

Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church

Report and Accounts

31 December 2022

Charity number 1151214

## **Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church**

**Charity Number - 1151214**

### **Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

#### **Principal address**

Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church  
Kingshall Street  
Rougham  
Bury St Edmunds  
IP30 9LE

#### **Trustees**

The trustees who served during the year under review were:

Alan Drury	Resigned 28 April 2022
James Martin	
David Stannard	
Stuart Hitchcock	Resigned 28 April 2022
Angus Michael Barnard	
Neil Gammon	Resigned 28 April 2022
Benjamin Greeves	Resigned 28 April 2022
Benjamin Ryan	Resigned 28 April 2022
Glen McLellan	Appointed 10 May 2022
Stuart Ruegg	Appointed 24 May 2022

#### **Structure, governance and management**

Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church is governed under a Constitution adopted on 5th February 2013.

#### **Objects**

The principal object of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Baptist principles and in accordance with the basis of faith as stated in Schedule 1. The charity may also carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

#### **Financial review**

The charity endeavours to utilise the funds available to the best effect in the advancement of its objects.

#### **Main activities**

Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church is a growing and active Baptist Church in rural Suffolk. We meet for Christian worship every Sunday and have a range of activities for young and old throughout the week, including prayer meetings, home groups, parent & toddlers group, ladies and men's meetings, fellowship lunches and youth activities from age 4 upwards.

#### **Achievements and performance**

After the turmoil and uncertainty of the previous two years, we will perhaps look back at 2022 with gratitude for the lack of the extraordinary. There has been a slow return to a form of normality and the challenges facing BRBC and the Eldership have been more on a local rather than a global or national scale.

This is not to say that it has not been without incident but the positive headlines for the year will revolve around the encouraging signs of growth in all areas of church life for which we are grateful to God. We are particularly grateful given how many churches and pastors have sadly struggled for survival during the pandemic and its aftermath.

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While COVID-19 does still remain with us, the impact of it on BRBC as a church community has become less and less. The beginning of the year was met with some trepidation as to what the shape of church would be like with much of church life available to access online, there was a concern that some might opt for the convenience of staying at home which could breed more of a consumerist and isolated attitude. Wonderfully, this proved not to be the case as more and more flooded back to church, British and American in equal measure, prompting the decision to once again return to the two morning service structure.

Perhaps aided by the previous experience of two services still fresh in the memory for many, it was a real blessing that the transition was met with cautious optimism and a huge response to increased demand to serve. We are indebted to many who sacrificially offered their time and efforts to join multiple teams; serve at both services; or serve in an area unfamiliar to them. And so it was, when the day came to launch two morning services, there was a real sense of togetherness and excitement within the church family as all pulled together. It was a positive start and that feeling of community at both services continued to strengthen throughout the year.

The opportunity was taken to bring the children back into the services at the start to enjoy the benefits of sung worship and for all ages to be fed through our more structured All-in slots with a varied curriculum of mission partner updates, testimonies and short seasonal bible studies. There is some migration between services but to reinforce those bonds we have continued with our Big Table events every term which are a great opportunity for all to join together as one. As always, there is fluctuation in numbers at various kids and youth groups but, no doubt bolstered by Glen McLellan's (Children's and Youth Pastor) input, numbers have increased in Little Soldiers and Teensearchers while decreasing in Sunday School. Overall, 129 children attended a Sunday morning group during 2022.

Over the year we were fed from God's word through sermon series on Hope, John's Passion, The Life of Abraham, Ephesians and a successful Christmas programme entitled Messiah.

The year had a challenging beginning for the staff with the welcome but looming dilemma of church growth in anticipation of this we were delighted to welcome several new staff members onto the team. In September, Anna Ruegg joined on a part-time basis to take on an administrative role, releasing James and Glen from much of that burden. Also, in September, Joe Grimwood joined as our Pastor in Training and will be dividing his time over the next four years between a part-time course at Oakhill Theological College and serving us at BRBC. We also welcomed Emma Bryant onto the team as a part-time Women's Pastoral Care Worker. With the growth in staff comes a change in Pastor James's role as he develops his management of the team. Glen continued his great work with the quarterly All Age services and we look forward to more on his vision for the youth work over the coming years. Contacts were maintained and strengthened with a number of networks including FIEC, Suffolk Gospel Partnership as well as ongoing links to other local churches.

2022 also saw a welcome addition to the Eldership and a sad goodbye from the Deaconate. It was with great joy that we welcomed Stuart Ruegg on the Eldership to bring his wisdom and experience into the leadership of BRBC; but we also said a fond and very grateful farewell to Alan Drury who decided to call time on his official service at BRBC as Deacon having served the church for an incredible 42 years in a formal capacity of one sort or another and for which we will remain forever grateful.



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Away from the Sunday morning service, Community Groups continue to be the heart of fellowship for the larger congregation and have also grown in numbers. We ended 2022 with 11 groups with more to follow in the coming year, as well as a Ladies Bible Study meeting which met on Friday mornings, now with the creche. Midweek prayer meetings have also continued, along with early morning men's prayer meetings, although these were both less well-attended than the community groups. In terms of discipleship we had a study series on parenting held on Sunday evenings and off the back of the popularity of that, we are looking to put on more courses on evangelism and marriage in the coming year. In a further response to church growth and to set in place a clear pathway for newcomers to navigate their way to becoming part of the BRBC family, Pastor James held Introducing BRBC evenings regularly through the year which set out what life at BRBC is like, what our aims are and how to get involved.

We continue to look for more outreach events to share the good news with others so there was a very welcome return of the CHAOS holiday club over Easter and a second hosting of On Goal, this time in the warmth of August, both of which were packed out and vibrant. Friday night youth groups and fellowship lunches continue to offer regular and popular contact with the community. We also put on a Christianity Explored course in the second half of the year which was well-attended with some attendees going on to continue their investigation into Christianity and coming along on Sundays. Our hope and prayer is that they will in time come to put their faith in Jesus.

With the restructuring of Sunday morning services came the opportunity for even more focus on our Mission partners during our All-in slots. Along with the occasional focused prayer evening, the hope is that we will strengthen our personal and corporate bonds with these individuals and organisations and grow in our support both financially and spiritually.

Finances remain healthy and there has been no need to draw on reserves with the increasing demands of growing and a larger staff team balanced by the generosity of a growing number of people giving regularly to support the church which is an encouraging sign of a grateful and faithful church.

Over the year, we continued to hold regular members meetings where we had presentation on future developments, opportunities for question and answers about aspects of church life and issues to be raised.

So in conclusion, we can look back at 2022 with great thanks and praise to God, as the Church family has gone from strength to strength, growing deeper in our knowledge and love of Christ, in our care and love for one another, and in our desire for God to further his kingdom through our outreach work.

Looking ahead to 2023 we await the imminent release of the draft Charitable Incorporated Organisation framework document that has been compiled by the Eldership over the last few years and is now coming to a conclusion. We will also be considering the share of sabbaticals for our lead pastor, not just for the benefit of James and the church now, but as an ongoing arrangement for the future. A big challenge will be the care and growth of Community Groups; and the Elders will return to the Vision and develop further on the church multiplication plans and possible related upgrades to the church building.

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And as we set out at the beginning of the year we pray that 2023 will be another year where, God willing, we continue to grow the work of BRBC as we love Jesus and help others to do the same.

This report was approved by the trustees on ..... **20.07.23**



David Stannard  
Trustee



Angus Barnard  
Trustee

**Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church  
Independent Examiner's Report  
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

Matthew Aldous FMAAT  
Andrew Prentice Partnership  
5 Market Place  
STOWMARKET  
Suffolk

**Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

	2022 £				2021 £
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total	Total
<b>Receipts</b>					
Offerings and General income	166,606			166,606	139,519
Gift aid tax reclaimed	25,529			25,529	11,073
Sundry income	9,230			9,230	935
Interest	109			109	11
Restricted income					
Mission offerings		2,775		2,775	460
Educational grant		60,000		60,000	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>201,474</b>	<b>62,775</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>264,249</b>	<b>151,998</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Restricted payments					
Mission donations		2,775	19,041	21,816	19,143
Educational grant		3,442		3,442	-
Church Activity Expenses	30,311			30,311	11,640
Church Administration expenses	19,149			19,149	16,277
Church Utilities and maintenance	10,026			10,026	11,175
Manse	17,039			17,039	18,659
Pastors and Ministry	55,018			55,018	67,687
	<b>131,543</b>	<b>6,217</b>	<b>19,041</b>	<b>156,801</b>	<b>144,581</b>
<b>Assets and investment purchases etc.</b>					
Equipment and fixtures	6,253			6,253	4,303
	<b>6,253</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,253</b>	<b>4,303</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>137,796</b>	<b>6,217</b>	<b>19,041</b>	<b>163,054</b>	<b>148,884</b>
<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>63,678</b>	<b>56,558</b>	<b>(19,041)</b>	<b>101,195</b>	<b>3,114</b>



**Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**as at 31 December 2022**

	2022 £			2021 £
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Current a/c	117,840	-	117,840	16,723
Deposit a/c	112,943	-	112,943	112,833
Cash in hand	272	-	272	304
	<u>231,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>231,055</u>	<u>129,860</u>
<b>Other current assets</b>				
Gift aid tax to be reclaimed	5,187	-	5,187	15,471
	<u>5,187</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,187</u>	<u>15,471</u>
<b>Fixed Asset (insurance valuations)</b>				
Church premises	970,647	-	970,647	970,647
Fixtures and fittings	67,791	-	67,791	67,791
Manse	292,788	-	292,788	292,788
	<u>1,331,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,331,226</u>	<u>1,331,226</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>1,567,468</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,567,468</u>	<u>1,476,557</u>
<b>Movement of Funds</b>	Brought forward	Net receipts	Transfer from general fund	Carried forward
General	129,771	63,678	(19,213)	174,236
Mission	89	(19,041)	19,213	261
Educational grant	-	56,558	-	56,558
	<u>129,860</u>	<u>101,195</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>231,055</u>