

HARROGATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140798

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2011-03-11

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

Contact

Address Harrogate Baptist Church
Victoria Avenue
Harrogate
HG1 5RD

Phone 01423530514

Website www.harrogatebaptistchurch.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: We are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at HBC and to support people to live out their faith. This is done through Sunday services, worship and prayer, small groups, communion, fellowship, preaching and teaching as well as the provision of pastoral care for people within the church and community and mission within the community and throughout the world.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- North Yorkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£103,099	£87,170	-	-
2024-09-30	£87,358	£84,581	-	-
2023-09-30	£72,726	£87,235	-	-
2022-09-30	£70,557	£68,731	-	-
2021-09-30	£71,513	£60,170	-	-
2020-09-30	£85,781	£80,495	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANN CHESWORTH	Chair	2016-11-29
Akufuna Hicks		2022-10-26
Andrew Mark Pearce		2025-10-22
Ann Kayes		2022-10-26
Christopher Bishop		2022-10-26
Elizabeth Getgood		2018-11-27
Elizabeth Turner		2022-01-25
Jack Liuta		2025-12-07
Sherida Humberstone		2022-01-25

HARROGATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140798

Accounts

Harrogate Baptist Church Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2024 - 2025 (1st October 2024 - 30th September 2025)

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Aims and Purposes

The aims and purposes of Harrogate Baptist Church are encompassed in our mission statement:

“Living Faith, Bringing Hope, Sharing the Love of Jesus”

The Charity Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church (HBC) have the responsibility together with the rest of the church in the advancement of the Christian faith and the promotion of the whole mission of the Church - evangelistic, social, pastoral and ecumenical. The Charity Trustees are also responsible for facilitating the maintenance of the Church building and finances.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity Trustees are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and become part of the community and fellowship at HBC. Our services and worship put faith into practice through the centrality of Scripture, prayer, worship, sacrament and other activities outside of Sundays, seeking to make church and faith as accessible to as many people that live within our community as possible.

When planning our activities for the year, we as Charity Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance regarding the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable 'ordinary' people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith as part of our community through:

- Worship and prayer, small groups, communion, fellowship, preaching and teaching in order to develop knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people within the church and those living within the community;
- Mission within the community and throughout the world

To facilitate this work, we recognise that it is important to maintain the fabric of the Church.

Achievements and Performance

Summary

Looking back on 2024/25, we have been blessed by God's grace with lots of good things that have happened, including the appointment of our new administrator, Sandra and a significant reduction in our gas costs. But we've also had our fair share of building challenges, especially as we close the year. As we look back at what God has done and is doing, as well as looking to the future, we focus on Hebrews 10:23 which says 'let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promises' We give thanks for the promises that have already been fulfilled and keep trusting for the ones which God is already, and will be working out, in the year ahead.

Sunday worship

We have continued to grow. Our average attendance over the year was 90, an increase of almost 12% from last year's average attendance. Our best attended service was Easter Day, which was also a baptism service with 140 people closely followed by a baptism service in July, when 125 came along.

Most of our Christmas services saw a significant increase in numbers, except the Lunchtime Carols which only had a couple of extra people and the 'Light a candle' event, which didn't have many people, though the weather was bad, so it may have deterred people. We are trying the event again, bringing it forward to the last week in November to see if that makes it easier for people to come and remember a loved one at Christmas. As for Lunchtime Carols, we have left it long enough post Covid to be fairly certain that office workers who attended previously are now working from home and we are this year going to explore an alternative, namely 'Connection Carols' around the Christmas Tree or piano. This will hopefully draw in those who usually or sometimes attend our regular Connections, although we appreciate that others will miss the organ. We will see whether that has a better connection with people from our community.

We undertook a couple of outreach initiatives at Christmas this year, namely distribution of Candy Canes along with the meaning behind them telling the Christmas story. We gathered with other churches in the area singing carols and sharing Jesus in the town centre. Our Christingle service was also well attended and was a great way to connect with extended and new families.

As at 30th September 2025, HBC had 74 members, together with others who regularly attend the church. We've had 2 baptisms. We have had the joy of welcoming 9 new members. Sadly, 4 much loved members of our church died during the year – our oldest member Dorothy Waddell, Dorothy Allen, Pete Edwards and George Hardisty. A number of people within the congregation have also suffered family bereavements. We held two weddings during the year and a wedding blessing of Emmanuel and Mercy who married earlier in the year in Nigeria.

We have had the joy of welcoming 6 new babies into the fellowship this year and 3 dedications. We continue to be blessed by ethnic diversity, which has enriched the fellowship, although we were sad to lose two families who moved to Canada and Bath

during the year. We've appreciated the ministry of guest speakers – Roy Searle, Steve Allen, Leone Martin & Jack Liuta. We came together over a few shared lunches during the year.

Our sermon series this year started with John 15 and continued with our Advent series 'down to earth'. New Year saw a series from 1 Corinthians, followed by the book of Joshua before looking at Rest over the summer. We've just started a series on the Sermon on the Mount.

Other highlights during the year include our newcomer's welcome meal, updating our website, which Olivia undertook; starting services at Granby Care Home, and trialing a summer Light a Candle event.

Involvement in wider Baptist life

We continue to be involved with the Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA) through the work of our minister, Rev. Ann Chesworth who is employed part time as the Association's Legal and Trust Officer, and through her ongoing involvement with other Association and Baptist Union initiatives.

Working together with churches in Harrogate

Our minister still continues to be part of the planning team for Harrogate School of Theology and Mission and has also continued to attend the Harrogate Leaders Breakfasts. It was good to re-commence joint services with the other Avenue churches between Christmas and New Year and for our Maundy Thursday service. Some of our people also attended the worship service at the Cenotaph on Good Friday.

As we did last year, we again opened up our baptistry to a local church.

The Church Building

Rental of our hall continues to be good, which is great not only for the income but also because it's good for our building to be used to support wider community work. As previously mentioned, we have been so thankful for a reduced gas rate since December and we have been able to sign up for a further 2 years to an advantageous gas contract, which has enabled us to spend more of our giving on ministry and mission and also meant we didn't have to squeeze into the hall for our services in January and February.

We are particularly grateful to God and the congregation for the results of our gift month in May, which has enabled us to move forward with second part time ministry (more about that later) together with starting the installation of a much needed, but very expensive upgrade to our heating system. It's been a very long time coming but we are very thankful to have started. We are also grateful for the finances to enable us to install a second TV screen for use on a Sunday morning and a full upgrade of the bathroom at the manse.

We have however just discovered some dry rot in the church sanctuary. We were able to do some temporary repairs quickly so that a wedding could go ahead and worship continue in the sanctuary but this and potentially expensive work on our drains means that we anticipate needing to spend some money on our building in this coming year.

We had a very difficult and upsetting experience in May when we had two illegal campers on the grass at the side of church - it was difficult for the church and surrounding neighbours but we are grateful for the support of the Council and eventually the Police, which saw them leave mid-June.

Children and youth work

Our children and young people continue to be a source of rejoicing for us as a fellowship and still account for a significant 'slice' of our Sunday morning worship. We're grateful for the new people who have joined the Junior Church team and for those who regularly serve in this important ministry within our church – we've got a fab team! We appreciate that we will need to start thinking about a creche room to accommodate the new babies who have been born this year – what a fantastic 'problem' to have!

We also put a Youth Cell group in place in the autumn and the group of teenage girls have bonded well.

Renew HG1

Our adult Renew HG1 space has really flourished this year, with a good number of people crossing over into Sunday morning worship. Our minister also took the funeral service of one of our much loved Renew attendees, Ted - he had asked Ann to take the service at the church before he died. It's been particularly good that in April we opened a second Renew space that is running on Tuesday afternoons - from the beginning of Renew, we've always wanted to have a morning and afternoon session available. At the moment, we've mainly been getting people from the Monday morning session but we are focusing on making both sessions known within the wider community.

Our Renew co-ordinator Zoe was also part of the organising group for the first Kinder Harrogate Festival and we had a stall at the event. Our Renew HG1 YP has stabilised this year and the model is beginning to yield fruit, which is an answer to prayer. We're also grateful to have received some additional local funding, which will enable Zoe to continue to grow our YP space.

Pastoral Care and fellowship

Our monthly Connection group continue to enjoy meeting monthly on a Wednesday afternoon and we have now spread into the main hall so that we can safely accommodate everyone.

We continue to add new members to the HBC WhatsApp groups and it's a brilliant way for us to pray for and encourage each other. Again, some of our church attended Spring Harvest this year. Our minister continues to undertake regular visiting, particularly for those in hospital and care homes.

House-groups & Prayer

Housegroups continue to be an important part of our fellowship and again, we have been intentional about the prayer life of the church this year. Our quarterly prayer events have taken the shape of an Advent half night of prayer, a prayer walk in the summer and joining in the 24/7 Global Week of Prayer in September. For the Global Week of Prayer, we were encouraged by how many people signed up to commit to praying during an hour of the week

wherever they were. We were also blessed by a talk on prayer by Emily-Anne, who is currently at uni in Lancaster.

Leadership

The leadership team has remained stable and the Finance Team is now firmly established. We're grateful to each of them for the smooth running of the finances and the clear and well informed presentation of financial information to the church at our meetings.

Once again, a big thank you to all of our leaders for all their hard work and wisdom in guiding the church, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. We're also grateful to our church secretary and treasurer for the work they do behind the scenes.

Mission and Evangelism

We have been able to undertake various mission support during the year including our Harvest appeal which supported Tools with a Mission and Caring for Life; Advent appeal Asha Kiran Hospital in India; our Lent Appeal which supported Sceptre School in Nigeria. Once again, we have tithed to both Home Mission and BMS World Mission.

The Future

Last but certainly not least, as we look towards the future, we are excited to be in conversation with a potential minister in training. We're in the early stages but it would be a significant answer to prayer if this person turns out to be the person who will fulfil God's promises to us in this important aspect of our life together. We continue to trust God's leading and faithfulness, and with much prayer.

Volunteers

We are again hugely grateful for all that people have contributed in different ways to the life of our church over this last year, in both using their gifts as well as financially. Once again, as a leadership team, we're so grateful for our church family and for the sense of unity amongst us.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of deacons is set out in the Church Constitution. At the church, the membership of the Charity Trustees consists of our minister and deacons elected by members of the church at our AGM. The Charity Trustees are responsible for making recommendations to the church but ultimately, it is the decision of the church meeting which makes decisions on all matters.

The Charity Trustees met 10 times during the year. Given the wide responsibilities within the church, others deal with particular aspects of church life but all are ultimately responsible to the Charity Trustees.

Administration information

Harrogate Baptist Church is situated in Harrogate and is part of the Yorkshire Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The correspondence address is Harrogate Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5AL.

The church is registered as a charity, 1140798.

Charity Trustees who served during the year are:

Minister: Rev. Ann Chesworth

Church Secretary: Mrs Liz Getgood

Treasurer: Mr Steve Turner

Deacon: Mr Chris Bishop

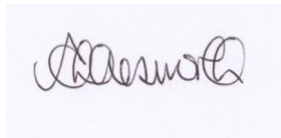
Deacon: Mrs Akufuna Hicks

Deacon: Mrs Ann Kayes

Deacon: Mrs Sherry Humberstone

Deacon: Mrs Liz Turner

Approved by the Charity Trustees on 4th March 2026 and signed on their behalf by the Rev. Ann Chesworth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Chesworth', is centered within a light purple rectangular box.

Rev. Ann Chesworth

Harrogate Baptist Church
Financial statements for the year ending 30th September 2025

Basis of preparation

As the annual church income is less than £250,000 the financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis and in accordance with s133 Charities Act 2011.

The majority of the church transactions are recorded in the general bank account, though there is also in use other accounts, in which 'Restricted Funds' and 'Designated funds' are normally held and recorded. Restricted funds refer to those funds which cannot be used for general purposes and relate to transactions which are for a specific purpose; 'Designated funds' refer to those transactions which may be pledged for a specific church activity though the church is at liberty to apply them for its general purposes if it so determines.

Summary report

A detailed analysis is provided, as attached. In summary, excluding Restricted Funds, the overall income for the year was £103,099 (£87,358 for 2024) and total expenditure for the year was £87,170 (£84,581 for 2024). Regular giving remained consistent; the increased income is in respect of the generous response from the congregation to a gift month we had in May for one-off gifts towards upgrading our worn-out heating system and increasing monthly giving towards a minister in training. The expenditure for the heating system will appear in the next financial year, as will costs for a minister in training. We have also hugely benefited from locking into a gas contract, which has significantly reduced our gas costs over this financial year. We were able to maintain mission giving.

For the year ending 30th September 2025, excluding Restricted Funds, overall income exceeded expenditure by £15,930 (£2777 in 2024).


Gift aided tax relief monies from HMRC totalled £13,152 for the year, a combination of our main Gift Aid claim and Small Donations claim.

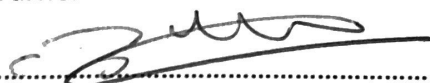
The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee The Yorkshire Baptist Association:

- Church premises at Victoria Avenue, Harrogate valued in the accounts at £9000 based on a cost value
- Church manse valued in the accounts at £5150 based on a cost value.

Approval by the Church Trustees

We approve the accounts held on behalf of Harrogate Baptist Church


..... Treasurer 14 - 3 - 26 Date
Steve Turner


..... Trustee 14 - 3 - 26 Date
Chris Bishop

**Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church
On the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2025**

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed by the Examiner  Date 14/03/26

Name: James Maye
ACMA Dip BA

Address: 22 Woodlands Green, Harrogate HG2 8QD

Balance Sheet

Harrogate Baptist Church

As at 30 September 2025

Cash Basis

30 SEPT 2025 30 SEPT 2024

Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

Manse (historic cost)	5,150	5,150
Church Building (historic cost)	9,000	9,000
Total Tangible Assets	14,150	14,150
Total Fixed Assets	14,150	14,150

Current Assets

Cash at bank and in hand

Harrogate Baptist Church Building Fund	5,771	5,697
Virgin Money Harrogate Current Account	6,323	10,735
BUC Deposit Account Building Fund	47,483	41,358
Skipton Building Society Deposit Account	82,633	65,000
BUC Deposit Account General Reserves	12,681	-
Total Cash at bank and in hand	154,890	122,791

Total Current Assets

154,890 122,791

Net Current Assets (Liabilities)

154,890 122,791

Total Assets less Current Liabilities

169,040 136,941

Net Assets

169,040 136,941

Capital and Reserves

Unrestricted Funds

General Funds	105,096	87,214
Total Unrestricted Funds	105,096	87,214

Restricted Funds

Building Fund - Restricted	47,097	47,097
Renew Adult Afternoon Session - Restricted	718	676
Renew Youth Project - Restricted	839	1,953
Special Appeals Restricted Fund	15,290	-
Total Restricted Funds	63,944	49,727

Total Capital and Reserves

169,040 136,941

High Level Income and Expenditure vs Budget

Harrogate Baptist Church

For the year ended 30 September 2025

Cash Basis

	2025	BUDGET	JUL-SEPT 2025	BUDGET FOR QTR	BUDGET FOR YEAR
Income					
1. Standing Orders	51,858.68	45,000.00	13,746.00	11,250.00	45,000.00
2. Loose Cash, Cheques, Card/Phone	3,841.77	4,000.00	683.93	1,000.00	4,000.00
3. Tax Refunds (Gift Aid and VAT)	13,914.53	13,000.00	-	-	13,000.00
4. Use Of Rooms	7,425.50	7,500.00	1,472.00	1,875.00	7,500.00
5. Other Donations	9,431.93	2,000.00	347.19	500.00	2,000.00
6. YBA	12,542.85	12,000.00	3,169.17	3,000.00	12,000.00
8. Interest	4,083.58	3,000.00	448.42	290.00	3,000.00
Total Income	103,098.84	86,500.00	19,866.71	17,915.00	86,500.00
Expenditure					
9. Ministry					
Employer's pension deficit costs	1.00	-	-	-	-
Manse council tax	2,129.80	2,500.00	654.00	840.00	2,500.00
Manse insurance	684.83	700.00	-	-	700.00
Manse water rates	208.13	300.00	58.21	75.00	300.00
Minister stipend (net payment)	23,513.76	23,760.00	5,919.36	6,000.00	23,760.00
Minister PAYE (employee tax and NICs)	4,384.19	1,560.00	2,292.79	390.00	1,560.00
Employer NIC (after Emp All applied)	-	3,600.00	-	900.00	3,600.00
Minister pension (employer/ee conts)	6,865.83	7,080.00	1,729.26	1,800.00	7,080.00
Total 9. Ministry	37,787.54	39,500.00	10,653.62	10,005.00	39,500.00
9a. Minister in training					
MiT expenses	959.11	-	-	-	-
Total 9a. Minister in training	959.11	-	-	-	-
10. Church Allocations/Mission					
HM/BMS	6,600.00	6,600.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	6,600.00
Mission activity	50.00	-	50.00	-	-
11. Premises maintenance					
11a. Gas	8,380.25	13,000.00	366.63	900.00	13,000.00
11b. Electricity	1,478.77	2,000.00	551.84	300.00	2,000.00
11c. Other maintenance					
Cleaner's wages	3,717.60	3,500.00	943.90	911.00	3,500.00
Cleaning materials	335.08	-	-	-	-
Fabric day-to-day/regular/repeat work/tests	2,251.01	2,000.00	1,383.56	500.00	2,000.00
Fabric major/irregular works	7,370.20	3,000.00	384.00	750.00	3,000.00
Insurance - church	4,702.57	5,500.00	-	-	5,500.00
Total 11. Premises maintenance	28,235.48	29,000.00	3,629.93	3,361.00	29,000.00
12. Local Church Costs and Admin					
Admin assistant salary	2,842.98	-	1,421.39	-	-

High Level Income and Expenditure vs Budget

	2025	BUDGET	JUL-SEPT 2025	BUDGET FOR QTR	BUDGET FOR YEAR
Breakfast church	490.11	500.00	66.98	112.00	500.00
Broadband charges	15.54	-	15.54	-	-
Finance fees and charges	62.50	100.00	-	-	100.00
Junior church	278.09	300.00	97.63	75.00	300.00
Music and Audio (General)	555.82	500.00	114.45	-	500.00
Postage	8.50	-	-	-	-
Printing and stationery	459.68	300.00	90.81	75.00	300.00
Renew (adult) expenses	2,553.44	2,600.00	580.60	650.00	2,600.00
Software subscriptions (ongoing)	213.69	400.00	25.20	102.00	400.00
Subscription - church membership	390.16	400.00	96.60	100.00	400.00
Sunday service expenses	634.10	700.00	39.00	100.00	700.00
Tech & Software - new items	3,518.67	-	3,448.68	-	-
Waste & recycling	421.01	400.00	89.05	102.00	400.00
Water rates - church	576.36	700.00	235.95	175.00	700.00
Website	514.72	600.00	94.68	150.00	600.00
Youth group	2.20	-	-	-	-
Total 12. Local Church Costs and Admin	13,537.57	7,500.00	6,416.56	1,641.00	7,500.00
Total Expenditure	87,169.70	82,600.00	22,250.11	16,507.00	82,600.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	15,929.14	3,900.00	(2,383.40)	1,408.00	3,900.00

Restricted income and expenditure

BMS birthday scheme

BMS Birthday Scheme donations rcvd	160.00	-	-	-	-
BMS Birthday Scheme monies paid away	(160.00)	-	-	-	-
Total BMS birthday scheme	-	-	-	-	-

Renew adult afternoon

Renew Adult pm session income - restricted	927.77	-	-	-	-
Renew Adult pm session expenses - restricted	(886.42)	-	(332.86)	-	-
Total Renew adult afternoon	41.35	-	(332.86)	-	-

Renew Youth Project

Renew Youth Project income - restricted	3,030.00	-	3,000.00	-	-
Renew Youth Project expenditure - restricted	(2,191.12)	-	(208.00)	-	-
Total Renew Youth Project	838.88	-	2,792.00	-	-

Advent Appeal

Advent appeal donations received	1,040.00	-	-	-	-
Advent Appeal monies paid away	(1,040.00)	-	-	-	-
Total Advent Appeal	-	-	-	-	-

Lent Appeal

Lent Appeal donations received	515.00	-	-	-	-
Lent Appeal monies paid away	(515.00)	-	(515.00)	-	-
Total Lent Appeal	-	-	(515.00)	-	-

Special Appeals

High Level Income and Expenditure vs Budget

	2025	BUDGET	JUL-SEPT 2025	BUDGET FOR QTR	BUDGET FOR YEAR
Special appeals donations received (non gift aid)	769.00	-	90.00	-	-
Special appeals - monies paid away	(479.00)	-	-	-	-
Special appeals re a church cost (gift aidable) - restricted	15,000.00	-	4,700.00	-	-
Total Special Appeals	15,290.00	-	4,790.00	-	-

HARROGATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140798

Accounts

Harrogate Baptist Church Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2023 - 2024 (1st October 2023 - 30th September 2024)

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- Provision of pastoral care for people within the church and those living within the community;
- Mission within the community and throughout the world

To facilitate this work, we recognise that it is important to maintain the fabric of the Church.

Achievements and Performance

Summary

2023/24 has been a good year with some challenges along the way. Highlights include another baptism and growth of our Renew HG1 space and our Connections group. Challenges include ongoing high gas and electricity costs as well as trying to find a second part time minister. We are grateful to God for all the seasons of our church life, for seasons of blessings to encourage us; and challenges to refine us. Throughout all the seasons, we seek to keep our eyes focused on Jesus, the true vine; growing our trust in His Father, the great gardener so we might continue to bear fruit individually and as a church that will last.

Sunday worship

We have seen a small increase of new adults and young people joining us and a fuller church definitely aids worship and fellowship. Our average attendance over the year was 80, an increase of just over 7% from last year's attendance and an increase of 37% over the last two years. Our best attended service was Easter Day, with 129 people closely followed by our baptism service with 124 folk coming along.

Attendance at the Lunchtime Christmas carol service, Christingle, and Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight were all similar to the previous year. We have still not seen the lunchtime workers come back to the lunchtime service but the service seems to be attracting other demographics so we intend to continue with the service for the time being. Our Sunday morning Carols and Readings service was the best attended and this year we trialed a new initiative 'Light a Candle' with Full Circle Funeral Services – an opportunity extended to families to come and light a candle at Christmas in memory of a loved one. We will undertake this again and it was good to follow up this initiative with a Bereavement Workshop by Full Circle held in our hall in January. Some of our folk also embarked on the Shine a Light initiative, in the lead up to Christmas.

As at 30th September 2024, HBC had 69 members, together with others who regularly attend the church. We have had the joy of welcoming 2 new members. 4 members were removed who no longer attend and sadly, 2 much loved members of our church died during the year – our oldest male member David Brunton and the shock of losing Jill Oliver who died suddenly in November. We held two weddings during the year.

We continue to be blessed by ethnic diversity, which has enriched the fellowship and it was good to partake in the Yorkshire Baptist Association Inter-Ethnic conference. Once again, we have welcomed a number of guest speakers – Kez Robertson, Roy Searle, Alex Harris, Steve Allen (pulpit exchange), Naomi Fennell, Graham Ensor, and Sally Nelson. Our sermon series this year started with 1 Samuel and continued with Advent Word became Flesh. Mark's Gospel, then Romans Road, with our summer series Proverbs. We've just started a series looking in John 15 which will take us to Advent.

We came together over a BBQ following the baptism service held in September and it's been a joy to have our first full year of Breakfast Church since before the pandemic.

Other highlights include our pew welcome leaflets, welcome meals, a new Junior Church coordinator and new and existing people on the Junior Church rota. We're also grateful for the appointment of a new treasurer and finance team.

Our monthly Connections group continues to grow.

Involvement in wider Baptist life

We continue to be involved with the Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA) through the work of our minister, Rev. Ann Chesworth who is employed part time as the Association's Legal and Trust Officer, and through her ongoing involvement with other Association and Baptist Union initiatives. We have connected with three YBA conferences and workshops during the year - our minister attended a woman's workshop; our minister and four people from the congregation attended the Inter-ethnic conference and our minister plus two others benefitted from attending the YBA conference in Huddersfield this year. We are also engaging with Project Violet, which has identified ways to overcome obstacles for women in ministry.

We have also benefited from the YBA's Christmas Candy Cane and Easter Wildflowers seed outreach initiatives, joining with churches of all denominations locally and nationally.

Lastly, our minister attended Equality and Diversity training and one of our deacons attended the YBA Levels 2 and 3 safeguarding training.

Working together with churches in Harrogate

Our minister still continues to be part of the planning team for Harrogate School of Theology and Mission and has also continued to attend the Harrogate Leaders Breakfasts. It was good to re-commence joint services with the other Avenue churches between Christmas and New Year and for our Good Friday service. A number of people also attended the worship service at the Cenotaph on Good Friday.

It was a joy for a number of our folk to attend the ordination and induction service of the new pastor at St Paul's URC. We look forward to working with Joe. We also opened up our baptistry to a local church in the summer.

The Church Building

Rental of our hall continues to be good, which is great not only for the income it brings into the church but also because it's good for our building to be used to support wider community work. As well as the regular groups, we've had a new gamers group meet on a Thursday evening and a local opera singer uses the premises.

We've updated our quinquennial inspection report and had both a structural survey and one done on the drains. We also had a free energy assessment done in March and we're beginning to look at upgrading our old gas boilers. We're still benefitting from the newly installed TV screen for projecting words and multi-media on a Sunday and we've replaced some of the windows and upgraded the downstairs toilet (to include heating!) at the manse.

But one of the biggest challenges continues to be extortionate gas and electricity costs. This led us again this year to worshipping in the hall for January, February and most of March. This

has led to people sitting with and speaking to people outside normal circles of friends, although it's becoming a bit of a tight squeeze as our numbers increase and our children and young people have a smaller space too.

It's still on the agenda to engage a Building Maintenance Manager at some point.

Children and youth work

One of the ongoing joys for us as a fellowship is to see growth in our children and young people - they now account for a significant 'slice' of our Sunday morning worship. We've got one toddler in creche and two separate older groups, both with a good number of regular children and young people. We're grateful for a new Junior Church co-ordinator and both new and existing people who serve on the Junior Church rota.

We are hoping to put a Youth Cell group in place in the autumn; our previous one folded with most of the group going to university.

Part of our exploring part time minister focused on advertising for a children, youth and family's worker during the year. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful and the shape of part time ministry going forward and seeking God's will in this area of our church life continues to be a point of prayer.

Renew HG1

Adult Renew Monday morning has gone from strength to strength – two particular blessings are increased and consistent regulars with a steady flow of newbies (we've hit out numbers ceiling of around 20 people for some sessions). We've had a good cross over of people from Renew starting to engage with Sunday morning services even though not main focus of Renew. We were 3 years old in September. Our minister has made good connections and took the funeral service of the late husband of one of our Renew attendees; she now regularly comes to church. There's a strong Renew team in place, who work well together.

We've now explored opening a new session on Thursday afternoon and we've been promised some funding later in the year to kick start this new venture.

This year has also seen the launch of Renew HG1 YP, a new initiative which has been hard going! The good news is we received £7500 funding to set the venture up and through the project, we've been able to engage both primary and secondary schools in the area. We've also got a great team in place. But it's been trial and error along the way. We started off seeking to operate the sessions on a renewal basis, but this has proved too difficult and we're now trialing just allowing YP to turn up. Numbers remain disappointingly low - we aren't looking for lots of young people but we do need a core to make it work well. This continues to be a focus of our ongoing prayers.

Our Renew spaces have become an important part of our church life and a great means of reaching out to the wider community to bring hope and share the love of Jesus.

Pastoral Care and fellowship

Our monthly Connection group, which meets on a Wednesday afternoon for tea and cake continues to flourish and this has been one of the blessings of this year. It's particularly encouraging that it is beginning to attract people from outside of our Sunday fellowship and our hope is that this will continue.

Part of welcoming new people to the fellowship is to hold a welcome meal and we're grateful for a new couple to the church who have opened up their home to host such meals. A further welcome meal was held at the manse earlier in the year. The Community Nite which we held in September was poorly attended but enjoyed by those who came. The HBC WhatsApp group, started in lockdown, continues to be a great way to share prayer requests and news generally and we're new people have been added to the group this year. Some of our church attended Spring Harvest this year

Our minister continues to undertake regular visiting, particularly for those in care homes and those unable to attend church on a Sunday.

House-groups & Prayer

Housegroups continue to be an important part of our fellowship. It would be good to have more of the fellowship attending but those who do attend benefit greatly. We were blessed during the year that Ken Benjamin from the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity attended one of our groups as a follow up on the 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' course that the housegroup had just finished.

We have been more intentional about the prayer life of the church this year, and it's been good to discover new and creative ways of praying together through quarterly prayer events. These have included an Advent prayer space, Open Doors prayer evening and a prayer walk in the summer. We are hoping to build on these in the coming year. We have also been blessed by two Praise & Prayer evenings organised and led by 2 of our YP.

Leadership

There have been no changes to the leadership team except that our treasurer has finally been able to step down after a long time of wanting to put the job down. We marked her stepping down with a small gift to say thank you for a number of years of faithful service. It's been a real answer to prayer that Steve Turner has stepped up to be the treasurer and we're also grateful for others who have also stepped up to create the new finance team now in place. It's working well now even though there have been some difficulties changing the banking side of things.

Once again, a big thank you to all of our leaders for all their hard work and wisdom in guiding the church, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Mission and Evangelism

We have been able to undertake various mission support during the year including our Harvest appeal supported local Foodbank; Advent appeal half of which went to Harrogate Homeless Christmas Meal project and other half to Christian Aid Gaza appeal; with our Lent appeal supporting Kreativitiy ministering in Ukraine. Once again, we have tithed to both Home Mission and BMS World Mission.

Closer to home we have undertaken Light a Candle service and some of our folk engaged in the Shine a Light initiative at Christmas, going out on the streets to share Jesus with people passing by.

The Future

We have continued with the following 7 targets we set in 2023 with appropriate updates:

- a **priority of prayer**. This has been done through Prayer Events through the year.
- the **appointment of a part-time children and young people's worker**. To date, we have struggled to find someone to undertake the role and we have explored other options including a Minister in Training to no avail. We are now focused on searching for a part time minister but this remains a significant prayer focus as we move forward.
- paid **building maintenance/development co-ordinator**. This has not been progressed to date.
- definitive **discipleship** focus. This needs to be carried forward.
- explore the possibility of a **regular meet up (outside of a Sunday morning) for those attending HBC from different cultural backgrounds**. The YBA Inter-Ethnic conference has been a good start of the conversation.
- significant **Financial review** including the appointment of a new treasurer and increase of the financial team. Completed
- **Renew HG1 YP** space. Good work in progress - see above.

Volunteers

We are always grateful for the way that people support the ministry and mission of the church, using their gifts in all sorts of different ways. It has been a joy to journey together, serving and encouraging each other and seeing God at work. As a leadership team, we are so grateful once again for our church family.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of deacons is set out in the Church Constitution. At the church, the membership of the Charity Trustees consists of our minister and deacons elected by members of the church at our AGM. The Charity Trustees are responsible for making recommendations to the church but ultimately, it is the decision of the church meeting which makes decisions on all matters.

The Charity Trustees met 10 times during the year. Given the wide responsibilities within the church, others deal with particular aspects of church life but all are ultimately responsible to the Charity Trustees.

Administration information

Harrogate Baptist Church is situated in Harrogate and is part of the Yorkshire Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The correspondence address is Harrogate Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5AL.

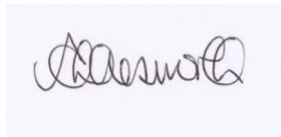
The church is registered as a charity, 1140798.

Charity Trustees who served during the year are:

Minister: Rev. Ann Chesworth
Church Secretary: Mrs Liz Getgood
Treasurer: Mr Steve Turner

Deacon: Mr Chris Bishop
Deacon: Mrs Akufuna Hicks
Deacon: Mrs Ann Kayes
Deacon: Mrs Sherry Humberstone
Deacon: Mrs Liz Turner

Approved by the Charity Trustees on 5th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Rev. Ann Chesworth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Chesworth', is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

Rev. Ann Chesworth

Harrogate Baptist Church
Financial statements for the year ending 30th September 2024

Basis of preparation

As the annual church income is less than £250,000 the financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis and in accordance with s133 Charities Act 2011.

The majority of the church transactions are recorded in the general bank account, though there is also in use other accounts, in which 'Restricted Funds' and 'Designated funds' are normally held and recorded. Restricted funds refer to those funds which cannot be used for general purposes and relate to transactions which are for a specific purpose; 'Designated funds' refer to those transactions which may be pledged for a specific church activity though the church is at liberty to apply them for its general purposes if it so determines.

Summary report

A detailed analysis is provided, as attached. In summary, excluding Restricted Funds, the overall income for the year was £87,358 (£72,726 for 2023) and total expenditure for the year was £84,581 (£87,235 for 2023). Standing orders well exceeded our forecast predominantly due to new people to the fellowship and nearly all have signed up for Gift Aid. Room hire also exceeded our forecast. Gas costs once again have rocketed this year and we undertook some upgrading work on the manse, which we were able to meet from income rather than from our savings. We also had three surveys/inspections carried out. We were able to maintain mission giving.

For the year ending 30th September 2024, excluding Restricted Funds, overall income exceeded expenditure by £2,777 (£14,508 in deficit for 2023).

Gift aided tax relief monies from HMRC totalled £5,438 but we have only claimed 6 months this year (from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023) instead of 12 months, in order to lay the foundation to bring our claim period in line with tax regulations (which should reflect our financial year). We also submitted a Small Donations Scheme Gift Aid claim for the loose collection monies for the tax year 22/23. Next year, we will submit a further claim for main Gift Aid which will be for a full 12 months, together with a Small Donations claim.

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee The Yorkshire Baptist Association:

- Church premises at Victoria Avenue, Harrogate valued in the accounts at £9000 based on a cost value
- Church manse valued in the accounts at £5150 based on a cost value.

Approval by the Church Trustees

We approve the accounts held on behalf of Harrogate Baptist Church

 Treasurer 3-6-25 Date

Steve Turner

 Trustee 3-6-25 Date

Chris Bishop

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church

On the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2024

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed by or on behalf of the Examiner

Date 5/6/25

Name: James Maye
ACMA Dip BA



Address: 22 Woodlands Green, Harrogate HG2 8QD

Income and Expenditure v previous full year

Harrogate Baptist Church

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Cash Basis

	2024	2023
General Fund		
Income		
1. Standing Orders	49,467.00	36,056.22
2. Loose Cash and Cheques	4,878.09	5,166.12
3. Tax Refunds (Gift Aid and VAT)	5,438.04	8,277.25
4. Use Of Rooms	7,569.00	7,458.17
5. Other Donations	4,168.64	3,070.00
6. YBA	11,929.77	11,100.96
7 Grants	400.00	-
8. Interest	3,507.03	1,597.49
Total Income	87,357.57	72,726.21
Expenditure		
9. Ministry		
Employer's pension deficit costs	12.00	12.00
Employer NIC	2,575.14	-
Manse council tax	2,023.22	1,951.37
Manse insurance	543.28	395.08
Manse water rates	190.45	192.51
Minister NIC	1,108.40	2,235.59
Minister PAYE	-	2,369.20
Minister pension	6,588.18	6,067.44
Minister stipend	24,378.07	21,140.01
Total 9. Ministry	37,418.74	34,363.20
9a. Assistant Minister Costs	-	10,195.94
10. Church Allocations/Mission		
BMS donations - by church monthly	3,000.00	3,000.00
HMF donations - by church monthly	3,000.00	3,000.00
Church top up to appeals	28.90	-
Other donations	-	50.00
Local mission donations	-	108.53
Total 10. Church Allocations/Mission	6,028.90	6,158.53
Premises maintenance		
11a. Gas	13,008.38	12,635.91
11b. Electricity	1,554.01	2,359.99
11c. Other Maintenance		
Cleaner's PAYE	-	106.80
Cleaner's wages	3,359.52	3,035.92
Cleaning materials	148.09	155.66
Fabric day-to-day/regular/repeat work/tests	1,856.91	1,575.16

	2024	2023
Fabric major/irregular works	8,664.78	-
Insurance - church	4,407.69	4,723.91
12. Local Church Costs and Admin		
Breakfast church	381.40	348.62
Finance fees and charges	125.50	-
Junior church	135.45	-
Miscellaneous	-	19.00
Music and Audio (General)	417.28	1,129.71
Printing and stationery	203.78	70.48
Renew (adult) expenses	2,484.58	2,616.85
Seasonal Service Expenses	-	114.47
Software subscriptions (ongoing)	423.00	45.00
Subscription - church membership	389.97	355.93
Sunday service expenses	1,942.14	181.00
Tech & Software - new items	-	5,140.64
Waste & recycling	365.74	381.45
Water rates - church	675.30	620.22
Website	589.74	741.29
Youth group	-	159.00
Total 12. Local Church Costs and Admin	8,133.88	11,923.66
Total Expenditure	84,580.90	87,234.68
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	2,776.67	(14,508.47)
Restricted Funds		
BMS Birthday Scheme		
BMS Birthday Scheme donations rcvd	415.00	500.00
BMS Birthday Scheme monies paid away	(415.00)	(500.00)
Total BMS Birthday Scheme	-	-
Renew Adult		
Renew Adult pm session income - restricted	(676.48)	-
Total Renew Adult	(676.48)	-
Renew Youth Project		
Renew Youth Project income - restricted	-	7,498.00
Renew Youth Project expenditure - restricted	(3,597.68)	(1,947.20)
Total Renew Youth Project	(3,597.68)	5,550.80
Advent Appeal		
Advent appeal donations received	358.38	-
Advent Appeal monies paid away	(358.38)	-
Total Advent Appeal	-	-
Lent Appeal		
Lent Appeal donations received	452.67	-

	2024	2023
Lent Appeal monies paid away	(452.67)	-
Total Lent Appeal	-	-

Balance Sheet

Harrogate Baptist Church

As at 30 September 2024

Cash Basis

	30 SEPT 2024	30 SEPT 2023
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Manse (historic cost)	5,150	5,150
Church Building (historic cost)	9,000	9,000
Total Tangible Assets	14,150	14,150
Total Fixed Assets	14,150	14,150
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Harrogate Baptist Church Building Fund	5,697	5,621
Virgin Money Harrogate Current Account	10,735	30,947
BUC Deposit Account Building Fund	41,358	41,368
Skipton Building Society Deposit Account	65,000	45,000
Total Cash at bank and in hand	122,791	122,936
Total Current Assets	122,791	122,936
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	122,791	122,936
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	136,941	137,086
Net Assets	136,941	137,086
Capital and Reserves		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Funds	87,214	84,437
Total Unrestricted Funds	87,214	84,437
Restricted Funds		
Building Fund - Restricted	47,097	47,097
Renew Adult Afternoon Session - Restricted	676	-
Renew Youth Project - Restricted	1,953	5,551
Total Restricted Funds	49,727	52,648
Total Capital and Reserves	136,941	137,086

HARROGATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140798

Accounts

Harrogate Baptist Church Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 - 2023 (1st October 2022 - 30th September 2023)

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Aims and Purposes

The aims and purposes of Harrogate Baptist Church are encompassed in our mission statement:

“Living Faith, Bringing Hope, Sharing the Love of Jesus”

The Charity Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church (HBC) have the responsibility together with the rest of the church in the advancement of the Christian faith and the promotion of the whole mission of the Church - evangelistic, social, pastoral and ecumenical. The Charity Trustees are also responsible for facilitating the maintenance of the Church building and finances.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity Trustees are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and become part of the community and fellowship at HBC. Our services and worship put faith into practice through the centrality of Scripture, prayer, worship, sacrament and other activities outside of Sundays, seeking to make church and faith as accessible to as many people that live within our community as possible.

When planning our activities for the year, we as Charity Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance regarding the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable 'ordinary' people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith as part of our community through:

- Worship and prayer, small groups, communion, fellowship, preaching and teaching in order to develop knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people within the church and those living within the community;
- Mission within the community and throughout the world

To facilitate this work, we recognise that it is important to maintain the fabric of the Church.

Achievements and Performance

Summary

Whilst there have been a few areas of church life where we are still feeling the tail end of the lifting of restrictions following Covid, and we have been challenged by high utility costs, this year has definitely been a year of 'calm' following the last few years of uncertainty and fluctuation but also a year of tangible blessings and growth. At a time when we know so many churches are still struggling, we are truly grateful to God for both the calm and the growth!

We are grateful for all of God's blessing and for all He has done, in us and through us. As we move forward, 'we look to the Lord and His strength, seeking His face always (1 Chronicles 16:11).

Sunday worship and prayer

This year is the first year since Covid where we've had all in-person services and it's been on a Sunday morning when many of the blessings of the year have been seen – we've had 5 baptisms during the year (after having none since 2015), we have seen further increases in numbers on a Sunday morning and ongoing corresponding growth within our Junior Church. It's been great to restart Breakfast Church, the last aspect of church life to return following Covid.

It was also good to have Dan Brown minister amongst us over this last year following our advertising for a one-year part time appointment. He worked diligently and faithfully in different areas of church life, particularly developing and growing our children and young people. We are grateful for his ministry amongst us.

Our Christmas services saw some changes in numbers, most noticeably that the Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight service wasn't so well attended as previous years and our lunchtime carol service only saw a modest increase. Pre Covid, the lunchtime service attracted office workers so it may be that more workers will be working from home going forward so numbers at this service will take a while to build back up. It was our Christmas Day service this year which was the best attended. Our average attendance over the year was 74, an increase of almost 30% from last year's attendance; with the best attended service being our Easter Day Baptism, with 139 folk coming along. All of our baptism services have seen good attendance. During the year, it has been good to offer an Exploring Faith course and to establish a new housegroup.

In terms of Sunday worship, whilst we have a projector and screen on one side of the church, we were able to purchase a new TV screen to mount on the wall for the other side of the church. Not only does this make it easier for people to see words when singing, it is a sharper picture with better colours so it has definitely enhanced our worship. This is particularly so for visuals, videos and when we projected the baptisms onto the screens. We are also grateful for a sizeable donation from one of our members to enable us to purchase a newer computer, to run the software for Sunday worship.

Our sermon series this year started with '10 questions Jesus asked', and continued with our Advent series around peace, hope, love and joy; 3 images of the Church in the New Testament, Growing in Confidence, and Ephesians, with our summer series reflecting on meaningful bible verses chosen by members of the congregation. We've just started a series looking at faithfulness and the Old Testament character of Samuel.

As at 30th September 2023, HBC had 73 members, together with others who regularly attend the church. We have had the joy of welcoming 3 new members but sadly, one member of our congregation, Judith Ratcliffe died during the year. It was great to welcome so many family and friends of the 2 children we dedicated this year. We continue to see increased cultural diversity, which has enriched the fellowship and once again we have been blessed to welcome guest speakers over the year – Roy Searle, Nike Adebajo, Alex Harris, and Steve Allen. We have come together over shared lunches, (one of which included a beautiful array of African dishes), the Coronation weekend, when we had a special service and community BBQ and the Praise & Prayer evening organised and led by two of our young people. We are again hugely grateful for all that people contribute in different ways to the life of our church.

[Involvement in wider Baptist life](#)

We continue to be involved with the Yorkshire Baptist Association (YBA) through the work of our minister, Rev. Ann Chesworth who is employed part time as the Association's Legal and Trust Officer, and through her ongoing involvement with other Association and Baptist Union initiatives.

Our minister, and two of our deacons benefitted from attending the YBA conference in Huddersfield this year.

[Working together with churches in Harrogate](#)

Sadly, a decision was taken during the year to discontinue Churches Together in Harrogate, mainly due to a lack of people to undertake key roles. We are grateful for all that has been achieved by CTH over the years. Our minister still continues to be part of the planning team for Harrogate School of Theology and Mission and has also started to attend the Harrogate Leaders Breakfasts. It was good to recommence joint services with the other Avenue churches between Christmas and New Year and for our Good Friday service.

[The Church Building](#)

David Abel stepped back as Building Maintenance Manager during the year. We are hugely indebted to David for almost 30 years of faithful service and many hundreds of hours spent keeping our building so well maintained – he leaves very big boots to fill!

During the autumn, we benefited from working with a group of master architecture students as part of the Yorkshire Baptist Association's Baptists Building Community initiative. Not only did they provide us with a high-level understanding of our town and the community around us, but they also provided us with some creative ideas and outlines about how we might develop our building for greater community use in the future.

Albeit with different groups, rental of our hall picked up this year and we now have a range of groups using our building during the week, which is great not only for the income but also

because it's good for our building to be used to support wider community work. But one of the biggest challenges without question this year has been extortionate gas and electricity costs. This led to us worshipping in the hall for January and February, which people adapted to well and many actually enjoyed. It also meant we were able to take our coats off for worship in winter months – unheard of in HBC! This is something we will probably repeat next year, particularly as gas prices remain high.

Children and youth work

As mentioned above, our years of praying for more children and young people has been answered as we have seen an increase in the number coming along on a Sunday and engaging in the week. Whilst our Messy Church services served us well during and emerging from lockdown, a move back to our monthly Breakfast Church meant that we decided to discontinue our Messy Church Sundays.

Renew HG1

We started our Renew HG1 Monday morning wellbeing space in September 2022, supporting our community as we emerged out of lockdown. Zoe Bishop was appointed as our Communications & Partnerships Co-Ordinator in February 2022 as and has done a fantastic job at enabling the sessions to flourish, attracting new people, and making good connections in the wider community. Attendance at the Renew HG1 Open Day in May was particularly encouraging, with a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Our Renew space has become an important part of our church life and a great means of reaching out to the wider community to bring hope and share the love of Jesus.

Some of our Renew team undertook some free mental health first aid training during the year.

Pastoral Care and fellowship

Being able to physically connect again, whether pastoral visits (particularly those in care homes) and being able to recommence our after Sunday service fellowship over tea and coffee has been one of the highlights of this year – there is nothing like being able to see people face to face and it enables those who are housebound and in care homes to remember that they are still a valuable part of our fellowship.

Our monthly Connection group continues to be a popular place for people to meet over homemade cake and tea. Hopefully it will continue to flourish over the coming year.

The HBC WhatsApp group was introduced as a way to keep people together during lockdown but it has proved to be a great way to encourage and support people that we have kept it in place and adding new people to the group along the way.

House-groups & Prayer

It's also been good for our housegroups to start up again, meeting in homes for bible study, prayer and sharing. They continue to be an important part of our fellowship and those who attend benefit greatly. The youth cell group continues and was developed by Dan; it engaged 5 YP, meeting weekly at the manse for bible study and a meal.

Despite the weather not being great, we managed a prayer walk in July around the town praying for various aspects of our wider community and finishing with refreshments at the manse. We also enjoyed an interactive prayer day in September at the home of a couple in the church who live in one of the villages outside Ripon. It was been good to discover new and creative ways of praying together and we want to expand this in the year ahead.

Leadership

It was great to welcome 3 new deacons to the leadership team as Kathy Lewis and Nigel Lister stood down after faithfully serving with the leaders especially throughout Covid. The new team has gelled together really well, and done a great job at navigating the ups and downs of church life. It was also good that Liz Getgood was elected as Church Secretary from October this year. Once again, a big thank you to our leaders for all their hard work and wisdom in guiding the church, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

Mission and Evangelism

We have been able to undertake various mission support during the year including our Advent appeal together with other Harrogate churches providing hot water bottles and flasks for the homeless and those using foodbanks; we undertook a special collection to support our brothers and sisters in Ukraine at the start of the war and our lent appeal supported those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey via Samaritan's Purse. Once again, we have tithed to both Home Mission and BMS World Mission.

The Future

It's been helpful part way through this year to set some targets to focus on for 2023 and 2024. There are 7 in all, as follows:

- a priority of prayer;
- the appointment of a part-time children and young people's worker. To date, we are struggling to find someone to undertake the role and this remains a significant prayer focus as we move forward;
- paid building maintenance/development co-ordinator;
- definitive discipleship focus;
- explore the possibility of a regular meet up for those attending HBC from different cultural backgrounds;
- significant financial review including the appointment of a new treasurer and increase of the financial team;
- Renew HG1 YP space. Given the impact of our Renew HG1 space, we have received some external funding to pilot a similar space for young people. Working on a referral basis and partnering with schools and other youth mental health organisations, we are grateful for the doors that God has already opened, including provision of a great team and trust that we will begin to see some referrals soon for this potentially exciting new project.

Volunteers

We are always grateful for the way that people support the ministry and mission of the church, using their gifts in all sorts of different ways. It has been a joy to journey together, serving and encouraging each other and seeing God at work. As a leadership team, we are so grateful once again for our church family.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of deacons is set out in the Church Constitution. At the church, the membership of the Charity Trustees consists of our minister and deacons elected by members of the church at our AGM. The Charity Trustees are responsible for making recommendations to the church but ultimately, it is the decision of the church meeting which makes decisions on all matters.

The Charity Trustees met 11 times during the year. Given the wide responsibilities within the church, others deal with particular aspects of church life but all are ultimately responsible to the Charity Trustees.

Administration information

Harrogate Baptist Church is situated in Harrogate and is part of the Yorkshire Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The correspondence address is Harrogate Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5AL.

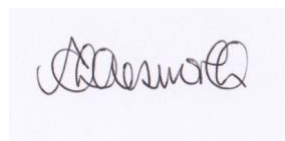
The church is registered as a charity, 1140798.

Charity Trustees who served during the year are:

Minister: Rev. Ann Chesworth
Church Secretary: Mrs Liz Getgood
Treasurer: Mrs Lindsay Lansdall

Deacon: Mr Chris Bishop
Deacon: Mrs Akufuna Hicks
Deacon: Mrs Ann Kayes
Deacon: Mrs Sherry Humberstone
Deacon: Mrs Liz Turner

Approved by the Charity Trustees on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Rev. Ann Chesworth.



Rev. Ann Chesworth

Harrogate Baptist Church

Financial statements for the year ending 30th September 2023

Basis of preparation

As the annual church income is less than £250,000 the financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis and in accordance with s133 Charities Act 2011.

The majority of the church transactions are recorded in the general bank account, though there is also in use other accounts, in which 'Restricted Funds' and 'Designated funds' are normally held and recorded. Restricted funds refer to those funds which cannot be used for general purposes and relate to transactions which are for a specific purpose; 'Designated funds' refer to those transactions which may be pledged for a specific church activity though the church is at liberty to apply them for its general purposes, if it so determines.

Summary report

A detailed analysis is provided, as attached. In summary, the overall income for the year was £72,726.21 (£69,400.13 for 2022) and total expenditure for the year was £87,234.68 (£67,444.07 for 2022). There was a small increase in giving, we closed our CCLA funds in this financial year which provided further funds, our interest rates are yielding better returns and room hire has increased to almost £7500. But utility and insurance costs remain stubbornly high, and we had the additional planned expenditure of a 2nd worker costing just over £10,000. We also had some capital expenditure of installing a screen in the sanctuary, a new microphone and computer. We were able to maintain mission giving.

For the year ending 30th September 2023, overall expenditure exceeded income by £14,508.47 (£1,956.06 surplus for 2022).

Gift aided tax relief monies from HMRC totalled £8277.25.

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee The Yorkshire Baptist Association:

- Church premises at Victoria Avenue, Harrogate valued in the accounts at £9000 based on a cost value
- Church manse valued in the accounts at £5150 based on a cost value.

Pension debt

In June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. Recovery contributions reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

Approval by the Church Trustees

We approve the accounts held on behalf of Harrogate Baptist Church


..... Treasurer 25/7/24 Date
Lindsay Lansdall


..... Trustee 30/7/24 Date
Nigel Lister

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church

On the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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.

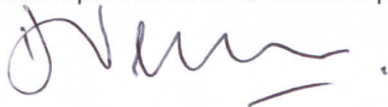
Independent Examiner's statement

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

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

In carrying out my examination I noted a lapse in payroll processes, where pension contributions have not been put through correctly. You have reviewed this and will ensure that this is amended going forward and will consider how to deal with the historic consequences of the lapse identified. I am satisfied however that there have been no underpayments to the BU Pension Scheme, and also that HMRC have not been underpaid.

I confirm there are no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed:

Date: 31 July 2024

Name: David Nelson

Address: 4 Station View, Church Fenton, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. LS24 9QY

Income and Expenditure v previous full year

Harrogate Baptist Church

For the year ended 30 September 2023

Cash Basis

	2023	2022
General Fund		
Income		
1. Standing Orders	36,056.22	33,864.00
2. Loose Cash and Cheques	5,166.12	4,098.60
3. Tax Refunds (Gift Aid and VAT)	8,277.25	9,373.42
4. Use Of Rooms	7,458.17	4,816.00
5. Other Donations	3,070.00	4,421.20
6. YBA	11,100.96	12,306.77
7 Grants	-	405.00
8. Interest	1,597.49	115.14
Total Income	72,726.21	69,400.13
Expenditure		
9. Ministry		
Employer's pension deficit costs	12.00	3,354.86
Manse council tax	1,951.37	1,878.61
Manse insurance	395.08	359.84
Manse water rates	192.51	178.54
Minister NIC	2,235.59	1,914.62
Minister PAYE	2,369.20	1,509.94
Minister pension	6,067.44	5,601.12
Minister stipend	21,140.01	19,398.62
Total 9. Ministry	34,363.20	34,196.15
9a. Assistant Minister Costs	10,195.94	435.00
10. Church Allocations/Mission		
BMS donations - by church monthly	3,000.00	3,000.00
HMF donations - by church monthly	3,000.00	2,500.00
Home Mission Fund	-	500.00
Other donations	50.00	500.00
Local mission donations	108.53	-
Total 10. Church Allocations/Mission	6,158.53	6,500.00
Premises maintenance		
11a. Gas	12,635.91	7,937.88
11b. Electricity	2,359.99	610.14
11c. Other Maintenance		
Cleaner's PAYE	106.80	26.20
Cleaner's wages	3,035.92	2,867.56
Cleaning materials	155.66	31.56
Fabric day to day work	1,575.16	4,068.93
Fabric major renewals	-	2,169.99

	2023	2022
Insurance - church	4,723.91	3,921.67
12. Local Church Costs and Admin		
Breakfast church	348.62	274.48
Miscellaneous	1,278.30	-
Music and Audio (General)	5,011.05	842.98
Printing and stationery	70.48	119.60
Renew (adult) expenses	2,616.85	1,795.20
Seasonal Service Expenses	114.47	60.00
Software subscriptions	45.00	35.00
Subscription - church membership	355.93	357.35
Sunday service expenses	181.00	-
Waste & recycling	381.45	251.65
Water rates - church	620.22	291.65
Website	741.29	651.08
Youth group	159.00	-
Total 12. Local Church Costs and Admin	11,923.66	4,678.99
Total Expenditure	87,234.68	67,444.07
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(14,508.47)	1,956.06
Restricted Funds		
BMS Birthday Scheme		
BMS Birthday Scheme donations rcvd	500.00	287.00
BMS Birthday Scheme monies paid away	(500.00)	(287.00)
Total BMS Birthday Scheme	-	-
Renew Youth Project		
Renew Youth Project income - restricted	7,498.00	-
Renew Youth Project expenditure - restricted	(1,947.20)	-
Total Renew Youth Project	5,550.80	-
Income		
Advent appeal	-	(374.05)
Other appeals	-	(496.00)
Total Income	-	(870.05)
Expenditure		
BMS other donations	-	1,000.00
Total Expenditure	-	1,000.00

Balance Sheet

Harrogate Baptist Church

As at 30 September 2023

Cash Basis

	30 SEPT 2023	30 SEPT 2022
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Investments	-	19
Manse (historic cost)	5,150	5,150
Church Building (historic cost)	9,000	9,000
Total Tangible Assets	14,150	14,169
Total Fixed Assets	14,150	14,169
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
CCLA - General Fund - Closed	-	523
CCLA - Legacies Fund - Closed	-	882
CCLA - Music Fund - Closed	-	3,287
Harrogate Baptist Church Building Fund	5,621	45,575
Yorkshire Bank Harrogate Current Account	30,947	81,607
BUC Deposit Account	41,368	-
Skipton Building Society Deposit Account	45,000	-
Total Cash at bank and in hand	122,936	131,874
Total Current Assets	122,936	131,874
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	122,936	131,874
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	137,086	146,043
Net Assets	137,086	146,043
Capital and Reserves		
Unrestricted Funds		
General Funds	84,437	96,335
Designated Funds		
Music Fund - Designated	-	1,729
Legacies Fund - Designated	-	882
Total Designated Funds	-	2,611
Total Unrestricted Funds	84,437	98,946
Restricted Funds		
Building Fund - Restricted	47,097	47,097
Renew Youth Project - Restricted	5,551	-
Total Restricted Funds	52,648	47,097
Total Capital and Reserves	137,086	146,043

HARROGATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140798

Accounts

Harrogate Baptist Church Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 - 2022 (1st October 2021 - 30th September 2022)

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Aims and Purposes

The aims and purposes of Harrogate Baptist Church are encompassed in our mission statement:

“Living Faith, Bringing Hope, Sharing the Love of Jesus”

The Charity Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church (HBC) have the responsibility together with the rest of the church in the advancement of the Christian faith and the promotion of the whole mission of the Church - evangelistic, social, pastoral and ecumenical. The Charity Trustees are also responsible for facilitating the maintenance of the Church building and finances.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity Trustees are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and become part of the community and fellowship at HBC. Our services and worship put faith into practice through the centrality of Scripture, prayer, worship, sacrament and other activities outside of Sundays, seeking to make church and faith as accessible to as many people that live within our community as possible.

When planning our activities for the year, we as Charity Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance regarding the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable 'ordinary' people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith as part of our community through:

- Worship and prayer, small groups, communion, fellowship, preaching and teaching in order to develop knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people within the church and those living within the community;
- Mission within the community and throughout the world

To facilitate this work, we recognise that it is important to maintain the fabric of the Church.

Achievements and Performance

Summary

Reflecting back on this last year, it has definitely been a less 'bumpy' ride than the previous couple of years, particularly in terms of not going in and out of lockdown. Being able to meet in person for the whole year has been great and it's definitely been a year of consolidating and building up people's confidence to return to church. Many of the regular features of church life have returned.

It's been exciting to see some of the things we've prayed about for a long time, particularly more children and families and Renew HG1, which we started post lockdown really beginning to bear fruit, as can be seen in the following report. As always, we have focused on remaining faithful in following God where He leads; as Jesus reminds us in John 15:5 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing'.

Sunday worship and prayer

Our Sunday worship services have made a much smoother 'ride' this year and we've been able to welcome back not only regulars but a number of new folk too, including new families. This has been really encouraging for the congregation and enriched our Sunday morning services significantly. In hindsight, not pursuing a hybrid approach to services was absolutely the right decision for us.

Some of our Christmas services weren't as well attended as usual, particularly the Christmas Lunchtime service, mainly because of the uncertainty of Covid still but also because office workers were still working from home. But our attendance figures by the end of this financial year have averaged out at 58, which is significantly more than last year and slightly above pre-Covid, so an encouragement in itself. It was great to see our church fuller for our Easter Day service and a couple of dedication services throughout the year. It is great that Breakfast Church will be restarting in October – as anticipated in last year's report, this is indeed the last of our pre-Covid regular aspects of HBC life to return.

Our sermon series during the year have sought to feed us spiritually with series around Encountering Jesus, Reimagining Christmas, Abraham, The Real Lord's Prayer just before Easter and the 7 Churches of Revelation after Easter. Our summer series focused on the Old Testament character of Joseph and we have just started a series on 10 questions Jesus asked. We marked Racial Justice Sunday and Refugee Week and it's also been great to interview Edith and Resley, Kamala and Akufuna over the summer to understand more about their cultural homeland.

As at 30th September 2022, HBC had 70 members, together with others who regularly attend the church. One of the saddest aspects of this year has been the loss of 4 of our longstanding members – George Mulholland, Alice Mason, Sandra Maltby and Gerry Fell. We are hugely grateful for all they contributed in different ways to our church life, as they

utilised their gifts for God's glory and our benefit. We have held one wedding, two dedications and three funerals in our building during the year.

Involvement in wider Baptist life

We continue to be involved with the Yorkshire Baptist Association through the work of our minister, Rev. Ann Chesworth who is employed part time as the Association's Legal and Trust Officer, and through her ongoing involvement with other Association and Baptist Union initiatives. Our newly appointed Assistant Pastor will be attending the YBA Intern programme, which is held weekly in Sheffield during term times.

We have again welcomed various visiting preachers during the year whose ministry we have greatly appreciated – Roy Searle, Steve Allen, Sally Nelson, Graham Ensor, and Geoff Colmer. All have blessed us with their sharing in different ways. It was good to join with other Baptist churches to mark Baptist World Mission's Day of Prayer, and a number of our congregation continue to support the BMS Birthday Scheme,

Working together with churches in Harrogate

The church continues to be part of Churches Together in Harrogate and connects with town wide initiatives where relevant. Our minister is also part of the planning team for Harrogate School of Theology and Mission. We were able to invite the two other 'Avenue' churches to our Good Friday evening service and also our Boxing Day online service for them to participate in too. A couple of our retired ministers support the other two churches by taking Sunday services, particularly as one of the churches is in a pastoral vacancy and the other only has part time ministry.

The Church Building

Our building continues to both serve us as a great place for all of our activities but challenge us in terms of it being 'fit for purpose'. It's been great that a new dishwasher has been installed during the year and we were able to open our building on Saturday 10th September as part of a fortnight of opening historic buildings for Heritage Days in Harrogate – it felt particularly poignant that we were opening our doors on the Saturday after the late Queen had died so we were able to offer a quiet space for people to come and pay their respects and light a candle in memory and thankfulness for a life well lived.

We do need to spend some time moving forward with a definitive plan for maintaining and developing our premises so they can serve the wider purposes of the church.

We have had some of our regular renters return post Covid but others have not. This means our hall rental income has reduced although we have been able to attract some new renters, including one permanent rental of one of the previously unused upstairs rooms. We also now have a good range of community use for our hall. One of the biggest challenges moving forward is the significant uncertainty regarding rising gas and electricity costs, which will have an impact on us directly and also our rental charges.

Children and youth work

After much prayer and active seeking, we are pleased to have just appointed an Assistant Pastor, Dan for the next year, who will be supporting our minister but will also have specific focus on children, young people and discipleship. Our children and families are beginning to grow and we want to nurture them well, in their faith so having someone who can lead and direct them and the team feels the right way forward. This is an exciting area of our church life at the moment and we look forward to seeing all that God will do.

Whilst looking forward with anticipation, we do want to look back with thankfulness on two aspects of our children and youth work, which have recently finished – firstly, sadly our Guides Company could not continue due to a lack of leaders. Guides have been at HBC for almost 100 years and so we want to give thanks to God for many years of faithful witness, for lives changed and the hard work and dedication of those who have led the Guides over many years. Secondly, our Breakfast Tots closed due to a lack of tots. Again, we want to give thanks for those who have supporting this work for the last couple of years and for the impact it had on those who came along.

We have paused our monthly Messy Church given that Breakfast Church is back.

Renew HG1

The other area of great blessing this year has been the flourishing of our Renew HG1 wellbeing space and being able to support our wider community, as we emerge out of lockdown and beyond. We were delighted to appoint Zoe Bishop in February 2022 as our part time coordinator for Renew and she has done a great job at enabling the sessions to grow, attracting new people, and making good connections in the wider community. Attendance at the Renew HG1 Open Day in May was particularly encouraging, with a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. It's a great encouragement that we've seen some of our Renew folk attending our Sunday morning service and other events throughout the year. We are hoping to build on this in the coming year and again, we look forward to what God will do with our Renew HG1 space going forward.

Pastoral Care and fellowship

It has been good that face-to-face pastoral support has been able to resume slowly this year, particularly for those who are in care homes. The HBC WhatsApp group has become a permanent part of our shared life together and a great way to provide prayer support and encouragement. The return of refreshments in the hall after the service is also widely appreciated.

Following the demise of the Cameo group for older members, it's been great to start our monthly Connections. Happening on a Wednesday afternoon, we join together for fellowship over drinks and cake. It literally provides a place of connection and is building in community; our hope and prayer is that we can extend the group to attract those from the wider community in the longer term.

Other highlights include celebrating the Platinum Jubilee with a special service and a community BBQ and it was good to gather at the end of September for our first Church Nite In.

House-groups & Discipleship

We have now established Tuesday morning and evening housegroups, which continue to be a great source of support and nurturing to those who attend. We were also able to run an online Lent course and a number of prayer triplets formed during Lent. Our hope is that we can develop more housegroups over this coming year and find creative and attractional ways for people to explore faith.

Leadership

Again, we are extremely grateful to our leadership team, who have enabled us to navigate this last year well and come out of Covid with exciting new opportunities. We are aware that this is not every church's story coming out of lockdown so we are grateful to God's Spirit for His guidance. We also have new deacons up for nomination, which will provide better representation of the whole church on the leadership team.

Mission and Evangelism

Through the year, we have sought to explore and build faith up through running a Christianity Explored course, as well as a Young Person's Exploring faith course. Both were fruitful and engaging to those who came along.

Our Christmas appeal for 2021 supported Covid vaccinations via Mercy Ships and for our Lent appeal, we gave a gift to support the people of Ukraine.

Once again, through the generosity of giving from those within the church, we have been able to support various causes, particularly the work of Home Mission and BMS World Mission.

The Future

It has been a year of unexpected blessings especially in the increase in the number of children, families and young people, which has been a real answer to years of praying; and an increase in cultural diversity within the fellowship. But like the rest of the country and other churches, there are of course big challenges and concerns moving forward, especially as we continue to come out of lockdown and around the cost-of-living crisis and the impact on people, particularly those who are already struggling financially. But we recognise that God's people at HBC have faced different but equally as challenging uncertainty in the past, as they looked into the future. So, we do what countless people of faith have done – 'we fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith'. We praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come.

Volunteers

We are always grateful for the way that people support the ministry and mission of the church, using their gifts in all sorts of different ways. People tirelessly give of their time,

energy and finances to support the work of God's Kingdom here at HBC. As a leadership team, we are so grateful for our church family, for all that folk do to serve the church and wider community and for the continued sense of unity within the fellowship.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of deacons is set out in the Church Constitution. At the church, the membership of the Charity Trustees consists of our minister and deacons elected by members of the church at our AGM. The Charity Trustees are responsible for making recommendations to the church but ultimately, it is the decision of the church meeting which makes decisions on all matters.

The Charity Trustees met 11 times during the year. Given the wide responsibilities within the church, others deal with particular aspects of church life but all are ultimately responsible to the Charity Trustees.

Administration information

Harrogate Baptist Church is situated in Harrogate and is part of the Yorkshire Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The correspondence address is Harrogate Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5AL.

The church is registered as a charity, 1140798.

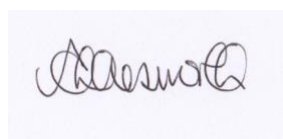
Charity Trustees who served during the year are:

October 2021 to September 2022

Minister: Rev. Ann Chesworth
Church Secretary: Mrs Kathy Lewis
Treasurer: Mrs Lindsay Lansdall

Deacon: Mr Steve Barrett (until January 2022)
Deacon: Mr Nigel Lister
Deacon: Mrs Ann Maye (until January 2022)
Deacon: Mrs Liz Getgood
Deacon: Mrs Sherry Humberstone (from January 2022)
Deacon: Mrs Liz Turner (from January 2022)

Approved by the Charity Trustees on 7th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by the Rev. Ann Chesworth.



Rev. Ann Chesworth

Harrogate Baptist Church
Financial statements for the year ending 30th September 2022

Basis of preparation

As the annual church income is less than £250,000 the financial statements have been prepared on a profit and loss basis and in accordance with s133 Charities Act 2011. Included this year in the report is a Pension Disclosure.

The majority of the church transactions are recorded in the general bank account, though there is also in use other accounts, in which 'Restricted Funds' and 'Designated funds' are normally held and recorded. Restricted funds refer to those funds which cannot be used for general purposes and relate to transactions which are for a specific purpose; 'Designated funds' refer to those transactions which may be pledged for a specific church activity though the church is at liberty to apply them for its general purposes if it so determines.

Summary report

A detailed analysis is provided, as attached. In summary, the overall income for the year was £70,557.18 (£71,513.09 for 2021) and total expenditure for the year was £68,731.07 (£60,170.34 for 2021). Whilst room hire has picked up as we've come out of the pandemic, it has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and gas and electricity costs have further increased. Given we have been meeting in the building this year, utility costs have therefore increased, reducing our overall profit. But costs were covered and there were no significant repair costs. We were able to maintain mission giving.

For the year ending 30th September 2022, overall income exceeded expenditure by £1,826.11 (£11,342.75 for 2021).

Gift aided tax relief monies from HMRC totalled £9,373.42.

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee The Yorkshire Baptist Association:

- Church premises at Victoria Avenue, Harrogate valued in the accounts at £9000 based on a cost value
- Church manse valued in the accounts at £5150 based on a cost value.

Pension debt

The estimated employer debt for Harrogate Baptist Church in respect of the Baptist Pension Defined Benefit scheme is estimated as £18,700 as at June 2022.

Approval by the Church Trustees

We approve the accounts held on behalf of Harrogate Baptist Church

Lindsay Lansdall Treasurer 9/7/23 Date

Lindsay Lansdall

Nigel Lister Trustee 16/7/23 Date

Nigel Lister

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Harrogate Baptist Church

As at 30 September 2022

	30 Sep 2022	30 Sep 2021
Assets		
Bank and other cash balances		
CCLA - General Fund	522.97	522.97
CCLA - Legacies Fund	881.87	881.87
CCLA - Music Fund	3,286.90	3,286.90
Harrogate Baptist Church Building Fund	45,575.43	44,185.29
Yorkshire Bank Harrogate CA	81,607.10	81,171.13
Total Bank and other cash balances	131,874.27	130,048.16
Investment Assets		
Investments	19.00	19.00
Assets held for church's own use		
Church Building (historic cost)	9,000.00	9,000.00
Manse (historic cost)	5,150.00	5,150.00
Total Assets held for church's own use	14,150.00	14,150.00
Total Assets	146,043.27	144,217.16
Funds		
General Funds	82,130.07	96,355.43
Music Fund - Designated	3,286.90	1,729.30
Legacies Fund - Designated	881.87	881.87
Building Fund - Restricted	45,575.43	47,097.32
Total Funds	131,874.27	146,063.92

Profit and Loss

Harrogate Baptist Church

For the year ended 30 September 2022

	2022	2021
Turnover		
Advent appeal	374.05	-
BMS Birthday Scheme donations rcvd	287.00	445.00
Building fund donations	150.00	-
Building fund grants	200.00	-
Collection Offerings loose	2,518.10	1,676.60
Collection(envelopes)	1,580.50	3,050.00
Gifts received	200.00	1,000.00
HMRC JRS Grant	-	1,543.99
HMRC tax refunds	9,373.42	11,698.91
Interest Income	115.14	60.68
Messy church donations	32.00	-
Other appeals	496.00	30.00
Other donations rcvd	3,069.20	1,405.15
Other grants	205.00	1,000.00
Premises Lettings	4,816.00	659.60
Standing orders	760.00	930.00
Standing Orders - Gift Aidable	33,104.00	35,933.85
Ukraine appeal	970.00	-
YBA A Chesworth Secondment Charge	12,306.77	12,079.31
Total Turnover	70,557.18	71,513.09
Gross Profit		
	70,557.18	71,513.09
Administrative Costs		
Assistant Minister Costs	435.00	-
BMS birthday scheme donations	287.00	445.00
BMS donations	3,000.00	2,791.66
BMS other donations	1,000.00	-
Breakfast church & hospitality	274.48	-
Charitable activities - Delegate Fees	-	300.00
Cleaner's PAYE	26.20	-
Cleaner's wages	2,867.56	2,388.82
Cleaning materials	31.56	-
Electricity	610.14	516.20
Employer's pension deficit costs	3,354.86	3,476.01
Fabric day to day work	4,068.93	3,453.66
Fabric major renewals	2,169.99	574.20
Fellowship fund	-	500.00
Gas	7,937.88	1,270.62
HMF donations	2,500.00	8,000.00
Home Mission Fund	500.00	-

	2022	2021
Insurance	3,921.67	3,445.35
Insurance (manse)	359.84	342.16
Interest on late payment	-	1.33
Manse council tax	1,878.61	1,819.91
Membership	-	86.95
Minister NIC	1,914.62	1,846.61
Minister PAYE	1,509.94	1,833.00
Minister pension	5,601.12	3,791.27
Minister stipend	19,398.62	19,020.02
Music and Audio (General)	842.98	1,169.78
Other donations	500.00	-
Other main aided cause donations	-	330.00
Other ministry expenses	1,795.20	995.24
Printing and stationery	119.60	-
Pulpit supply	-	80.00
Seasonal Service Expenses	60.00	45.99
Software subscription	35.00	469.88
Subscription - church membership	357.35	333.18
Waste & recycling	251.65	56.40
Water rates (manse)	178.54	184.21
Water Rates (Church)	291.65	254.95
Website	651.08	561.78
Total Administrative Costs	68,731.07	60,384.18
Operating Profit	1,826.11	11,128.91
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	1,826.11	11,128.91
Profit after Taxation	1,826.11	11,128.91

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church

On the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2022

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 material matters have come to my attention 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 Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met.

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

Signed by or on behalf of the Examiner

Date

27/9/23

Name: James Maye
ACMA Dip BA



Address: 22 Woodlands Green, Harrogate HG2 8QD

HARROGATE BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140798

Accounts

Harrogate Baptist Church Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 - 2021 (1st October 2020 - 30th September 2021)

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Aims and Purposes

The aims and purposes of Harrogate Baptist Church are encompassed in our mission statement:

“Living Faith, Bringing Hope, Sharing the Love of Jesus”

The Charity Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church (HBC) have the responsibility together with the rest of the church in the advancement of the Christian faith and the promotion of the whole mission of the Church - evangelistic, social, pastoral and ecumenical. The Charity Trustees are also responsible for facilitating the maintenance of the Church building and finances.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity Trustees are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and become part of the community and fellowship at HBC. Our services and worship put faith into practice through the centrality of Scripture, prayer, worship, sacrament and other activities outside of Sundays, seeking to make church and faith as accessible to as many people that live within our community as possible.

When planning our activities for the year, we as Charity Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance regarding the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable 'ordinary' people of all ages and backgrounds to live out their faith as part of our community through:

- Worship and prayer, small groups, communion, fellowship, preaching and teaching in order to develop knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people within the church and those living within the community;
- Mission within the community and throughout the world

To facilitate this work, we recognise that it is important to maintain the fabric of the Church.

Achievements and Performance

Summary

We said at the end of our report last year, that *'like all churches, we face an uncertain and potentially bumpy next few months'*. We were clearly unrealistic in speaking about an uncertain and potentially bumpy next few months because it's realistically been an uncertain and definitely bumpy 2021! It has been as challenging coming out of lockdown as going in, in terms of there being less guidance in place as we emerged and sought to make good decisions about what to do and when has been tricky.

But by God's grace, we have not just survived but there's been some real encouragements along the way and some new ventures to give us focus and energy – we hope that's demonstrated in what follows. Once again, we're grateful for the flexibility and positivity of the congregation in moving forward and to God. May He be given all the glory!

Sunday worship and prayer

Our Sunday worship services have again been impacted by Covid, leading to a variation of in-person and online services throughout this year – roughly we've ended up having 31 'live' services throughout this year compared to 22 online services, the extra service included is the Christmas Eve service, which had to be switched online at fairly short notice. It was good to have our Harvest display of gifts for our first service back in our building at the beginning of October. There was however some disappointment about not being able to hold our in-person lunchtime carol service and Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight service, as well as our Easter service being online for the second year. But in hindsight, the right decisions were made with regards to putting these services online and we're grateful to the music group for pulling together so many Christmas carol videos over a short period of time.

We have remained with live services from 16th May onwards and it was good to mark this transition with a montage of photos and reflections for our last online service, which celebrated just how much we developed our online services over the last year and giving thanks to God for all those involved in the online services, especially all the hard work of Mike Getgood in producing them. We came a long way, in a relatively short period of time and we give thanks for the way they kept a sense of oneness and the ability to connect with those wider than the HBC fellowship.

It was good to get back to live services, and we made the decision not to pursue a hybrid approach to services for a number of reasons – in hindsight, this was the right decision for us as a church. We are grateful that our building has enabled social distancing and that we've been able to remain open for in-person worship since reopening in May, rather than having to dip in and out of in-person and online, which is challenging.

Our sermon series have taken many different shapes this year – the Gospel of Luke, Advent joy, sharing faith primarily from the book of Acts, 7 deadly sins during Lent, Daniel, our summer sermon series was Nurturing Biblical Wellbeing and a series of 'one-off sermons during September. We have just started a series called Encountering Jesus.

Not surprisingly, we have still not reintroduced Breakfast Church – we envisage this will be one of the last things to return.

Attendance figures since continually being back in the building from May 2020 have been very low – averaging 37. This is for many reasons, including people still being hesitant to return to worship and no congregational singing, so at times the services have seemed a bit ‘flat’ but it has been good to return to seeing and worshipping physically. It has been good to welcome back our families plus a couple of new children and their families – we regularly have around 8 children at the service now which is a real answer to prayer! We are still praying for more families but we have some great children in our church!

As at 30th September 2021, HBC has 74 members, together with others who regularly attend the church. We have had very few ‘one-off’ visits this year. One of the saddest aspects of this year, as always, has been the loss of one of our longstanding members, Joyce Wilson. She had served in various Baptist churches including ours faithfully for many years. It has been a joy to welcome Chris and Zoe Bishop into membership during the year. We held one wedding, a marriage blessing of a couple who got married at the church in March 2020 and one funeral service during the year. Sadly, some of our congregation have also lost loved ones.

Involvement in wider Baptist life

We continue to be involved with the Yorkshire Baptist Association through the work of our minister, Rev. Ann Chesworth who is employed part time as the Association's Legal and Trust Officer, and through her ongoing involvement with other Association and Baptist Union initiatives.

We have been blessed once again with various visiting preachers during the year whose ministry we have greatly appreciated, particularly on the third Sunday of the month when it's Messy Church.

Working together with churches in Harrogate

The church continues to be part of Churches Together in Harrogate and connects with town wide initiatives where relevant. Our minister is also part of the planning team for Harrogate School of Theology and Mission. Due to lockdown, we haven't had any joint services with the other ‘Avenue’ churches but it was good that Brian Hunt the minister at St Pauls joined us for an interview during one of our online services, just before he retired.

The Church Building

Not much has been done to the building in this last year aside from maintenance issues but during the autumn, we will be working with a group of master architecture students as part of the Yorkshire Baptist Association's Baptists Building Community initiative, helping us think about how we might develop our building for greater community use. Once again, we are very grateful to David Abel for all his hard work in keeping our building so well maintained – he spends more hours doing this than any of us know.

Rental of the hall continues to be hit by lockdowns and we are only just beginning to get some 'stability' in terms of renters returning. The loss of income has in part been offset by a reduction in heating costs, particularly in the winter.

Children and youth work

We have introduced a monthly Messy Church this year which has gone well, and provided a great point of connection for our families when we've been able to meet. We posted an online service for those not attending Messy Church and we have decided to continue the monthly Messy Services in the hall, on the third Sunday of the month, whilst also holding a service in the main sanctuary led by a visiting speaker. The hope is that Messy Church might attract more children and families from our community into church on that Sunday.

As highlighted in our report last year, we have been seeking new direction for our children and YP's work and have decided to explore the possibility of a one-year part time appointment to support the children and families work within the church and wider community. We are working on the role descriptions and advertisements and hope to advert shortly.

Renew HG1

One of the blessings post-lockdown has been to open a Renew Wellbeing space called Renew HG1. We decided not to continue with our Mission Action Plan post lockdown but as part of that, we had already been discussing supporting those with mental health and isolation/loneliness issues. We felt God directing us to explore this area even more during lockdown and we were put in contact with a national organisation Renew Wellbeing, who support a number of churches in running wellbeing spaces for the community. The setting up of Renew HG1 has been a specific focus for us over the summer – we held some 'trial' sessions for the church to get a taster of the space in July and opened our doors mid-September. We have made an encouraging start and pray that we will be able to continue to connect with those in our community who most need this space.

To that end, in conjunction with the one-year appointment for a children's, youth and families appointment, we are also seeking a similar one-year part time appointment for a Renew HG1 co-ordinator. They would be responsible for developing the project and widening our networks of others working in the wellbeing area within Harrogate.

Pastoral Care and fellowship

Pastoral support over this last year has continued to cause us challenges, particularly those in care homes where visits have been restricted for most of the year. For the wider congregation, we've continued with zoom quizzes, and the HBC WhatsApp group has continued to be a great way to keep people up to date pastorally, and to provide much needed prayer support, and encouragement. We will continue to keep the group going even once we are fully out of lockdown.

Our Cameo group for older members sadly folded during lockdown but when all restrictions have been lifted we will put a more informal group in place to support older members in our fellowship and community and give a place of connection.

Fellowshipping together has been greatly missed over this last year. We have continued to gather outside after the Sunday morning service but is more challenging when it's cold or raining. We've missed refreshments after the service on a Sunday and we're hoping that we will be able to meet in the hall for post service tea and coffee from October onwards.

House-groups

Our Tuesday morning house-group continued to be a source of support and nurturing to those who attend and have continued to be creative in how they could keep connected during the ups and downs of this year.

We were hugely blessed to have Roy Searle leading an online study discipleship group, which was really well attended, gave us much food for thought and spiritual encouragement. That was followed up with our Lent course online led by Ann our minister, which again was well attended and enabled a good spiritual rhythm during Lent. In hindsight, these were significant 'gifts' to us as a fellowship in a difficult season.

Leadership

We have been grateful to keep the leadership team intact through this year to bring some continuity - as ongoing decisions needed to be made quickly, it's been helpful to have the same leadership team who know each other, work well together and have the necessary background to previous decisions made. Ann Maye will be standing down and Steve Barrett has asked to stand down early so we will be seeking new leaders in the next year.

But a big thank you to our leaders for all their hard work and wisdom in guiding the church, under God's guidance through another challenging year.

Mission and Evangelism

Mission and Evangelism has been somewhat curtailed again this year but individuals have continued to reach out with the love and light of Christ to those personally known to them. It was good to provide Christmas gifts of dressing gowns and slippers to support the Harrogate Homeless project and once again, through the generosity of giving from those within the church, we have been able to support various causes, particularly the work of Home Mission and BMS World Mission.

The Future

As we started this report acknowledging, this has been a difficult year for our country and world, particularly over Christmas and the winter lockdowns. It looks like autumn and winter 2021/22 will continue to be a challenge. We've been impacted as a fellowship but once again, what has been so apparent this year is the bonds of unity that have held us together. The Bible so often calls us as a community of God's people to encourage one another, as we journey together and seek to share the light of Christ in our community. We are grateful for that Light in our own lives, and in the life of our church and pray that we will be faithful in showing the Light of Christ in this year to come.

Volunteers

We are always grateful for the way that people support the ministry and mission of the church, using their gifts in all sorts of different ways. But we are again grateful for the part that people have played in keeping us together in another challenging year and remaining faithful and continuing a spirit of encouragement over a long period. As a leadership team, we are so grateful once again for our church family.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of deacons is set out in the Church Constitution. At the church, the membership of the Charity Trustees consists of our minister and deacons elected by members of the church at our AGM. The Charity Trustees are responsible for making recommendations to the church but ultimately, it is the decision of the church meeting which makes decisions on all matters.

The Charity Trustees met 11 times during the year. Given the wide responsibilities within the church, others deal with particular aspects of church life but all are ultimately responsible to the Charity Trustees.

Administration information

Harrogate Baptist Church is situated in Harrogate and is part of the Yorkshire Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The correspondence address is Harrogate Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5AL.

The church is registered as a charity, 1140798.

Charity Trustees who served during the year are:

October 2020 to September 2021

Minister: Rev. Ann Chesworth

Church Secretary: Mrs Kathy Lewis

Treasurer: Mrs Lindsay Lansdall

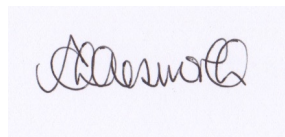
Deacon: Mr Steve Barrett

Deacon: Mr Nigel Lister

Deacon: Mrs Ann Maye

Deacon: Mrs Liz Getgood

Approved by the Charity Trustees on 18th July 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Rev. Ann Chesworth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Chesworth', is centered within a light purple rectangular box.

Rev. Ann Chesworth

Harrogate Baptist Church

Financial statements for the year ending 30th September 2021

Basis of preparation

As the annual church income is less than £250,000 the financial statements have been prepared on a profit and loss basis and in accordance with s133 Charities Act 2011. Included this year in the report is a Pension Disclosure.

The majority of the church transactions are recorded in the general bank account, though there is also in use other accounts, in which 'Restricted Funds' and 'Designated funds' are normally held and recorded. Restricted funds refer to those funds which cannot be used for general purposes and relate to transactions which are for a specific purpose; 'Designated funds' refer to those transactions which may be pledged for a specific church activity though the church is at liberty to apply them for its general purposes if it so determines.

Summary report

A detailed analysis is provided, as attached. In summary, the overall income for the year was £71,513.09 (£85,865.96 for 2020) and total expenditure for the year was £60,170.34 (£79,837.13 for 2020). Whilst room hire is significantly reduced due to the pandemic, gas costs were significantly less for the year and there were no significant repair costs. Generally giving remained stable during the pandemic - loose offering is down but many people have transferred to paying by Standing Orders and we also claimed against the Government Job Retention scheme. We were able to maintain mission giving. For the year ending 30th September 2021, overall income exceeded expenditure by £11,342.75 (£6,028.83 for 2020).

Gift aided tax relief monies from HMRC totalled £11,698.91.

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the church's custodian trustee The Yorkshire Baptist Association:


- Church premises at Victoria Avenue, Harrogate valued in the accounts at £9000 based on a cost value
- Church manse valued in the accounts at £5150 based on a cost value.

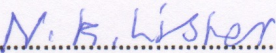
Pension debt

The estimated employer debt for Harrogate Baptist Church in respect of the Baptist Pension Defined Benefit scheme is estimated as £59,200 as at 20th September 2021.

Approval by the Church Trustees

We approve the accounts held on behalf of Harrogate Baptist Church

 Treasurer 15/7/2021 Date
Lindsay Lansdall

 Trustee 18/7/22 Date
Nigel Lister

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Harrogate Baptist Church

As at 30 September 2021

	30 SEP 2021	30 SEP 2020
Assets		
Bank and other cash balances		
CCLA - General Fund	522.97	522.97
CCLA - Legacies Fund	881.87	881.87
CCLA - Music Fund	3,286.90	3,286.90
Harrogate Baptist Church Building Fund	44,185.29	41,874.61
Yorkshire Bank Harrogate CA	81,171.13	74,199.66
Total Bank and other cash balances	130,048.16	120,766.01
Investment Assets		
Investments	19.00	19.00
Assets held for church's own use		
Church Building (historic cost)	9,000.00	9,000.00
Manse (historic cost)	5,150.00	5,150.00
Total Assets held for church's own use	14,150.00	14,150.00
Total Assets	144,217.16	134,935.01
Park		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,846.76)	-
Total Park	(1,846.76)	-
Funds		
General Funds	96,355.43	85,226.52
Music Fund - Designated	1,729.30	1,729.30
Legacies Fund - Designated	881.87	881.87
Building Fund - Restricted	47,097.32	47,097.32
Total Funds	146,063.92	134,935.01

Profit and Loss

Harrogate Baptist Church For the year ended 30 September 2021

2021

Turnover

BMS Birthday Scheme donations rcvd	445.00
Collection Offerings loose	1,676.66
Collection(envelopes)	3,050.00
Gifts received	1,000.00
HMRC JRS Grant	1,543.99
HMRC tax refunds	11,698.91
Interest Income	60.68
Other appeals	30.00
Other donations rcvd	1,405.15
Other grants	1,000.00
Premises Lettings	659.60
Standing orders	930.00
Standing Orders - Gift Aidable	35,933.85
YBA A Chesworth Secondment Charge	12,079.31
Total Turnover	71,513.09

Gross Profit

71,513.09

Administrative Costs

BMS birthday scheme donations	445.00
BMS donations	2,791.66
Charitable activities - Delegate Fees	300.00
Cleaner's wages	2,174.98
Electricity	516.20
Employer's pension deficit costs	3,476.01
Fabric day to day work	3,453.66
Fabric major renewals	574.20
Fellowship fund	500.00
Gas	1,270.62
HMF donations	8,000.00
Insurance	3,445.35
Insurance (manse)	342.16
Interest on late payment	1.33
Manse council tax	1,819.91
Membership	86.95
Minister NIC	1,846.61
Minister PAYE	1,833.00
Minister pension	3,791.27
Minister stipend	19,020.02
Music and Audio (General)	1,169.78
Other main aided cause donations	330.00

2021

Other ministry expenses	995.24
Pulpit supply	80.00
Seasonal Service Expenses	45.99
Software subscription	469.88
Subscription - church membership	333.18
Waste & recycling	56.40
Water rates (manse)	184.21
Water Rates(CHurch)	254.95
Website	561.78
Total Administrative Costs	60,170.34
Operating Profit	11,342.75
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	11,342.75
Profit after Taxation	11,342.75

Report of the Independent Examiner(s) to the Trustees of Harrogate Baptist Church

On the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2021

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the 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 material matters have come to my attention 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 Charities Act 2011; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met.

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

Signed by or on behalf of the Examiner

Date 18/7/22

Name: James Maye
ACMA Dip BA



Address: 22 Woodlands Green, Harrogate HG2 8QD