

CHRISTCHURCH CLARENDON PARK (BAPTIST/METHODIST)**ANNUAL REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020****Administrative information**

Christchurch Clarendon Park is a Baptist/Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP), formed in 1992 by the former Clarendon Park Baptist and Clarendon Park Methodist Churches. The church meets in the premises of the former Methodist Church, which were extensively remodelled and refurbished in 1996/7.

We are members of the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit (23/7), the East Midland Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The address is Christchurch Clarendon Park

105a Clarendon Park Road

LEICESTER LE2 3AH

Tel. (0116) 270 5369

Website: www.christchurchcp.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christchurchcp

Twitter: www.twitter.com/christchurch_cp

Email: enquiries@christchurchcp.org.uk

General correspondence should be addressed to the Church Secretary:

Mr Chris Whitford, 23 Brinsmead Road, Leicester LE2 3WD

Correspondence concerning the accounts should be addressed to the Church Treasurer:

Dr Lawrence Whittaker, 24 Stoneygate Court, Leicester LE2 2AH

Christchurch is **Registered Charity No.1148934**.

Risk Assessment and review is carried out by the Resources Team (in respect of buildings and health and safety) and by the Executive concerning the future viability of the Church.

The number of church members at the beginning and end of this period was

	31 August 2019	31 August 2020
Baptist	22	23
Methodist	45	39
Joint	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>
	114	109

In addition, there are approximately a further 100 people on the community roll and a considerable number of contacts through groups which use the church premises on a regular basis.

The Managing Trustees are the members of the Executive. Ordained ministers in pastoral charge are *ex officio* members of the Executive. The other members are elected by the Annual Church Meeting. The Trustees have the power to co-opt up to a further four Trustees.

The current Trustees and those who served during the year ended 31 August 2020 are

Miss Alison Charlesworth	Prof Angela Thody (to 24 Nov. 2019)
Rev Debra Chidakwa Akue	Mr Chris Whitford (Secretary)
Rev Edson Dube (to 31 Aug. 2020)	Dr Lawrence Whittaker (Treasurer)
Mr David Eyre	Mrs Susan Williams
Mr Alan Stead	

Independent Examiner

Barry W Wilford, 7 Wickham Road, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5SJ

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 1–3 Haymarket Towers, Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WA

National Westminster Bank, 1 Granby Street, Leicester LE1 6EJ

Aims and organisation

The purpose of Christchurch is to advance the Christian faith primarily in Clarendon Park, Knighton, Knighton Fields and Stoneygate, in the city of Leicester. In achieving its purpose, the Church engages in a range of activities both on its own and with others, as described later in this document. The agreed aims and objectives are the responsibilities of a number of Teams and Committees, especially the Executive, the Mission & Ministry Team and the Resources Team.

During the year, pastoral oversight was provided by Rev Edson Dube, serving his third and final year as our Methodist minister. Rev, Debra Chidakwa Akue has become our Methodist minister from September 2020. A Baptist input was maintained by Rev John Rackley, who conducted services and gave other input when requested. John became the Christchurch Associate Baptist Minister on 1 October 2019.

Public benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Church. The Trustees believe that, by fulfilling their responsibility to work together with the ministers and co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, they provide benefit to the public by:

- Providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the Church members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church to the community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole;

- Providing attractive meeting facilities to a wide range of community groups.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults

There are no *serious incidents* or other matters relating to Christchurch during the year ended 31 August 2020 which the Trustees should have brought to the attention of the Charity Commission.

Review of significant events, progress and achievements

The past year seems to have been dominated by Covid-19 and it is easy to forget that the first six months were quite normal, with no premonition of what was to come. Two new initiatives were started early in the year, both directed at enlarging our horizons to the wider world. First, the church has started to examine how it can develop its mission to the local community. It has had a significant social engagement for many years but sharing the gospel can be more of a challenge. Secondly, the Eco team was re-launched and started to explore how the church can play its part in meeting the climate emergency. Progress with both of these has been slowed by the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, but is continuing.

One of our teenagers volunteered her time to the church during her gap year before going to university, helping with Parent and Toddlers and Luncheon Club, running the social media accounts, organising Christmas publicity, and several other initiatives. After the lockdown in March she very quickly set up a Sunday afternoon service on Zoom. At the end of July the church gave her as good a send-off as we could, without being able to meet.

Our minister, Rev Edson Dube, moved to a new appointment at the end of August. The church meeting had previously decided that it wished to continue with a Methodist minister. The Circuit was not looking for a replacement for Edson for the 2020/21 connexional year and discussions continued throughout the year on what ministerial provision would be made for Christchurch. At almost the last moment, in July, a Methodist minister, then living in the USA, became available. After several meetings and interviews on Zoom, an invitation was made to Rev Debra Chidakwa-Akue, for a 5 year appointment. She arrived in Leicester at the end of August and despite the Covid-19 restrictions has quickly settled in and become engaged with the church. We are looking forward to her ministry with us.

The last six months have been challenging. Church services and all other activities on the premises had to be stopped. As already mentioned, a Sunday afternoon get-together was started immediately, which quickly evolved into an online service. We also expanded the weekly notice sheet into a 'Keeping in Touch' newsletter, which includes a reflection and prayers for use at home. We are very grateful to Susan, who prepares this each week, and the other contributors. It is sent out to over 100 households, mostly by email, some hand-delivered and a few posted. The 'pastoral links' keep in touch with their groups by phone or conversations on the doorstep. Nevertheless, a lot of members are finding the isolation very hard. Tragically we have lost one member from Covid-19. We continue to search for ways to support the wider community but activities like Parent and Toddler, Luncheon Club and Wild Honey are by their nature communal and keeping in touch is about all we can do.

A Church Meeting was held in March just before the lockdown and the trustees decided to cancel the June Church Meeting. As this meeting normally approves the budget for the following year a ballot of members was held by post/email/phone. Other business was deferred.

With some easing of the lockdown our first Sunday service for five months was held on 30th August, with about 35 attending.

Financial review

Early in the year we spent nearly £10,000 on a significant enhancement of our audio visual facilities. The large VDU screens which were part of this provide a significant improvement to the presentation of information under the lighting conditions in our Worship Centre.

But the second half of the year was inevitably dominated by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has reduced the income of so many charities. Our regular supporters maintained their giving most commendably, but our lettings income fell by £5,000 compared with 2019 and cash collections were down. The long—and ultimately terminal—illness of our cleaner, Jane, resulted in additional expenditure for someone to cover for her.

We were grateful for a legacy from the estate of the late George Bell, a faithful servant of Clarendon Park Baptist Church and Christchurch but the overall result of the above events was a deficit of over £20,000. We are grateful to have been able to hold sufficient reserves to support such a challenging year.

Reserves Policy

Christchurch seeks to expand its membership amongst all age groups and makes provision for the expected expenditure in maintaining its witness. In common with most UK churches, however, its membership has declined in recent decades.

The income of the church depends critically on some two dozen key supporters, any of whom could move away or otherwise cease to be with us. As the membership falls, there are fewer volunteers for the tasks of maintenance, necessitating increased expenditure on professional services. With buildings valued at £5m, some of which are more than a century old, there is also the risk of exceptional property expenditure, for example for a new roof or the remedy of an infestation of dry rot.

The church therefore considers it appropriate to maintain financial reserves in the range £50,000 – £100,000, for uninsurable risks, such as loss of income and exceptional property expenditure. At 31st August 2019 the reserves (General Fund and Legacy Fund) amounted to some £88,600. There was one Designated Fund, a Renovation Fund (£19,600) for major maintenance of the fabric.

The Reserves Policy is reviewed each spring by the Resources Team, whose recommendations are brought before the Trustees.

This Annual Report was approved by the Trustees

on 3rd November 2020

and signed on their behalf by

(signature)

C. H. Whitford

full name

Christopher Henry Whitford

office

Church Secretary

(signature)

Frank Lawrence Whittaker

full name

Frank Lawrence Whittaker

office

Church Treasurer

CHRISTCHURCH, CLARENDON PARK

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds, £	Restricted Funds, £	Total Funds, £	Last Year, £ Adjusted £
		£			£
Receipts					
Planned Giving		39,716		39,716	39,364
Loose Cash		3,168		3,168	5,333
Donations		6,072	2,160	8,232	6,807
Legacies		1,000		1,000	2,100
Interest		1,002		1,002	973
Tax recovered		12,454	488	12,941	12,535
Sundry	3	816	1,955	2,771	1,357
Lettings		15,626		15,626	20,841
Benevolence		-		-	-
Collections, etc, for external orgs	4		674	674	2,269
Sub total		79,852	5,276	85,129	91,579
Asset & Investment sales, etc		-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		79,852	5,276	85,129	91,579
Payments					
Methodist Circuit		53,595		53,595	50,015
Baptist Ministry, etc	5	4,370		4,370	4,779
Charities		4,237		4,237	4,479
Benevolence			117	117	159
Communication	6	2,682		2,682	2,444
Recurring property expenses	7	13,725		13,725	14,460
Repairs & Renewals	8	12,436	188	12,624	6,472
Cleaning		6,304	2,610	8,914	7,152
Sundry	9	2,772	2,005	4,777	3,108
Passed to external organisations	10		674	674	2,269
Sub total		100,121	5,593	105,714	95,337
Asset & Investment purchases		-	-	-	-
Total Payments		100,121	5,593	105,714	95,337
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>		<i>(20,269)</i>	<i>(317)</i>	<i>(20,586)</i>	<i>(3,758)</i>
Transfers between funds		<i>(117)</i>	117.	0.	0.
Cash funds last year end		109,183	750	109,933	113,691
Cash funds this year end		88,797	550	89,347	109,933

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	£ 2019-20	£ 2018-19
ASSETS and LIABILITIES as at 31 August 2020			
		£ This year	£ Last Year
ASSETS			
Cash Funds			
Barclays Bank		10,468	7,651
National Westminster Bank		4,002	11,247
CFB Deposit Account		74,577	29,936
Deposits with Baptist Union Corporation		-	60,108
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Trust 19440		-	946
Cash in Hand		301	44
		89,347	109,933
Investment Assets			
		None	None
Land and Church Buildings	<i>Note 1.2</i>	606,381	606,381
Tangible Fixed Assets			
Church contents, including furniture, fixtures, fittings, computers and other equipment	<i>Note 1.3</i>	179,588	179,051
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Roof repairs		1,020	
Pension Scheme Liability	<i>Note 12</i>	21,600	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 August 2020**1 GENERAL**

- 1.1 The basis of preparation is in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, on a Receipts and Payments basis.
- 1.2 The Church Land and Buildings are valued at cost, as follows:
Land and original buildings (1900) 9,822
Refurbishment and new buildings (1996/97) 596,559
- 1.3 The Church Contents are valued as for insurance.
- 1.4 The current Restricted Funds are the *Benevolence Fund* (no year-end balance), the *Key Deposits Fund* (£550), the *Party Deposits Fund* (nil) and the *Cleaning Fund* (nil).
There is one Designated Fund, a *Renovation Fund* (£19,836) for major maintenance of the fabric.
The *Legacy Fund* (£30,606) is unrestricted but is named to indicate the accumulated value of unspent legacies received.

2 INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

The following organisations come within the control of the Church Meeting and operate their own independent accounts. Their transactions for the year, which have been independently examined, are summarised below:

	Balance 31.8.2019	Receipts	Payments	Balance 31.8.2020
Art Group	3	354	334	23
Junior Church	830	-	-	830
Luncheon Club	240	2,199	1,733	706
Parent & Toddler Group	2,042	685	1,542	1,185
Wesley Guild	104	250	131	223
Wild Honey Project	472	760	446	786
TOTALS	3,691	4,248	4,186	3,753

The above payment figures include £2,385 given by the internal organisations to Christchurch. These internal transactions need to be taken into account for a true calculation of the turnover of the charity as a whole.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 August 2020**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 August 2020****3 SUNDRY INCOME**

Restricted Funds	1,955
Coffee money	343
Other	473
	<u>2,771</u>

5 BAPTIST MINISTRY, etc

Baptist Pension Scheme	3,478
Rev John Rackley	891
	<u>4,370</u>

7 RECURRING PROPERTY EXPENSES

Insurance (gross)	3,591
Electricity	2,425
Gas	6,197
Water	146
Servicing	1,366
	<u>13,725</u>

9 SUNDRY EXPENSES

Restricted Funds	2,005
Preachers & organists	453
Lettings Officer	1,340
Catering, various	240
Barbecue expenses	128
Toilet rolls	138
Other	474
	<u>4,777</u>

10 SPECIAL GIFTS

As Note 4	674
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**4 COLLECTIONS, ETC,
FOR EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Baptist Home Mission	71
BMS World Mission	191
Methodist Home Missions	71
Methodist World Mission	41
Spurgeon's	273
Others	27
	<u>674</u>

6 COMMUNICATION

Photocopier	686
Copyright licences	512
Telephones, internet	758
Postage & stationery	101
Printing	77
Publicity	213
Computer upgrade	289
Copier paper	47
	<u>2,682</u>

8 REPAIRS AND RENEWALS

Audio/Visual Enhancements (Legacy Fd)	9,878
Boiler controls move	1,320
SongPro 5 upgrade licences	585
Boiler repairs	464
Replacement Sound Mixer	249
Other	127
	<u>12,624</u>

11 BAPTIST FUNDS

Various Baptist monies are held for the benefit of the church by the East Midland Baptist Trust Company (EMBTC) as Custodian Trustee, and these are set out below:-

	Capital	Income	Total
Balances as at 1 September 2019	103,789	40,334	144,123
Interest received less Trustee's charges		4,324	4,324
Balances as at 31 August 2020	103,789	44,658	148,447

The figures exclude accrued interest.

The funds are invested and managed by Messrs Charles Stanley to achieve income returns with some capital growth on a low to medium risk basis.

The amount held on Income Account can be used for any purpose agreed by the Church Meeting. Capital Account represents the proceeds of sale of the Baptist manse in 1999 for £99,620 plus surplus on disposal of investments in which the proceeds were originally held.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 August 2020**12 BAPTIST PENSION SCHEME LIABILITY**

The Church is an employer participating in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers. Baptist Ministers of Christchurch are eligible to join the Scheme.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925 but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was made by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Under the Schedule of Contributions, the church makes a monthly payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit, currently £309, which will increase in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. The Schedule of Contributions foresees these contributions continuing until June 2026. The pension scheme liability shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities is calculated as the current rate per month multiplied by the number of months remaining in the current Schedule of Contributions, which amounted to £21,600, as at 31 August 2020.

The Church has been advised that the estimated cost for the church to buy out their Pension Scheme liabilities at 31 August 2020 was about £19,000. This only applies if the Church has meanwhile called a new Baptist Minister who is a contributing member of the Scheme.

Consequent upon the departure of the Baptist Minister from the Church in 2016, the Church could have had a cessation event under Section 75 of the Pensions Act 1995. This would make the Church liable for the proportion of the overall deficit (assessed by reference to the cost of securing benefits by the purchase of annuities) applicable to its previous Ministers who were members of the Scheme, calculated as at 31 October 2016. In order to prevent such a cessation event, the Church applied for a 'period of grace' before employing another member of the Scheme. The period of grace lasted three years, following which Rev John Rackley, a retired Baptist Minister, was appointed as Associate Minister. The Church makes a nominal contribution on behalf of John to the DC Plan, and this prevents a cessation event from occurring.

Statement by Independent Examiner :

I am pleased to confirm that no matter has come to my attention during my examination of the accounts of Christchurch for 2019/20, which gives me cause for concern.

The accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and the subsequent accounts as produced comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.

I also confirm that there is nothing in my opinion which needs attention in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts. I have examined the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act and have followed the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under the said section 145(b) of the Charities Act. 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 given.



Barry W. Wilford. Independent Examiner

19th October 2020

Dated