The main points taken from this meeting were the need to use face coverings and to space each activity at least 2 meters apart. At this meeting it was also felt that it was the right time for Messy Church to restart within the church building. This began better than we could ever have imagined, with 38 children coming into the church along with their parents on the 2nd October 2021. There has been a lot of positive feedback and good gratitude shown by both the children and parents/carers who have attended these sessions. There has been a steady increase of children since returning to the church building and there are now around 27 children attending each session. We still have some plans on how we can change and keep things fresh with those who continue to attend.



New Events: Towards the end of 2021, I sat down with Simon to discuss whether starting up a group for dad's, grandad's, male carers etc was something the community was looking for and the right thing to do. Simon then mentioned about a group called 'Who Let the Dads Out?'. I investigated this idea further by asking parents who already attended children's events, if this was something they would bring their children to. I also looked into what would be needed to put the 'Who Let the Dad's Out?' sessions on in church. It was decided to put on a couple of trial sessions, and these took place on 16th October and 20th November 2021. At



the first trial session, we had just 4 helpers along with 9 dads/male carers and 17 Children who attended. By the second trial session, this had grown to 5 helpers, 13 dads/male carers and 20 Children. We took these numbers as evidence that this is what the community wanted and needed. We continued this group throughout 2022 and saw an average of between 7-8 dads/male carers with an average of between 12-13 Children each month.



Schools' work: We continued to have a good input with two of the local primary schools, Brixington Primary Academy and Bassetts Farm Primary School. We started off by pre-recording the assemblies and editing them with a video editing software and finished by uploading them to YouTube. On reviewing how the school assemblies were going with the school, the school were delighted with the quality we were giving them. However, I felt it wasn't quite as engaging as much as it could be. So, I decided to move the assemblies to Zoom. This meant we could put on a live assembly and see the children's response to what was being said. This worked really well while we were still unable to physically go into the schools. Towards the end of April 2022, we were able to go back in to Brixington Primary Academy in person, to put on the school assemblies. It was great to see the new children who had come into the lower years of the school. On Thursday 9th July it was good to be back in person at Bassetts Farm Primary School. Whilst Simon was away on sabbatical, Debby supported me by helping at the school assemblies which took place at Bassetts Farm.

'One Off' youth events: We also had a terrific year with putting on a number of 'one-off' big youth and children's events. The first of these events was a Bright Lights Party which took place on Friday 29th October 2021. We had excellent attendance with a total of 93 people in the church (28 Parents/guardians, 57 Children and 8 Helpers). The second of these events was a Christmas Party on Friday 17th December 2021. At this event we saw an increase of people with a total of 107 people in the church (32 Parents/guardians, 64 Children and 11 people on team). The third of our big events was the biggest children's event of the year - a Holiday Club, which took place during the February school half-term. This was spread over 3 days (Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th) and was

based on a pirate theme. On the first day of our holiday club, we had an amazing result with 70 Children, 47 Parents (who stayed to watch) and a team of 13 people, this totalled a massive 130 people in the church. As expected Day 2 was a little quieter, as people had said that they were busy on the Wednesday. However, it was still a



really good day, with 46 children, 34 parents/guardians and a team made up of 16 people, resulting in a total of 96 for the day. Day 3 was a more popular day when compared to Wednesday, with 57 children, 39 Adults and a team made up of 14 people totalling 110 people in all. The Holiday club was an enormous success with such a great turn out of people totalling over 336 people walking through the church door over the 3 days, along with lots of positive feedback from everyone. After the holiday club, I started planning the next big event which was the 'Easter Fun Day'. This was a Free event for the whole family and took place on Saturday 16th April 2022. There was a lot going on during this event such as a BBQ, facepainting, bouncy castle, crafts, an Easter themed treasure hunt to win a chocolate egg, games and heaps more. The event lasted for 2 hours and was a remarkable success with 47 children attending along with 34 parents/guardians plus a team of 12 which meant we had a total of 93 people in attendance.



We also have lots of plans and ideas as a team for up-and-coming youth and children's events to help grow all the work the Church is already doing.

Bradley Goodwin
Youth and Children's Leader

Family Support Worker Annual Report

What an unusual year. We have a lot to thank the Lord for. He is so gracious that He has had us set up 'Brix Family Support' and we are ready to expand to support His people in our Community during the Pandemic and now through this recession.

The practical support I manage for the Church Includes:

Floating Support by Brix Family Support: This is special work with parents in their homes, helping address their life skills that takes between 4 months to 2 years. Support for mainly 2 hours a week is given using an individual support plan. We are given names of people that need some help via schools, other agencies, friends and contacts. Thank you to Jan Napper for accompanying me on the initial Interview visits. There is a lot of need on our doorstep, and the support that our Church is giving is life changing.

Brief Intervention Work: This includes giving advice, completing form applications, getting grants and quick budgeting support. People have needed support in person or some over the telephone/video link. I give them a listening ear, encouragement, and support as required. For example: We have given out emergency food, furniture project referrals and food larder referral vouchers. Some clients have needed Debt advice, a one-off Grant, financial advice and a budget to work with.

Food bag deliveries: This takes place on a Thursday and are for all the community, people alone, couples or families



that are financially struggling. From 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022 the team have given out 1196 bags to feed 4338 people! The only reason there isn't even more deliveries is that we haven't had enough food from the supermarkets Fair share scheme.

'Parent Pop In': This is our free Toddler group with a community café. This started in December 2016 and runs on a Thursday afternoon from 1pm to 3.15pm in term time. Our team is Bradley, Debby, Ammie, Michelle, Maria and me. Simon also comes and talks to the adults. We are still in the Sanctuary, requiring the bigger space. We have had regular attendances of 24 to 40 people.



I am amazed that the links between the community and all the Church events and activities are gelling so well. The awareness of our Church and our interaction with love in the Community is spreading.

Please keep praying for families to come into contact with our Church activities.

Praise the Lord for His work and provision.

Kay Atkinson
Family Support Worker

Growth Groups Annual Report

Our Growth Groups play an important role within the life of the church here at Brixington Community Church. They are a place where we encourage discipleship and where pastoral care happens within the life of the fellowship.

The groups have continued to meet with over 70% of our members being part of a group that meets regularly. We have one group that has remained meeting online via Zoom and this has proved beneficial for those who have not been able to gather in person.

I would like to thank our Growth Group leaders for the time they invest in preparing, leading and caring for their groups each week.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Trustee responsible

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Annual Report

Safeguarding: Brixington Community Church (BCC) aims to provide a safe and creative place for children, young people and adults in a vulnerable situation to be valued and nurtured.

The church has a robust safeguarding policy structure in place and a reporting procedure for issues of concern. Our policy demonstrates that every member of the fellowship has a part to play in creating and valuing a safe community. Within the annually updated policy there are also guidelines for 'best practice' for all who work alongside the vulnerable, along with an efficient and prompt system to respond to any safeguarding issues surrounding children, young people or adults in a vulnerable situation.

The policy statement is read out annually to the fellowship at the AGM, who are reminded of our collective responsibility for the well-being of all and the reporting procedure in the event of any concern. As a result, 2 reports of concern involving children away from church premises have been generated this year. Also, a contract has been prepared to receive back into church attendance, an ex-offender following prison discharge.

Our safeguarding team of Lead Trustee, Safeguarding Administrator, Youth Worker and Family Support Worker meet every 6-8 weeks with an agenda of overview and support. Our relationship with the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) workers, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team and the SW Baptist Association Safeguarding Lead, ensures that BCC's Lead Trustee can process any urgent reported concerns within 24 hours to the appropriate authorities or support services. The ex-offender contract has been prepared following their guidelines.

All who work alongside the vulnerable groups, along with the Trustees and Elders are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and have received 'Safe to Grow' and 'Safe to Belong' training. I can report that all such workers are up to date in their accreditation. In addition, our existing policy for 'Working Alone', is also implemented into our working practice. A risk assessment is prepared and carried out before any activities, both on and off-site, before they can take place. These risk assessments also include activities such as senior lunches, all youth work and family / visitor home visits.

The Lead Trustee reports to the church Trustees at their monthly meetings.

Pastoral Care: The primary purpose of Pastoral Care at BCC is to care, support and nurture people so that the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is a resource for every situation.

Although the primary responsibility for Pastoral Care lies with the Pastor, he is assisted by the Elders and Trustees. They review the pastoral needs of the congregation at their regular meetings.

Pastoral Care is also exercised through the prayerful and practical support through smaller Growth Groups. The Prayer Chain, which exists for members of the fellowship facing immediate crises, ensures a prompt prayer support covering when needed.

The church office and growth group leaders have remained a point of contact for anyone experiencing difficulties with shopping, medication collections, hospital appointments, or needing a re-assuring chat or visit during this year. The Minister and Trustees plan any pastoral care visits and are accompanied where possible, in line with current Pastoral Care training.

Plans are in place to monitor any vulnerable adults who may experience physical or financial hardship during the imminent Winter season and to offer assistance alongside the weekly food bag deliveries already in place for families.

It has been heartening to see how caring and supportive all fellowship members have been for one another during this year.

Jill Clark

Trustee Responsible

Health and Safety Annual Report

There is a Health and Safety policy in place which the church follows and this has been reviewed and updated as necessary this year.

The building continues to be monitored for any defects, and if any are found they are dealt with as a matter of urgency in the most appropriate way. PAT testing is also carried out on a rolling basis during the year, and I am pleased to report that all electrical items in use have passed a PAT check, although some extension leads were failed and thrown away.

Emergency Fire Exit signs are checked once a month to see that they are working correctly. The smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are all checked on a weekly basis. All checks are recorded in the revised Fire Safety Log Book.

Tricia Hill

Trustee Responsible

Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club Chaplaincy Annual Report

This is my twelfth season as Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs, and it continues to be a great privilege to serve the club in this capacity. During the year I had the opportunity to lead two pitch side services in front of a full stadium and also live on BT Sport. These services were the annual remembrance service and a time of remembrance for our late Queen Elizabeth.

There is a new opportunity opening up, as the ladies team's Director of Rugby is keen to have a chaplain assigned to them. I am in the process of trying to find a female minister to take on this role.

This ministry is valued by the club, the players and support staff alike and it provides a great opportunity to bring the presence of God into their workplace. The role of the chaplain is to provide pastoral and spiritual care by having a listening ear; to encourage and offer support when it is needed; to those of faith and those with no faith alike.

Whilst I was away on sabbatical John Bussell covered for me at the Chiefs and continues to work alongside me in this important ministry through chaplaincy.

Reverend Simon Atkinson

Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs

Hospitality Annual Report

2022 has been a good year. All our Events have been increasing in attendance and we give thanks to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Coffee Mornings: We now hold two Coffee Mornings each week, one on Wednesday mornings and one on Friday mornings. Both are becoming popular but, as always, there is a need for more volunteers to help with this important outreach. I cannot stress enough how these two weekly events are such a vital point in our church growth, both physical and spiritual. The Bible tells us how important it is to 'fellowship with one another'. Our church's mission is to demonstrate God's love in the Community and these two Coffee Mornings give everyone an opportunity to invite relatives, friends, and neighbours, especially those who do not come on a Sunday, so we can show our love and hospitality to them.

Seniors' Lunches: The attendance numbers are slowly improving. This is another way for us to demonstrate God's love in the community. We provide good quality meals at very affordable prices, and there is always a good atmosphere! A special 'Thank You' to Jean Honey and the team who so faithfully deliver this ministry each month.

Parent Pop in: This event continues to be very popular. We provide good food, snacks, teas, coffees, soft drinks, and a safe place for the children to play and develop their social skills. This place is always bubbling with laughter and good conversations. Mums love to meet other mums and the children enjoy socialising, playing, and doing some crafts too. Again, we need more volunteers.

Messy Church: This has been another popular event. It sees an average of 20+ children and accompanying adults. There are lots of crafts and creative play. It is an event very much enjoyed by all who attend and by the volunteers too.

A sincere thank you to our Pastor, Rev'd Simon Atkinson, Kay Atkinson our Family Support Worker, Bradley Goodwin our Youth Worker, Tricia Hill our Administrator, our Trustees and all the volunteers who always work tirelessly and selflessly before, during and after these events to provide such a high standard.

May the Lord bless you all abundantly!

Maria Carvalho
Trustee Responsible

Worship Annual Report

Worship - With Out Reservation Serve Him In Praise. This statement is one that describes what we seek to do, it is important to the life of BCC. Not just on a Sunday but seven days a week and in every part of our individual lives and together as community of God's people. Our Draft Development plan for 2022/23 details some of what we are seeking to achieve, including:

- Help develop people's prayer life
- Encourage everyone to have a time of daily devotion
- Help and encourage people to encounter the Holy Spirit

We are praying that in future, our style of worship will:

- reflect these aims and the needs of individual people that attend
- include appropriate biblical teaching and application
- encourage people to have an expectation that the Spirit of God is at work

Norman Fryer-Saxby
Elder

Communication Annual Report

I am currently working on a 'Discovering Who We Are' document, which is intended to give people information about Brixington Community Church and provide them with an idea of who we are and what we do.

Did you know we have a website? It is as follows: www.brixingtoncommunitychurch.org.uk

I am also presently updating all the information on the website to make it more 'user friendly', so if you see anything you think could be improved then please let me know. I have also been working on a completely new website and again if you would like to see anything there, please let me know.

Please contact me if you have any group photographs that I could use on the website. As you know – 'a picture is worth a thousand words'!

I also prepare the weekly Power Point presentation for the Sunday morning overhead to inform the church about the activities for the forthcoming week.

Christine Littlejohn
Trustee Responsible

Community Engagement Annual Report

During the past year, as Events Deacon, I was lead for the fundraising event during the Queen's Jubilee. This took the form of a BBQ and was a great outreach to the community. Monies raised at this event was £1516, and this was put into a special 'Jubilee Fund' which, it was decided, would help towards the other community projects which the church is involved in, such as the weekly Food Distribution to name just one.

A community BBQ was held later in the year as a further outreach and to welcome Simon back from his sabbatical. My role is also to help promote other events going on in the church, such as coffee mornings, the youth clubs and seniors' lunches.

My role as Events Deacon has now been renamed to that of Community Engagement Deacon, as the vision of the church has always been to reach out to those in the local Brixington Community. This new title reflects my brief from the Leadership to engage with the residents of Brixington Community in more inventive and imaginative ways so that they may feel that this church is *their* church. Further to this, I now have access to the Facebook pages for the Youth clubs and Parent Pop In to help keep these pages more up to date.

I am presently working on plans to organise a big Birthday Party for next year to celebrate the church's 50th Anniversary – so watch the Notices for further information on this milestone event!

Debby Goodwin
Community Engagement Deacon

Premises Annual Report

Leaks and problems with two of the church flat roofs have meant that one has had to be replaced, and I am in the process of obtaining quotes for the other defective roof. This has been an expensive but very necessary expenditure during the year.

I am pleased to report that the rest of the Church building, though showing signs of its age in places, is in a reasonable state of repair. Checks of the building are carried out on a regular basis and any defects noted and repairs subsequently undertaken by in-house or external trade people.

Below is a summary of the main repairs that have been undertaken this year:

- The heaters have been serviced
- The Men's toilets have been repainted
- A new overhead storage space has been created in the church hall
- The Sanctuary has had a facelift and is now much smarter

My thanks, as ever, go to Chris Wright for his valued assistance and advice. My thanks also go to Stuart Sutton for his decorating skills.

Tricia Hill
Trustee Responsible

Stewardship - Treasurer's Annual Report

As part of the Church's vision and values, the role of the Stewardship team is to provide good stewardship of the church's financial resources by:

- ensuring the church's Trustees are accountable to the church members for the church's finances, and meet the legal and financial requirements of the Charity Commission, HMRC and the Baptist Pension Scheme
- ensuring sustainable budget planning for the church by monitoring and advising on expenditure, and maximising income including Gift Aid
- enabling and supporting teams and individuals in their ministries by managing church funds to provide "tools for the job"
- promoting generous giving as people feel led, as a reflection of their Christian life
- supporting the progress of the Building and Development project (BDF)

Each year at the AGM the Treasurer presents a draft budget on behalf of the Trustees for the new church financial year. Once approved by members, this is then monitored monthly throughout the year and circulated to the Trustees with an analysis by the Treasurer of income and expenditure issues, projections and trends.

The Trustees are once more especially thankful to members for their generous giving during the second year of the pandemic in 2021/22, which has again seen timely provision by God for the church's ministries within the fellowship and to the wider local community.

Income: Sources of income included regular giving, donations, legacies, Gift Aid, property letting, premises hire, and council locality grants and other small grants funding. In another difficult year, church members continued to give generously and consistently, including legacies, and along with income from other sources it was especially encouraging that the overall income target of £126,000 was met.

The year target of £71,000 for weekly offerings was 6% lower at £66,534, primarily reflecting changes in people's personal circumstances/finances. These gifts provided 53% of total income (excluding BDF the Building and Development Fund). Income was maximised by Gift Aid refunds from HMRC of £15,670 (12% of total income).

Alongside its regular Coffee mornings and Seniors' Lunch activities for local people and church members, as a Community Church, Brixington also hires its premises to link with local community groups, hosting activities including craft sessions, a dance group and Slimming World, as well as being a regular polling station. The opening up of church buildings from 2021 saw a restoration of activities and improved income to contribute towards meeting annual running costs for utilities, cleaning, maintenance etc totalling £8,045, but this was reduced in-year by our major hirer relocating elsewhere. Together these regular sources contribute to over 6% of the church's income.

The Building and Development Fund (BDF), set up to support the proposed new Community Hub and church centre build costing £3m, is a major and ambitious commitment for the church. A total of £16,279 was raised from members' giving and donations including Gift Aid to exceed the year target of £15k. The total BDF current fund balance is £307k.

Savings investments - primarily BDF funds - brought a welcome return of £2,609 in interest from a mix of one-year and two-year bonds, even in the present economic climate.

Expenditure: The expenditure budget represents the various areas of ministry and church activity covering Fellowship (Community, Children and Families outreach), Worship, Discipleship (including training and development of staff and volunteers) and the committed/fixed costs under Ministry support (i.e. staffing, payroll and pensions), Administration, Finance and Property-related spending.

The overall expenditure budget of £126,000 was exceeded by nearly £15,000 at £140,545. On a positive note, this reflected grants, legacies and donations, spending for Family Support, Food Distribution and multi-media provision and the church's tithe giving to other ministries (see below). However, the main strain on expenditure was property-related with major roofing refurbishment and replacement heaters for the church premises, and remedial repairs at our rented property at Marcom Close. Staffing-related expenditure, including making one post redundant, comprised over 51% of total spend.

The Expenditure budget also includes the church's corporate giving to the work of other Christian organisations both locally and nationally. This includes Open Door/ICE, Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), Home Mission Fund (HMF) and to other causes such as members working in Romania and Africa, and the Bible Society. This year's total of £11,382 equated to just below 10% of total income.

Reserves Policy: It is important to note that, as part of its total reserves and in line with the annual assessment of financial risks under the church's Stewardship (Finance) Policy, the Trustees have stipulated that unrestricted "emergency" reserves of £52,000 are maintained within the church's working reserves. This is made up of £25,000 to ensure salaries and related costs can be met in the event of extenuating or extraordinary circumstances, for example any impending church closure and staff reductions, and £27,000 to cover regular operating costs for a 3-month period if the church cannot maintain an adequate level of net income for any unforeseen reason.

My thanks as always to Katie Hughes, Judith Watson and Sally Vince for their highly valued support and continuing commitment every week, all year long toward ensuring that stewardship of the church's finances does what it should. Most of all, a big Thank You to all members and friends as you have felt led to celebrate God's generosity by being generous yourselves.

Geraint Hughes

Treasurer

Trustees Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a regular basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signature and Declaration

I declare in my capacity as Chair of Charity Trustees that:

- The Trustees have approved the report above and
- Have authorised me to sign the report on their behalf.

Signed:



Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2022.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144() of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

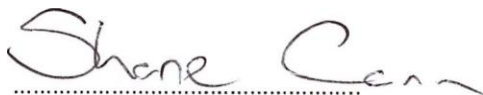
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act. have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S S Cann ACA FCCA CTA

Bush & Co Limited
2 Barnfield Crescent
Exeter
EX1 1QT

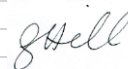
Date: 14/03/2023

Financial Accounts for Period 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022

						
2021-2022 ACCOUNTS						
Period from 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022						
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS						
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Offerings		66,534.12			66,534.12	70,330.83
Donations & other income	2	21,082.07		24,692.54	45,774.61	62,076.68
Income TAX recovered on gifts		13,438.25		2,232.00	15,670.25	16,085.75
Bank Interest		2,496.16		112.98	2,609.14	3,732.70
Contributions for use of premises		8,045.00			8,045.00	5,102.50
Sub Total		111,595.60	-	27,037.52	138,633.12	157,328.46
BU Pension contribution not taken by end of year		(3.90)			(3.90)	3.90
Total Receipts		111,591.70	-	27,037.52	138,629.22	157,332.36
Payments						
Ministry costs	3	86,080.90		84.70	86,165.60	74,412.88
External mission	4	10,882.24			10,882.24	10,574.52
Internal mission	5	2,270.15		5,386.21	7,656.36	2,743.31
Upkeep of church premises	6	26,614.29			26,614.29	17,448.60
Administration & ministry support	7	8,567.12			8,567.12	6,965.74
Professional fees (Independent Examination of Accounts)		660.00			660.00	1,353.00
Sub Total		135,074.70	-	5,470.91	140,545.61	113,498.05
Total Payments		135,074.70	-	5,470.91	140,545.61	113,498.05
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Net of receipts/(payments)		(23,483.00)	-	21,566.61	(1,916.39)	43,834.31
Cash funds b/f 30.09.21		75,140.09	53,795.74	302,189.34	431,125.17	387,290.86
Transfer between funds		9,861.39	(1,795.74)	(8,065.65)	-	-
Cash funds c/f at 30.09.22		61,518.48	52,000.00	315,690.30	429,208.78	431,125.17
Cash funds represented by: -						
Church general account and stipulated reserves		59,728.93	52,000.00		111,728.93	75,140.09
Building fund				307,081.25	307,081.25	346,094.17
Youth fund		1,789.55		241.58	2,031.13	1,403.90
Grants				6,096.53	6,096.53	8,487.01
Family Support				754.79	754.79	
Queens Jubilee Fund				1,516.15	1,516.15	
Totals		61,518.48	52,000.00	315,690.30	429,208.78	431,125.17
Notes						
2. Donations and other income						
Grants & Legacies				6,720.00	6,720.00	22,500.05
Communities & Families				1,464.71	1,464.71	1,160.50
Youth work		1,960.62		241.58	2,202.20	642.10
Buildings				14,678.10	14,678.10	25,629.93
Letting of Marcom Close		14,500.00			14,500.00	12,144.00
Queens Jubilee Fund				1,516.15	1,516.15	
Others		1,324.62		72.00	1,396.62	
Seniors		1,811.50			1,811.50	
Coffee Morning		1,485.33			1,485.33	
Totals		21,082.07		24,692.54	45,774.61	62,076.58

[illegible]

Financial Accounts for Period 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023 - continued

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
7. Administration & ministry support						
Advertising/Publicity		144.00			144.00	144.00
Catering Expenses		1,167.53			1,167.53	490.45
Photocopier costs		827.30			827.30	682.97
Stationery		317.02			317.02	132.76
Subscriptions		994.56			994.56	1,311.08
Telephone/Broadband		632.32			632.32	982.36
Sundries		3,096.76			3,096.76	2,598.22
Training & Development		1,127.79			1,127.79	205.00
Others : Bank charges/travel/postage/music		259.84			259.84	418.90
Totals		8,567.12		-	8,567.12	6,965.74
Statement of assets and liabilities at 30th September 2022						
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds						
CAF Bank - current a/c		4,987.35			4,987.35	7,988.51
CAF Bank - Gold a/c		56,425.06	52,000.00	8,609.05	117,034.11	89,283.21
CAF Bank - Gold BDF				26,915.63	26,915.63	56,002.65
United Trust Bank Charity 1yr notice a/c				88,932.10	88,932.10	57,241.05
BUC General Account				87,907.55	87,907.55	87,383.26
UTB 2 yr Charity Bond				57,871.67	57,871.67	88,178.48
BU 1 Yr4 fixed account				45,454.30	45,454.30	45,004.25
Petty cash		106.07			106.07	43.76
Sub Total		61,518.48	52,000.00	315,690.30	429,208.78	431,125.17
Assets retained for charity's own use						
Church premises, Churchill Road, Exmouth		1,125,622.00			1,125,622.00	1,105,000.00
Former Manse 1 Marcom Close, Exmouth		249,304.00			249,304.00	226,640.00
Church Fixtures & fittings		116,444.00			116,444.00	105,000.00
Sub Total		1,491,370.00			1,491,370.00	1,436,640.00
Assets for 21/22 received beyond year-end						
HMRC Gift Aid		3,313.50		615.50	3,929.00	4,110.75
Sub Total		3,313.50		615.50	3,929.00	4,110.75
Total Assets		1,556,201.98	52,000.00	316,305.80	1,924,507.78	1,871,875.92
Liabilities						
Independent Examiner fees (Bush & Co)		690.00			690.00	660.00
BU Pension fund: (Employer liability) estimated		6,100.00			6,100.00	20,200.00
Liabilities for 21/22 due beyond year-end						
BU Pension fund: increase for BG not taken						3.90
Outstanding Sprague & Ouseley invoice for work undertaken					-	4,000.00
Total Liabilities		6,790.00		-	6,790.00	24,863.90
Total Assets less Liabilities		1,549,411.98	52,000.00	316,305.80	1,917,717.78	1,847,012.02
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Print Name	Reverend S A Atkinson (Chairman)		
	Signature		Print Name	Miss P G Hill (Administrator)		

Appendix 1***Definition of Restricted and Designated Funds*****Restricted funds**

These are funds that can only be used for particular, restricted purposes within the Church's objectives and ministries.

Designated funds

These are funds designated by the Trustees for specified purposes or projects.

Building Development Fund

These funds are for the preparation and eventual building of a new Brixington Church and Community Hub.

Outreach and Community Mission Funds

Money donated for the sole purpose of mission and community outreach projects in Exmouth and specifically in the Brixington Community.

Youth and Children's Funds

This is where grant monies, donations and subscriptions from weekly activities are placed to purchase items and equipment to support the young people's work and related activities.

Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) and Home Mission Funds (HMF)

Monies are held in these funds pending donations to the BMS and HMF solely for their respective use.

BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST) EXMOUTH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139968

Accounts



Brixington Community Church (Baptist)

**Trustees' Report and Accounts
1st October 2020 to
30th September 2021**



Our Vision: 'To be a Christ centred people
demonstrating the love of God in the community'

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Annual Report for the Year to 30th September 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers:

Charity Status

Brixington Community Church (Baptist) is a registered charity under the Charities Act 2011, Registered Charity Number 1139968.

Managing Trustees

The church is administered by the Managing Trustees of the Charity comprising: -

Minister and Chair of Trustees	Reverend S Atkinson
Administrator	Miss P Hill
Treasurer	Mr G Hughes
Elders	Reverend R Elston
Trustees/Deacons	Mrs E Banfield
	Mrs M Carvalho
	Mr T Chadwick (Until Nov 20)
	Mrs J Clark
	Miss A Galashan
	Mrs C Littlejohn (from May 21)

Principal Advisers

Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ.
Independent Examiner	Bush & Co Chartered Accountants, 2 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter, EX1 1QT.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The church's governing document is a declaration of model trust dated 17th June 1974 which sets out the objects of the charity. The current land site has been occupied since 1972 when the first building was erected.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) are the Managing Trustees of the charity and 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. Annual elections are held at the church Annual General Meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 60% of those present and eligible to vote.

Induction and Training of Trustees

New Trustees appointed during the reporting period, receive one-to-one briefings with the Chair of Trustees on operational policy, the Charity Trust deed and Constitution. They are also briefed on the responsibilities of a Trustee based on the Charity Commission guidance booklet CC3 - 'The Essential Trustee' and in line with our Induction Policy.

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 with the Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Charity Trustees (Deacons) gives leadership to the church. The Administrator, Treasurer, Elders and Deacons assist the Minister in his role and are also responsible for preparing the business for the church meetings.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and the South West Baptist Association

The church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the South West Baptist Association (SWBA) and 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 donates to the BUGB (Home Mission Fund) for the Baptist Family in the UK.

Relationships between the Charity and Related Parties

Christians Together in Exmouth (CTE) - the church is an active member of the ecumenical partnership of churches in the Exmouth area.

The church also supports *Initiative in Christian Education (ICE)* and *Open Door Exmouth*. These connected organisations of the church exist as part of the work and mission of the church which are open to the community.

The church also allocates some of the Minister's time to fulfil the role of *Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club*.

Exmouth Foodbank - the church contributes regularly to the foodbank (formerly known as Exmouth Community Larder) and several church members are involved in this project.

Evangelical Alliance - The church is a member of The Evangelical Alliance which is an umbrella grouping for Evangelical Christians in the UK. Formed in 1846, the Alliance aims to bring Christians together and help them listen to, and be heard by, the government, media and society.

Risk Management

The Trustees examine on a rolling basis all major strategic business and operational risks that the charity faces. Controls and action plans are developed to address any additional risks that are identified during this process.

A robust Risk Assessment has been undertaken in the light of COVID-19, to identify and implement the risks that the church faces during the Coronavirus emergency. The church is now considered as a COVID safe environment.

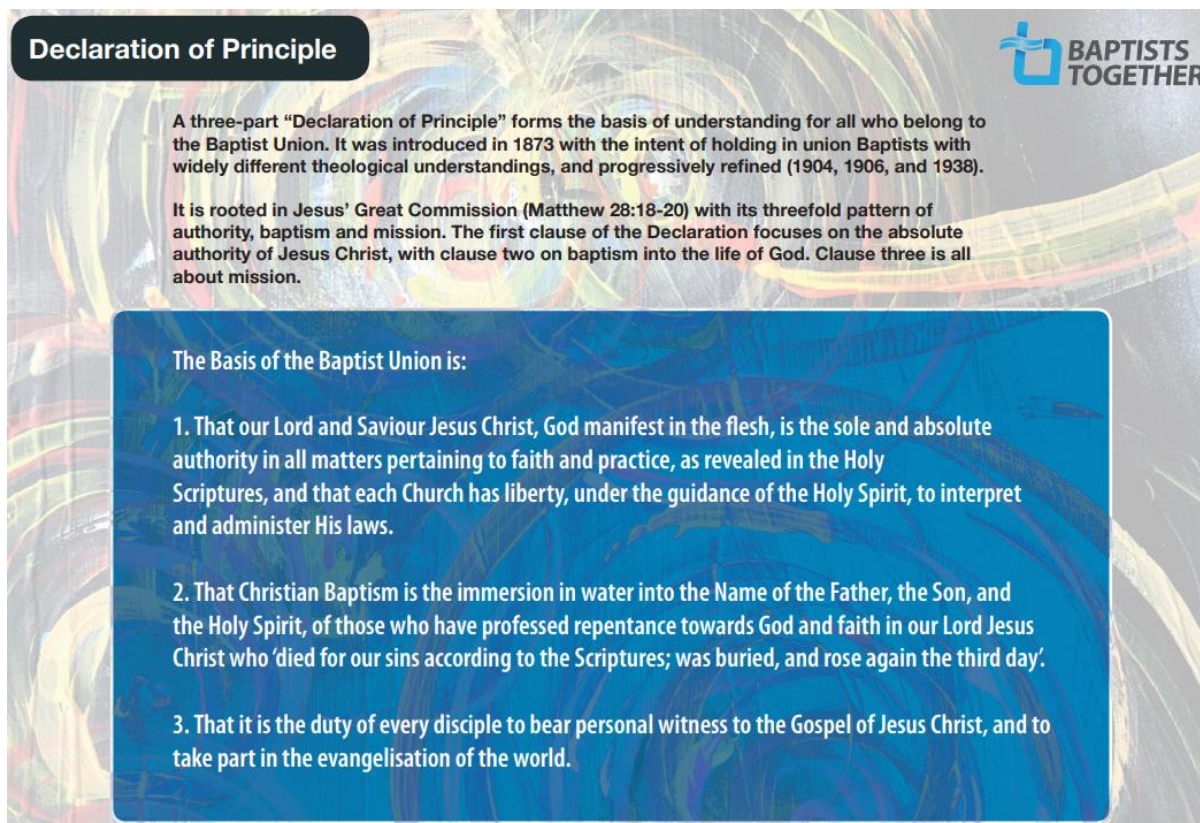
Objectives and Activities

Objects of the Charity

The Charity is 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, carrying out religious services, the payment, housing and pensioning of a Minister of Religion and other persons employed for the purposes of a place of worship.

Charity's Aims

Under the Baptist Union Declaration of Principle (See page 5), Brixington Community Church seeks to be an active Christian community/fellowship bringing Christian witness and care to the area known as Brixington within the town of Exmouth. The church also acknowledges its Christian responsibilities beyond the local community and seeks to engage in both national and international situations.



Declaration of Principle

A three-part "Declaration of Principle" forms the basis of understanding for all who belong to the Baptist Union. It was introduced in 1873 with the intent of holding in union Baptists with widely different theological understandings, and progressively refined (1904, 1906, and 1938).

It is rooted in Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) with its threefold pattern of authority, baptism and mission. The first clause of the Declaration focuses on the absolute authority of Jesus Christ, with clause two on baptism into the life of God. Clause three is all about mission.

The Basis of the Baptist 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 Spirit, 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 the third day'.
3. That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal 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 continues to offer public worship on Sunday mornings and a selection of Mid-week Services have continued. During the start of the pandemic the church had been holding its Sunday morning Services online via Facebook and YouTube but has, from July 2021, been able to welcome people back into the church, which has been a great blessing to those who have not been able to view the online services.

Conversations continued with those who are interested in discussing their faith and the possibility of baptism and church Membership.

The church continues to be involved in Mission activities locally, nationally and internationally.

1. *Locally* – Exmouth Food Bank, Initiative in Christian Education (ICE), the Open Door project, Seniors' lunches, Coffee mornings, Messy Church, Brixington Family Support, Parent Pop In, Exeter Chiefs, Street Pastors plus other outreach events.
2. *Nationally* - As part of Home Mission within the Baptist Union and Christians Against Poverty
3. *Internationally* - Supports two individuals on short to medium term overseas mission as well as supporting the Baptist Missionary Society.

The church continues to develop and grow through Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, Servanthood and Evangelism.

The church premises are situated in an ideal location within Brixington which makes the premises attractive for a wide range of community groups, organisations and other charities. Where possible and appropriate, the church aims to recognise the needs of the community and organise activities and support groups to meet these needs.

Work has continued throughout the year on the plans to develop the church buildings into a hub serving the growing needs of both church and community. This year £28,614 has been raised towards this goal.

At the end of another year in the life of Brixington Community Church, we give thanks and praise God for all that has been accomplished, and for the fellowship we have shared as we continue our journey together.

The Charity's Vision and Values

Vision

The Charity's vision is 'To be a Christ centred people demonstrating the love of God in the community'.

Values

Fellowship:

We believe we are called by God to be part of His family (the body of Christ) in Exmouth expressing our faith through love for others.

(John 13:35, Romans 12:10 & Hebrews 10:25)

Worship:

We seek to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, thus surrendering (offering) our lives as an act of worship.

(Psalm 95:6-7 & Romans 12:1)

Discipleship:

We seek to make disciples of all ages, encouraging people to grow and mature in faith by the study and application of the living Word of God through the power and the joy of prayer, which is at the heart of all we do and by the equipping (empowering) of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us.

(Acts 2:42, Hebrews 5:13-14 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Servanthood:

We believe that each person has been given gifts and talents to use to fulfil the plans and purposes of God in this and future generations by being fruitful and serving others.

(John 13:14-15, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:10 & 1 Peter 4:10)

Mission/Outreach:

We aim to actively seek the lost and be a door of hope in the community by demonstrating and declaring the good news of Jesus Christ because we are convinced that He is able to save all who believe in Him.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 19:10 & Acts 20:24)

Mission Statements

Fellowship

Church Family: We aim to encourage all people to live Christ centred lives. To:

- Value people of all ages and abilities.
- Encourage all members of the church family to have a role to play in the life of the church.
- Evaluate and empower people to use their skills.
- Offer support and training.
- Provide opportunities to know each other better by meeting together socially.

Youth and Children's Work: Young people are important to the life of the church. We aim to:

- Recognise that they are individuals, having different backgrounds and different needs.
- Provide teaching and a variety of activities to serve the needs of all young people.

Worship:

Services: Worship is important to the life of the church and includes the study and application of the Word of God. We aim to:

- Develop services under the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Offer different styles of services to reflect the diversity of our community.

Prayer: Prayer is important in everything we do. Therefore, we seek to:

- Promote the importance of prayer and provide the environment, support and resources for participation.

Discipleship:

Church growth: We believe that God desires this church to grow numerically and spiritually. We:

- Encourage personal spiritual growth at every stage of the Christian journey.
- Train, equip and release disciples.

Growth Groups: Growth Groups are necessary for the spiritual growth of the church. We seek to:

- Encourage all members to become part of a Growth Group.
- Provide pastoral care within each Growth Group.

Servanthood:

Serving the community: Our aim is to demonstrate the love of God in the community by:

- Developing Brixington Community Church to be the hub of the community.
- Providing a place of sanctuary and support for the community.
- Facilitating a range of activities to support the needs of the community.
- Encouraging individuals to serve in the community.

Buildings: Our aim is for the building to be an asset valued by both church and community by:

- Developing an attractive building to cater for a wide range of activities and to accommodate growth.

Mission/Outreach: We believe everyone has a role to play in mission and outreach. Therefore we:

- Encourage people to make the most of mission opportunities in the community, and in their daily lives.
- Support those who are called to undertake local, national or international mission.
- Provide training opportunities.
- Provide opportunities to share relevant testimonies to encourage others.

Achievements and Performance

Pastor's Annual Report

Over the past year we have been operating under some form of COVID restrictions, this has been challenging on many fronts. The Trustees have spent time exploring how we might reopen the church as the lockdown restrictions were slowly lifted whilst complying with government guidance.

At first, we were able to open up in a limited way by inviting those who did not have internet access back into the building on a Sunday morning to watch the pre-recorded service. As restrictions were eased, we were then able to increase the number of people who could gather and we eventually made the switch back to live services on 25th July 2021.

The number of people who were accessing our online service was over a 1000 a week and it was clear that we needed to continue to live stream our Sunday services. To help improve the quality of our online presence we invested in purchasing new equipment. We have been delighted to hear the stories of people who have been watching us online and are now attending in person. The challenge for us going forward will be how do we engage in a meaningful way with our online community.

This has been quite a journey for us as a church as we have grappled with new technology. Bradley has played a key role which has enabled us to improve the quality of our live stream services.

We have not been able to run our usual programmes during the COVID restrictions and this has given the space to think about how we might do things differently. It has enabled us to rebalance the week rather than loading things on to one or two days.

At Christmas we were able to enlist a number of local choirs who helped us with our pre-recorded Christmas online Carol Service, and this proved very popular. We have also run an Alpha course online as we were not able to meet in person and this was very successful.

Our work with local families in need continues and builds upon the success of the previous years led by Kay. We have continued to deliver food weekly since the beginning of the pandemic and plan to continue to do this while the need exists. We have again received various grants that have helped us in this area of ministry. I want to thank the team who help regularly with our food deliveries, it really is a great practical way of demonstrating the love of God in the community.

Our school's work has continued, and Bradley and I have been able to conduct assemblies via zoom and these have been well received. Bradley has also successfully managed to run a monthly Messy Church via zoom and this has helped us stay in contact with several families.

My thanks to our Elders and Deacons who have continued to meet monthly via zoom and especially to Tricia for her manning of the office during this period. Also, we have continued with our weekly prayer meeting which has been co-ordinated by Glenis. There have been some Growth Groups that have managed to continue to meet via zoom and as we came out of lockdown, we were able to launch several new groups.

Since the major restrictions of COVID have been removed, we have slowly restarted the church outreach events such as our coffee morning which has now moved to a Wednesday, Messy Church meeting in person, Growth Groups and Parent Pop-In.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

Administration Annual Report

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" to quote the opening line from 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Dickens. This phrase seems to sum up the past year. In some ways we have had a bad year with pretty much everything put on hold again due to the pandemic. On the other hand, it has been a very good year with the church family looking out for each other on a grand scale. The kindness shown by some to their fellow man has been glorious to see and in doing so they have been treading the path forged by Jesus in showing the love of God in their actions.

The shortened format for the Sunday Services is well received by the 50 to 60 people who physically come to church on Sundays and the online viewing numbers are steady at around 1000. My thanks go to Bradley Goodwin who has really become a 'whiz' with all the 'techy stuff' that he has had to learn. He has coped admirably with all the vagaries of Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and Zoom to name just a few!

The church is still complying with the Government guidelines regarding Covid-19 and people are still being encouraged to wear a face covering when walking round the building. Hand sanitising stations are placed at every door for people to use.

I can report that the church membership holds steady at 91 with one or two people exploring becoming a member. We have said goodbye to Janet Condliffe; John Vince; Elaine Crawford and Ray and Irene Massey this year. We miss them and remember them all with affection.

The Elders and Trustees have continued to meet each month to carry out the church business and put in place all the necessary procedures. A new 'Complaints Policy and Procedure' together with an amended COVID-19 Risk assessment have been written this year.

I would like to record my thanks to Eileen Banfield and Alwyn Galashan who are stepping down from their Trustee Roles this year. I have really appreciated all their help and wisdom during their tenures.

During the year our Office Assistant, Julia Dale, was furloughed because of the lockdown, returning to office duties in May this year.

I would like to thank you for all your support of the church over this last year – 'well done' folks.

Tricia Hill
Administrator

Servanthood Annual Report

The pandemic continues to influence the work of the church and we are having to continually adjust the way in which we operate both with our local community and in the wider world.

For the second year running Brix Fayre did not take place and this was sadly missed by some members of the community. However, instead of the Fayre the team managed to run a stall at Bicton Gardens on two occasions and using the church gazebo resulted in many contacts and useful conversations with public.

Home Mission: We continue to support Home Mission financially. Home Mission is all about helping Baptist churches and individuals to reach their mission potential and bring the love of God to their communities. It is the Baptist family purse, and each year the Baptist Union has an appeal to raise money for Home Mission.

Baptist Missionary Society (BMS): We continue to support the work of the BMS which gives such valuable aid to struggling churches across the world. Recently our Missionaries have been involved with the aid and distribution of vaccines and food in those countries who do not have the necessary infrastructure to provide for themselves.

Our community food programme continues to be a vital part of the church's outreach and this has become a mammoth task for what is proving to be a dwindling workforce.

We continue to receive food from Tesco as well as the Coop and the distribution of food parcels to local families has become somewhat burdensome because of the loss of personnel. We continue to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to bring forth more workers.

Sue Elston

Person Responsible

Youth and Children's Worker Annual Report

I have now completed a full year as the Youth and Children's Worker here at Brixington Community church which I have found both exciting and a challenge.

Messy Church: We have continued with our online Messy Church on the first Saturday of the month. In so doing, we saw our average numbers grow from 11 children up to 15 children, with a higher end of 22 children. Whilst at Easter



and Christmas higher numbers attended with 28 and 32 children taking part in the video calls. Some of the parents donated sums of money towards the cost of putting on these events, which enabled extra craft supplies such as coloured paper, lolly sticks, goggle eyes etc to help make more packs to be purchased. On the 03rd July we had our last online Messy Church, and to finish off the academic year we put on a Fancy-dress Messy Church with all the helpers and children dressing up over zoom. On the 11th September we were

able to welcome some children and their parents/guardians back into the church to restart an 'in person' Messy Church. At this session there were 17 Children plus their parents/guardians plus the volunteers who help at these functions. Thank you to all those wonderful people who do come and support, because without you – there would be no Messy Church!



First messy church back in the church

'Shine' Children's club: We were unable to put on the Shine Children's Club this year due to Covid 19 restrictions and as a church we did not feel that it would be safe to do so. For the first time in over a year, on the 18th of September, we opened the doors again. Since then, we have put on the club each week.

Schools work: We have continued to have an input at two of the local schools in the Brixington area (Bassetts Farm Primary and Brixington Primary Academy). This has been achieved in several ways. One of the ways was to continue

to pre-record a school assembly and then, using the 'Movavi' editing software, edit video clips recorded in the church with an action worship song and bible story video. Once the school assembly had been edited this was then up-loaded to You-tube. Then the link for the video was sent to the schools who could then access the assembly. By doing the school assembly this way, it meant we could reach a larger number of students as the whole school could view the assembly each week. Since the children have been back at school (September 2021) we have been about to try a different a hybrid school assembly which meant we had a year group from the school in the school hall to watch the assembly and then the rest of the school would join in the assembly via a Zoom link. Simon and I found that, with the equipment school had available, we were very limited in what we could accomplish. However, the church has since upgraded the church's sound and vision desk with newly purchased "tech" equipment, so we are now able to livestream school assemblies from the church via a zoom link. With Bassetts Farm Primary School we were able to have the year 3 classes up to the church over two days for a talk to help the children in their studies. This is a great opportunity to share the Good News of the love of God to the young people in the schools.

Bradley Goodwin
Youth and Children's Leader

Family Support Worker Annual Report

Another year of disruption and furlough it has been a challenging year. I am sure we are all more resilient and adapting well.

The Thursday food bag deliveries have continued throughout the year and since October 2020 to end of September



2021 we have made 1,405 deliveries. The Lord has been blessing, through us this year, five thousand individuals with food bags to feed over 5,066 People. Christmas 2020 the team were able to deliver and bless many with fresh foods on Christmas Eve and from a Council grant we gave meat or Tesco vouchers to each family. This fantastic team are Jan, Janet and Bill, June, Jayney and myself along with Sue and Stuart who have joined the team recently. We deliver about 30 bags every week.

Thank you for all have given money or food for extras for these food bag deliveries. The fresh foods mainly come from Fairshare, using leftover supermarket food. Simon our Pastor collects the donations every Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Plus, sometimes on a Saturday night and Sunday morning.

'Parent Pop In' restarted on Thursday 20th May 2021 from 1pm to 3.15pm. Taking place in the Sanctuary to give more space and better social distance for the many new families coming into our Church. With Covid restrictions and wearing masks our group had to be pre booked to attend to start with.

The first session showed the desperate need for a family group. 31 people came. During only 13 sessions, we've had over 267 visitors. Babies from just 3 weeks old through to Grandparents with Great Grandchildren. At 'Parent Pop In' we have been honoured to have been told parent's life stories. They have disclosed their troubled lives and have felt the love of Jesus in return.



Parent Pop In

One lady came to the group with her young baby. She soon relaxed enough to chat to us and unburdened her pain that a few months ago her husband went to work and never came home. He had died from an aneurysm. Their first

baby was only 4 weeks old. We shared her pain. She has come again and I was able to give some bereavement course details from Care for the family. We hope to see and support her regularly at Parent Pop In.

We have provided a safe friendly environment to help parents and their children to socialise again. Issues of loneliness, financial hardship, heartache and major health are among the issues the team have heard and been a listening ear. This fantastic team that I head are Debbie, Bradley, Ammie, Maria, Simon, Michelle, Donna.

'Parent Pop In' is a cafe with play activities for children. A social space to relax and unwind.

Floating Family Support has continued in the Pandemic this year with zoom, teams, video and telephone calls, as well as visits when allowed again in their homes. Finances have been top of the agenda for learning a new life skill. I have run courses and presented four "Why budget" course certificates during one month. With this extra support, many families have needed us to offload too and problem solve together. It is an important starting point to build up self esteem and a positive family life style.

The Family Barbecue on 21 August was a great success with so many of the families we support coming along. With these new families, we have families joining in our other Church activities including Coffee and Cake, watching online services, Growth group, plus Messy Church online and in person. With new groups starting up the Church is reaching out even more in the community and able to offer something special, the love of Jesus.

Kay Atkinson
Family Support Worker

Growth Groups Annual Report

Growth Groups are an important part of the life of the church where we encourage discipleship and a place where we grow in fellowship with others.

Since COVID a small number of groups have continued to meet virtually over zoom. This has proved helpful to those in the fellowship who were able to be a part of these groups. Following the lifting of COVID restrictions we have been able to start meeting in person and we have taken the opportunity to launch a number of new groups. I would like to thank our Growth Group leaders for all the work they invest in preparing, leading and caring for their groups each week.

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Trustee responsible

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Annual Report

Safeguarding: Brixington Community Church (BCC) aims to provide a safe and creative place for children, young people and adults in a vulnerable situation to be valued and nurtured.

The church has a robust safeguarding policy structure in place and a reporting procedure for issues of concern. Our policy demonstrates that every member of the fellowship has a part to play in creating and valuing a safe community. Within the policy there are also guidelines for 'best practice' for all who work alongside the vulnerable, along with an efficient and prompt system to respond to any safeguarding issues surrounding children, young people or adults in a vulnerable situation.

The policy statement is read out annually to the fellowship at the AGM, who are reminded of our collective responsibility for the well-being of all and the reporting procedure in the event of any concern.

Our safeguarding team of Lead Trustee, Safeguarding Administrator, Youth Worker and Family Support Worker meet every 6-8 weeks with an agenda of overview and support. Our relationship with the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service workers (CCPAS) and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub team (MASH), ensures that the Lead Trustee can process any urgent reported concerns within 24 hours to the appropriate authorities or support services.

All who work alongside the vulnerable groups are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and have received 'Safe to Grow' and 'Safe to Belong' training. In addition, our existing policy for 'Working Alone' is also implemented into our working practice. A risk assessment is prepared and carried out before any activities, both on and off-site, can take place. These risk assessments also include activities such as senior lunches, youth work and family visitor home visits.

The Lead Trustee reports to the church Trustees at their monthly meetings.

Pastoral Care: The primary purpose of Pastoral Care at BCC is to care, support and nurture people so that the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is a resource for every situation.

Although the primary responsibility for Pastoral Care lies with the Pastor, he is assisted by the Elders and Trustees. They review the pastoral needs of the congregation at their regular meetings.

Pastoral Care is also exercised through the prayerful and practical support through smaller Growth Groups. The telephone Prayer Chain, which exists for members of the fellowship facing immediate crises, ensures a prompt prayer support when needed.

The church office and growth group leaders have remained a point of contact for anyone experiencing difficulties with shopping, medication collections, hospital appointments, or needing a re-assuring chat or visit during these difficult times, whilst exercising all the required pandemic precautions during this year.

It has been heartening to see how caring and supportive all fellowship members have been for one another during this year.

Jill Clark

Trustee Responsible

Health and Safety Annual Report

There is a Health and Safety policy in place which the church follows.

The Health and Safety Policy has been reviewed and updated where necessary this year.

The building continues to be monitored for any defects, and if any are found they are dealt with as a matter of urgency in the most appropriate way.

The Emergency Fire Exit signs were checked after lockdown and four were found to be defective. These have all been replaced. These are all checked once a month and recorded in the Fire Safety Log Book.

Stuart Sutton has undergone the required training to become a 'competent person' to undertake PAT Testing. He now works alongside Eric Archer testing all the church electrical equipment. This is no small job and I record my thanks to both for undertaking this vital task.

Tricia Hill

Trustee Responsible

Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club Chaplaincy Annual Report

This is my eleventh season as Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs, however due to COVID-19 I have been unable to carry out my usual visits during the last twelve months which has been frustrating whilst at the same time understandable. Instead, I have been able to offer telephone support as and when required.

I have maintained regular contact with the Team Manager, and I am hoping that normal service will be able to restart week commencing 11th October; this means that it will have been 19 months since I have visited the club in person. I understand from the club that they value the chaplaincy ministry and are grateful for the time that is invested.

I would like to thank John Bussell for his support in this important ministry as we seek to serve the club through chaplaincy.

Reverend Simon Atkinson

Chaplain to Exeter Chiefs

Hospitality Annual Report

We have now been able to resume almost all activities except coffee and chat after the Sunday morning services due to the pandemic.

Coffee Mornings: Our Coffee Mornings continue to be popular, though we would love to see more church members supporting this important ministry. We have had an average of 26 people attend each week. There is a Team of 12 volunteers and we are presently praying for 4 more volunteers to join the team.

Seniors' Lunches: Senior Lunches are unfortunately still on hold due to the Covid-19 concerns.

Parent Pop in: This event is proving to be more and more popular with children and adults too.

Messy Church: This has been a regular online event since the March 2020 Lockdown. It sees an average of 20+ children and accompanying adults enjoying lots of crafts and creative play. It is an event very much enjoyed by all who attend and by the volunteers too!

The first one to take place, actually 'in person' at church, was held in September and this was very successful and very much enjoyed by all who participated, creating a very happy and joyful atmosphere. The work Bradley is doing, together with all the volunteers, is very much appreciated.

A sincere thank you to our Pastor Rev'd Simon Atkinson, Mrs. Kay Atkinson (Family Support Worker), Mr Bradley Goodwin (Youth Worker), Miss Tricia Hill (Administrator), the Trustees, and all the volunteers who always work tirelessly and selflessly before, during and after these events to provide such a high standard.

May the Lord bless you all abundantly!

Maria Carvalho
Trustee Responsible

Worship Annual Report

The prayer life and worship life of the church has changed once again as we have begun to cautiously re-open the church buildings from lockdown.

At the beginning of this process, we reminded ourselves that things would probably never be quite the same in the light of the ongoing pandemic, and that we would have to become more creative in the way that we shared the gospel and interacted with the world. This is perhaps not such a bad thing, but it is understandable that some folk who "wanted to get back to how things used to be" would find the process of change a little uncomfortable.

Our increased use of online technology has led to a much broader and worldwide ministry, as well as giving people nearer to home a taste of what Brixington Community Church is all about. We are delighted that some new people have come along to our morning services in the church, having tried us out online first.

We have also revamped the prayer chain ministry using WhatsApp which has eliminated the "Chinese whispers" element of prayer chains as well as making the administration of the ministry easier and more efficient.

We continue to use the 'I sing' worship application and have expanded the repertoire of songs from time to time.

During lockdown and now with the easing of some restrictions, the Elders have continued to meet for prayer and to discuss whatever changes the government has announced. We are monitoring the use of covid precautions and continue to encourage the use of masks and sanitiser when people are entering or moving around within our buildings.

We have introduced a monthly evening worship service which is designed to be freer and less structured than our morning worship. These services will not be broadcast online and will therefore allow for more congregational participation. We await to see what God will do with these services and how they develop.

In the light of all of this, as Elders we continue to wait upon God for our future development and direction. Our call is still to share the gospel and to reach out to our neighbours in whatever way is possible and to that end we will continue to pray for the wisdom that only God can give.

Reverend Rod Elston
Trustee Responsible

Communication Annual Report

I joined the Diaconate at the AGM in May 2021 (which had to be postponed because of lockdown) and took on responsibility for Communications. I would like to thank Eileen Banfield for her invaluable support as she 'walked me' through the role. Since then, the church's website has been reviewed and updated. All the printed notices in and around the church have also been reviewed to ensure that these are up-to-date and relevant.

This year the Sound and Vision Desk has been upgraded with new equipment, which includes a new laptop, a video camera, video switcher, stage lighting, and replacing the old projector screens with two 82" TV Monitors. These improvements have enabled us to improve the quality of our on-line presence during the live streaming of our Sunday Morning Services. The purchase of this equipment was helped by several generous donations, for which we give thanks.

We continue to use Facebook and YouTube as a means of communicating with the local community about our events and services. Our online services have been reaching over 1000 people weekly which is excellent. As a result of our online presence, several people have started attending Sunday Services in person.

Christine Littlejohn
Trustee Responsible

Building Development Annual Report

Over the past two years Geraint and I have looked at over 100 organisations as potential grant funders, 70 for BDF and 30 for Family Support, and this resulted in nearly 50 applications forwarded to a range of funders.

The onset of the pandemic meant that most funders have received twice their normal number of applications and have therefore prioritised groups and charities who work with the frontline of Covid support, mental health and those affected by the pandemic. This has meant that, sadly we have not been successful in securing grant application funding for the Building Project. The one grant of £25k which we conditionally received has also been withdrawn because of the slow progress towards the physical building work. Larger funders also took the view that - while they were interested in the project - we should come back when we have raised 50-70% of the funding!

More successful was the securing of local council funding for Covid and Family-related support, which has been especially helpful and has also supported the food distribution from the church. We continue to keep an eye on local funding opportunities.

A total of £28,614 has been raised from members' giving and donations, from small-scale fundraising during the year, and a generous legacy of £6k from the estate of Dennis Keay, who was one of our regulars at Coffee Morning and Seniors' Lunch, which was much appreciated. All this activity has contributed to a total BDF balance of £346,094 including gift aid and which includes £50k of designated funds.

Many thanks to all of you who have continued to fundraise towards the new build or who have contributed in any way.

Eileen Banfield
Trustee responsible

Property Annual Report

I am pleased to report that the Church building is in a reasonable state of repair. Priority has been given to those areas where there have been potential health and safety issues. If any have been noted, they have been rectified as soon as possible.

Below is a summary of the main repairs that have been undertaken this year:

- Four Security Cameras have been fitted to the external areas of the church
- Four new heaters have been installed to replace the unserviceable ones
- The roadside Notice Boards have been refurbished
- The Ladies toilets have been repainted

- The wall in the car park has been painted
- A drainage channel has been dug and piping laid to help with rain run off by the new Fire Escape doors to the Sanctuary
- All window and door frames have been resealed ready for the winter
- Parking Bollards have been fitted near the front door to ensure vital emergency ingress and safeguard the pedestrian access.

My thanks go to Bill and Janet Carver who have given the Sound Desk a much needed face lift. Thanks also to Chris Wright who earlier this year fitted Parking Bollards by the front door.

Tricia Hill

Trustee Responsible

Stewardship - Treasurer's Annual Report

As part of the Church's vision and values, the role of the Stewardship team is to provide good stewardship of the church's financial resources by:

- ensuring the church's Trustees are accountable to the church members, and meet the legal and financial requirements of the Charity Commission, HMRC and the Baptist Pension Scheme
- ensuring sustainable budget planning for the church by monitoring and advising on expenditure, and maximising income including Gift Aid
- enabling and supporting teams and individuals in their ministries by managing church funds to provide "tools for the job"
- promoting generous giving as people feel led, as a reflection of their Christian life
- supporting the progress of the Building and Development project (BDF)

Each year at the AGM the Treasurer presents a draft budget on behalf of the Trustees for the new church financial year. Once approved by members, this is then monitored monthly throughout the year and circulated to the Trustees with an analysis by the Treasurer of income and expenditure issues, projections and trends.

The Trustees are again especially thankful for the consistently generous giving by members during this continuing Covid year of 2020/21, which has again seen timely provision by God for the church's ministries within the fellowship and to the wider local community, especially families and young people.

Income: Sources of income included regular giving, donations, legacies, Gift Aid, property letting, premises hire, and council locality grants and other small grants funding. In a difficult year, church members continued to give generously, and it was especially encouraging that the overall income target of £119,000 was met and in fact exceeded.

The year target of £69,000 for weekly offerings was exceeded by £1330, with these gifts providing over 53% of total income (excluding BDF the Building and Development Fund). Income was maximised by Gift Aid refunds from HMRC of £13,219 to the general fund (10% of total income), and £4042 to BDF. The church's development of its online ministries including Sunday Services and Messy Church benefitted immensely from £13,164 in legacy-related income, and £9,160 from locality grants and donations for Covid/Food Distribution support was not only welcome but essential.

Alongside its regular Coffee mornings and Seniors' Lunch activities for local people and church members, as a Community Church Brixington also hires its premises to link with local community groups, hosting activities including craft sessions, a dance group and Slimming World, as well as being a regular polling station. The closure of church buildings under Covid restrictions for over half of the church's financial year reduced income which normally contributes to meeting annual running costs for utilities, cleaning, maintenance etc to £5102, but this was offset by other incoming revenue. Together these regular sources contribute to over 15% of the church's income.

The Building and Development Fund (BDF), set up to support the proposed new Community Hub and church centre build costing over £3m is a major and ambitious commitment for the church. A total of £28,614 has been raised from members' giving and donations, from small-scale fundraising during the year, and a generous legacy of £6k. These

have contributed to a total BDF balance of £346,094 including gift aid and which also includes £50k of designated funds.

Savings investments - primarily BDF funds - brought a welcome return of £3,732 in interest from a mix of one-year and two-year bonds, but in the new uncertain economic climate with historically low interest rates this is not likely to be repeated.

Expenditure: The expenditure budget represents the various areas of ministry and church activity covering Fellowship (Community, Children and Families outreach), Worship, Discipleship (including training and development of staff and volunteers) and the committed/ fixed costs under Ministry support (i.e. staffing, payroll and pensions), Administration, Finance and Property-related.

The overall expenditure budget of £119,000 came in at a manageable total of £115,273 with some property improvements made including work undertaken on installing new/replacement heaters, along with decorating in the hall and toilets and necessary building maintenance. Staffing- related expenditure comprised over 51% of total spend.

The Servanthood umbrella includes the church's corporate giving to the work of other Christian organisations both locally and nationally including Open Door/ICE, Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), Home Mission Fund (HMF) and Christians Against Poverty (CAP). This year's total of £12,025 to these and other causes including members working in Romania and Africa equated to 10% of total income. Open Door works locally with families and socially isolated people, particularly men, with homeless people, and in providing additional support and safe haven activities for students at the second largest Community College in the UK.

Financial Review of Accounts: The church showed a total surplus of cash in the year of £43,834 (2020: £33,528) but this also included legacies. Restricted funds total £302,189 (2020: £269,564) which are held for specific purposes for community mission, youth work, Building Development Fund (BDF), legacies, and grants for the relief of COVID. The Designated funds total £53,796 (2020: £56,728) which have been designated for youth work and the BDF. This leaves cash held in unrestricted funds of £75,140 (2020: £60,999) *but note £52,000 of this amount are unrestricted reserves stipulated as below.*

Reserves Policy: As part of the assessment of financial risks under the church's Finance Policy, the Trustees have stipulated that unrestricted reserves of £52,000 are maintained (subject to annual review) as part of the church's general funds. This is made up of £25,000 to ensure salaries and related costs can be met in the event of extenuating or extraordinary circumstances e.g. impending church closure, staff reductions, and £27,000 to cover regular operating costs for a 3-month period if the church cannot maintain an adequate level of net income for any unforeseen reason.

My thanks as always to Katie Hughes and Judith Watson for their highly-valued support and continuing commitment every week all year long toward ensuring that stewardship of the church's finances does what it should. Most of all, a big Thank You to all members and friends as you have felt led to celebrate God's generosity by being generous yourselves.

Geraint Hughes
Treasurer

Trustees Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on a regular basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signature and Declaration

I declare in my capacity as Chair of Charity Trustees that:

- The Trustees have approved the report above
and
- Have authorised me to sign the report on their behalf

Signed: 

Reverend Simon Atkinson
Pastor

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
TRUSTEES OF BRIXINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH (BAPTIST)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 September 2021.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Matthew Melksham FCCA
Bush & Co Limited
2 Barnfield Crescent
Exeter
EX1 1QT

Date: 24 March 2022

Financial Accounts for Period 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021**2020-2021 ACCOUNTS**

Period from 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS						
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Offerings		70,330.83			70,330.83	72,085.11
Donations & other income	2	12,144.00		49,932.68	62,076.68	40,687.91
Income TAX recovered on gifts		12,081.25		4,004.50	16,085.75	15,675.72
Bank Interest		559.91	447.92	2,724.87	3,732.70	3,839.02
Contributions for use of premises		5,102.50			5,102.50	7,070.00
Sub Total		100,218.49	447.92	56,662.05	157,328.46	139,357.76
BU Pension contribution not taken by end of year		3.90			3.90	1,394.00
Total Receipts		100,222.39	447.92	56,662.05	157,332.36	140,751.76
Payments						
Ministry costs	4	60,713.58		13,699.30	74,412.88	67,269.30
External mission	5	9,594.52		980.00	10,574.52	10,342.45
Internal mission	6	25.00	28.56	2,689.75	2,743.31	2,568.75
Upkeep of church premises	7	10,853.02		6,595.58	17,448.60	16,674.42
Administration & ministry support	8	5,642.47		1,323.27	6,965.74	12,043.75
Professional fees (Independent Examination of Accounts)		1,353.00			1,353.00	510.00
Sub Total		88,181.59	28.56	25,287.90	113,498.05	109,408.67
Total Payments		88,181.59	28.56	25,287.90	113,498.05	109,408.67

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Net of receipts/(payments)	12,040.80	419.36	31,374.15	43,834.31	33,528.28
Cash funds b/f 30.09.20	60,998.87	56,728.24	269,563.75	387,290.86	353,762.58
Transfer between funds	2,100.42	(3,351.86)	1,251.44	-	-
Cash funds c/f at 30.09.21	75,140.09	53,795.74	302,189.34	431,125.17	387,290.86
Cash funds represented by: -					
Church general account and stipulated reserves	75,140.09			75,140.09	60,998.87
Building fund		53,795.74	292,298.43	346,094.17	321,830.58
Youth fund			1,403.90	1,403.90	2,901.40
Community mission (Sherwood legacy)				-	582.42
BBQ and Gazebo					-
Weekend Away					-
Outstanding loan				-	977.59
Grants & Legacies			8,487.01	8,487.01	-
Totals	75,140.09	53,795.74	302,189.34	431,125.17	387,290.86
Notes					
2. Donations and other income					
Grants & Legacies			22,500.05	22,500.05	1,471.00
Communities & Families			1,160.60	1,160.60	
Youth work			642.10	642.10	598.78
Buildings			25,629.93	25,629.93	23,921.22
Letting of former Manse (Marcom Close)	12,144.00			12,144.00	12,144.00
Men's/Ladies Breakfast					193.00
Fellowship Events					-
Church Weekend					1,248.00
Totals	12,144.00		49,932.68	62,076.68	40,687.91

Financial Accounts for Period 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021 - continued

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total Funds 2021	Total funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£
3. Raised for other causes						
Baptist Missionary Society						30.00
Home Mission						200.00
CAP						50.00
Others						255.19
Grants/Family Support						1,650.00
Totals						2,185.19
4. Ministry costs						
Staff salaries including pension/payroll expenses		45,936.22		13,287.32	59,223.54	48,208.34
Employers National Insurance		(827.08)		411.98	(415.10)	415.10
Travel Expenses		363.86			363.86	1,165.57
Manse Running Costs		3,186.76			3,186.76	3,173.50
Other items (inc. guest speakers)		53.82			53.82	1,591.51
New Manse Lease		12,000.00			12,000.00	12,000.00
Totals		60,713.58		13,699.30	74,412.88	66,554.02
5. Mission (External)						
Baptist Missionary Society						249.13
Home Mission						200.00
Open Door Exmouth						-
CAP						50.00
Others & Bible Society				980.00	980.00	1,105.19
Tithing		9,594.52			9,594.52	8,738.13
Totals		9,594.52		980.00	10,574.52	10,342.45
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£
6. Mission (Internal)						
Discretionary Expenses		25.00			25.00	-
Youth Work			28.56	313.90	342.46	797.37
Seniors						1,061.22
Community & Families				2,375.85	2,375.85	699.16
Other (Pastoral care/Growth groups)						11.00
Totals		25.00	28.56	2,689.75	2,743.31	2,568.75
7. Upkeep of church premises						
Consumables						8.69
Cleaning		80.30			80.30	804.54
Insurance		1,680.57			1,680.57	1,662.16
Light & heat		2,621.03			2,621.03	3,605.27
Repairs & Maintenance						908.60
Water rates		535.50			535.50	661.50
Equipment purchases		3,828.48		6,595.58	10,424.06	2,167.79
Health & Safety						140.61
Building Improvements/Building Works		1,454.13			1,454.13	6,715.26
Marcom Close Let Maintenance		653.01			653.01	715.28
Totals		10,853.02		6,595.58	17,448.60	17,389.70

Financial Accounts for Period 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021 - continued

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
8. Administration & ministry support					
Advertising/Publicity	144.00			144.00	144.00
Catering Expenses	490.45			490.45	348.60
Photocopier costs	682.97			682.97	662.55
Stationery	124.76		8.00	132.76	104.55
Subscriptions	1,311.08			1,311.08	1,393.86
Telephone/Broadband	982.36			982.36	1,030.11
Sundries	1,423.80		1,174.42	2,598.22	3,944.45
Training	205.00			205.00	4,071.00
Others : Bank charges/travel/postage/music	278.05		140.85	418.90	344.63
Totals	5,642.47		1,323.27	6,965.74	12,043.75

Statement of assets and liabilities at 30th September 2021						
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Cash funds						
CAF Bank - current a/c	7,988.51			7,988.51	11,162.26	
CAF Bank - Gold a/c	67,107.82	8,103.76	14,071.63	89,283.21	52,406.19	
CAF Bank - Gold BDF			56,002.65	56,002.65	94,590.27	
United Trust Bank Charity 1yr notice a/c		45,691.98	11,549.07	57,241.05	56,326.25	
BUC General Account			87,383.26	87,383.26	86,189.63	
UTB 2 yr Charity Bond			88,178.48	88,178.48	86,572.50	
BU 1 Yr4 fixed account			45,004.25	45,004.25	-	
Petty cash	43.76			43.76	43.76	
Sub Total	75,140.09	53,795.74	302,189.34	431,125.17	387,290.86	
Assets retained for charity's own use						
Church premises, Churchill Road, Exmouth	1,105,000.00			1,105,000.00	1,015,000.00	
Former Manse 1 Marcom Close, Exmouth	226,640.00			226,640.00	215,848.00	
Church Fixtures & fittings	105,000.00			105,000.00	105,000.00	
Sub Total	1,436,640.00			1,436,640.00	1,335,848.00	
Assets for 20/21 received beyond year-end						
HMRC Gift Aid	3,485.25		625.50	4,110.75	3,492.00	
Sub Total	3,485.25		625.50	4,110.75	3,492.00	
Total Assets	2,951,905.34	53,795.74	302,814.84	1,871,875.92	1,726,630.86	
Liabilities						
Independent Examiner fees (Bush & Co)	660.00			660.00	630.00	
BU Pension fund: (Employer liability) estimated	20,200.00			20,200.00	22,400.00	
Liabilities for 20/21 due beyond year-end						
BU Pension fund: increase for BG not taken			3.90	3.90		
Outstanding Sprague & Ouseley invoice for work undertaken	4,000.00			4,000.00		
Total Liabilities	24,860.00		3.90	24,863.90	23,030.00	
Total Assets less Liabilities	2,927,045.34	53,795.74	302,810.94	1,847,012.02	1,703,600.86	

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature:  Print Name: Reverend S A Atkinson
(Chairman)

Signature:  Print Name: Miss P G Hill
(Administrator)

Appendix 1***Definition of Restricted and Designated Funds*****Restricted funds**

These are funds that can only be used for particular, restricted, purposes within the Church's objectives and ministries.

Designated funds

These are funds designated by the Trustees for specified purposes or projects.

Building Development Fund

These funds are for the preparation and eventual building of a new Brixington Church and Community Hub.

Outreach and Community Mission Funds

Money donated for the sole purpose of mission and community outreach projects in Exmouth and specifically in the Brixington Community.

Youth and Children's Funds

This is where grant monies, donations and subscriptions from weekly activities are placed to purchase items and equipment to support the young people's work and related activities.

Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) and Home Mission Funds (HMF)

Monies are held in these funds pending donations to the BMS and HMF solely for their respective use.