

Ashby Baptist Church 2020 Trustees' Report

Statutory Information

Registered Address

Brook Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire. LE65 1HA
Charity Registration Number 1159600

Trustees

Rev G Heath (Pastor Appointed 31 January 2009)
Mr Tom Beavin (Appointed 27 February 2018)
Mrs W Becker (Treasurer) (Appointed as Deacon 28 June 2016)
Mrs J Earnshaw (Appointed 26 February 2019)
Mr J Greening (Appointed 23 February 2016)
Rev I Hunter (Appointed 24 February 2015)
Mr Graeme Robinson (Appointed 25 February 2020)
Mr Duncan Scott (Acting Secretary) (Appointed 27 February 2018)

Mr R Craggs (Retired 25 February 2020)
Mrs S Treasure (Retired 25 February 2020)

Property Trustees

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited
Baptist House
129 Broadway
Didcot
Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

Bankers

National Westminster Bank
Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Kingdom Bank
Ruddington

Independent Examiners

Mr Keith Malin
Mrs S Shaw

Ashby Baptist Church 2020 Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2020.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the declaration of principle of the Baptist denomination to include the advancement of education and other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd, on trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be baptised by immersion upon personal profession of faith or, at the discretion of the Church, upon an alternative personal profession of faith.

The members' Meeting normally takes place five times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint a minimum of six Trustees (including the Secretary and Treasurer), who together with the Minister (who is also appointed by the Members), and collectively known as the Diaconate, are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by Members in the Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Although the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church Meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the Charitable Object, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as Living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. Anybody is free to attend these services, when government regulations permit, which take place each Sunday morning at 10.30am; there are also occasional services at other times, as advertised from time to time. There is a children's programme linked to the morning services.

The Church runs a series of mid-week home groups for the growth of faith and discipleship, both in the homes of members and on the Church premises, when government regulations allow. The Church runs various activities specifically for the wider community, some of which are recommended by the local Council's social services department, including a lunch club.

Subject to government restrictions: Rainbows and Guides meet regularly in the Church building and a number of activities for young people are held on a regular basis, some in conjunction with Ashby Youth for Christ; the Women's Institute meets monthly on the premises, and many other organisations use the facilities on an occasional basis.

Valued links with the other Churches in Ashby and in to the community find particular expression through involvement with Ashby Youth for Christ, Christians Against Poverty, and Street Pastors, as well as through town-wide gatherings for prayer. Many members are involved individually in the life of the community, in Ashby and further afield.

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The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Church's activities, which can be seen in more detail on the Church's website, clearly demonstrate that it is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, whether financial or otherwise, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship, encouragement and spiritual growth. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but the wide range of successful activities indicate that, even during a very difficult year, the Charitable objective has been met and will continue to be met in 2021.

The Ashby Baptist Church theme for 2020, "*Faith, hope and love*" (1 Corinthians 13:13), proved especially appropriate in facing the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The year began with the continuation of existing activities, including Sunday services, regular all-age and reflective services, the nurture of children and young people by the *Junior Church Team* and the *Youth Team*, the Saturday morning group for *fathers and their pre-schoolers*, the Thursday morning *baby and toddler group*, and the *Friday lunch club* for seniors. There were small groups for Bible study, prayer and mutual support, and an evening series of church history lectures. The *hospital chaplain*, who had been accepted for accreditation by the Baptist Union of Great Britain in 2019, was ordained in February.

March began with a week of prayer. Shortly afterwards, restrictions imposed due to the pandemic resulted in the postponement of several baptisms and a much anticipated church weekend, while many church activities, including Sunday services, moved online, and the use of the premises by community groups, including *Ashby Youth for Christ*, the *Guides*, and the *Women's Institute*, had to be suspended.

The loss of rental income and Sunday offerings contributed to a financial shortfall. So the decision was made to furlough the *cleaner* and, for three months from early June, the *Minister*, who used the time as a sabbatical for personal study and reflection.

During the minister's absence, the online ministry was organised and overseen by a church member, who produced a variety of resources, with contributions from families and individuals. The *Pastoral Worker* and *Administrator* encouraged fellowship by organising walks and events as regulations allowed, establishing online coffee mornings, and ensuring ongoing contact with isolated and vulnerable people.

In early September, the minister returned to work half time under the job retention scheme, and then full time from November. When regulations permitted, online Sunday services were attended by small pre-booked congregations. Projectors were replaced with flat screens in readiness for the lifting of restrictions, and the premises were opened for private prayer on Saturday mornings from October.

The church is grateful for everyone involved in facilitating online ministry, including Sunday services, Junior Church worship, youth activities, small groups, times of prayer and reflection, coffee mornings, Christingle, family games, and craft activities. It is hoped that such initiatives might continue after restrictions are lifted.

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As an active member of the *East Midlands Baptist Association*, the church collected food for the *Kingsgate Project* at *Greenhill Community Church*, Coalville, especially during Advent and, although online, the annual toy service brought generous contributions for the *Marlene Reid Centre*.

During the year, four members died and three others ceased to be members, including two who transferred membership to Ebenezer Baptist Church in Coalville, having been part of a team serving there. At the February AGM, the Deacon Associate stepped down, as did two Deacons who had completed their terms of service, and one Deacon was appointed for the first time.

Since the AGM, no Church Meetings have been possible, and the Deacons have rarely been permitted to meet. Nevertheless, risk assessments have been approved for the use of the building and church activities, and necessary decisions have been agreed via email.

With the support of the 'furlough scheme' and the generosity the church family, income and expenditure were satisfactory, and the Pastor and Deacons are grateful to everyone who has contributed to all that was achieved in 2020. We look forward to 2021, when the theme will be "*Beauty for ashes*" (Isaiah 61:3).

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. The most significant regular expense is the cost of the Minister who leads and co-ordinates the Church's activities including the Sunday Services, together with the part-time Pastoral Worker, who assists the Minister in providing pastoral care for the congregation and others, and in equipping and encouraging the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to local, national and international Christian organisations with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the Church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the Church's objectives.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy and are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the Church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the Church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2021 AGM

**Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail.
(Lamentations 3:22)**

1. Independent Examination

The Independent Examiners have completed their work and signed off the accounts. A copy of their Report and the Accounts in the format for the Charity Commission is attached.

2. Receipts

The Church continues to raise the funds that it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. Thanks must be expressed to church members, the general congregation and others for their continued faithful giving to the church during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people who might normally make their donations at the weekly services have gone out of their way to find alternative methods to donate while it has not been possible to gather in the usual way. This has been an enormously important factor in the healthy finances reported on herewith.

Income for the 2020 General Account was down on that for 2019 by nearly £9,000. This notwithstanding claims made and grants received under the government's Job Retention Scheme totalling £8,922. Income from use of the building was substantially down in 2020 at £600 compared with a little under £2,000 in 2019.

3. Payments

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of Church activities, many of which run with little or no impact on Church expenditure but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the Church's objectives. Expenditure for the year was down on that for 2019 by £20,000.

a. Ministry

During 2020 the minister took sabbatical leave for three months. It was an opportunity for him to engage in personal study and reflection without the responsibilities of day to day church matters distracting him.

b. Mission

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making donations to local, national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose, summarised in Note 5 to the Accounts and detailed at Note 3.

10% of the church's income was tithed equally between BMS World Mission and EMBA Home Mission Fund. Financial support was also given out of Church funds to Ashby Youth for Christ, Oasis International (to support the work of Phil Lane), British Youth for Christ (supporting Nigel Roberts) and Christians Against Poverty (CAP-MNF in Ashby).

c. Upkeep of church premises

These costs are detailed in Note 6 to the Accounts and show that our expenditure was only very slightly in excess of that forecast in the budget.

4. Surplus for the year and bank balances

The Trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the Balance Sheet date, together with ongoing anticipated income, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

There was a surplus of £7,519 in the general accounts in 2020 for which we are most grateful given the exceptional circumstances that prevailed in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. As at 31 December 2020 total bank and cash balances stood at £48,338.

ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Receipts			
Regular offerings		86,727	88,330
Donations and other income	2	4,306	8,423
Income tax recovered on gift aided receipts to general funds		18,378	20,307
Job Retention Scheme grants		8,922	-
Bank interest		312	257
Rents and contributions for use of premises		600	1,975
Ministry & Manse Fund		2,238	555
Monies raised and received for other causes	3	742	3,226
EMBA Grant towards Minister in Training		-	7,932
		<u>£122,225</u>	<u>£131,005</u>
Payments			
Ministry	4	62,623	79,879
Mission	5	25,134	25,868
Administration		8,984	9,373
Upkeep of Church premises	6	17,965	19,593
		<u>£114,706</u>	<u>£ 134,713</u>
 Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		7,519	(3,708)
Balance brought forward at 1st January		40,669	37,734
Unpresented Cheque No 5264		150	-
Transferred from Frontage and Partitioning Project		-	6,644
Closing Balance at 31st December		<u>£48,338</u>	<u>£40,670</u>

CHURCH FRONTAGE & PARTITIONING PROJECT RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Receipts			
Income		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Payments			
Transferred to General Fund		-	6,644
		<u>-</u>	<u>£6,644</u>
 Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		-	(6,644)
Balance brought forward at 1st January		-	6,644
Closing Balance at 31st December		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

STATEMENT OF BANK & CASH BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020	2019
General Funds - balance brought forward at 1 January		40,669	44,377
Total General Funds Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		7,669	(3,708)
Frontage/Partitioning Project – balance brought forward at 1 January		-	6,644
Total Frontage/Partitioning Project Funds Surplus/(Deficit) for year		-	(6,644)
Balance carried forward at 31 December		<u>£48,338</u>	<u>£40,669</u>
represented by:			
NatWest Current & Business Reserve Accounts		26,314	3,648
Kingdom Bank Savings Accounts		22,004	37,005
Petty Cash		20	16
Total Cash and Bank balances at 31 December		<u>£48,338</u>	<u>£40,669</u>
allocated to:			
General Fund		30,231	31,706
Building & Maintenance Fund		2,692	2,280
Mission Fund		186	1,435
Ministry & Manse Deposit Fund		13,837	4,056
Benevolence Fund		1,392	1,192
Total		<u>£48,338</u>	<u>£ 40,669</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020	2019
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances		<u>£48,338</u>	<u>£40,669</u>
representing Balances in the following Funds			
Total Funds		<u>48,338</u>	<u>40,669</u>
		<u>£48,338</u>	<u>£40,669</u>
Other monetary assets	7	<u>7554</u>	<u>£ 6,696</u>
Non-monetary assets	8	<u>£1,685,000</u>	<u>£1,655,514</u>

ADOPTION BY THE MEMBERS OF ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Accounts, including the Notes, were adopted at the Annual General Meeting of Ashby Baptist Church on 23rd February 2021.

Dated:

23rd February 2021

21/3/2021

Signed:





Chairman
Rev G Heath

Acting Secretary
Duncan Scott

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts:

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and accord with Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011

2. Donations and other income:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
General donations	3,561	7,117
Saturday coffee mornings	164	719
Donations towards upkeep of Church premises	581	587
	<u>£4,306</u>	<u>£8,423</u>

3. Other causes

	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>	
	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Given</u>	<u>Raised</u>	<u>Given</u>
BMS World Mission	-	5,889	342	6,250
EMBA Home Mission Fund	-	5,889	-	5,908
Ashby Youth for Christ	-	4,560	-	4,500
Christians Against Poverty (Midlands National Forest)	-	1,008	-	984
Oasis International (P & R Lane)	167	2,381	502	2,673
British Youth For Christ (N Roberts)	-	2,214	-	2,136
Tearfund	75	75	-	179
Christian Aid	-	133	133	-
Latin Link	500	500	-	-
Ashby Street Pastors	-	-	139	199
Other Causes	-	-	2,110	2154
	<u>£742</u>	<u>22,649</u>	<u>£3,226</u>	<u>£24,983</u>

4. Ministry

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Minister's Stipend, on-costs and expenses	37,340	38,550
Minister's housing costs	12,087	10,555
Minister-in-Training	18	16,050
Pastoral worker and costs	12,437	12,572
Family Ministries	110	859
Worship resources	414	254
Fellowship support and events	17	761
Benevolence	200	278
	<u>£62,623</u>	<u>£79,879</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

5. Mission	Note	2020	2019	
Given to other causes	3	22,649	24,983	
Other local outreach		2,485	885	
		25,134	£25,868	
6. Upkeep of Church Premises and General Running Costs		2020	2019	
Insurance		2,418	2,364	
Gas and electricity		2,880	3,143	
Other running costs		2,679	2,544	
Cleaning		4,125	4,249	
Catering		443	2,342	
General repairs & maintenance		5,420	4,951	
		17,965	£19,593	
7. Other monetary assets	Note	2020	2019	
Current debtors:				
Unpaid Invoice 344 Ashby Spa WI		-	71	
HMRC - tax recoverable on Gift Aid Q3		5,034	4,481	
Insurance prepaid		2,417	2,005	
		£7,451	6,557	
Cash balances of Church organisations	9	103	139	
		£7,554	£6,696	
8. Non-monetary assets		2020	2019	
Church premises situate Brook Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, built in 1862 and held by The Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. as Custodian Trustees.				
The building is currently insured for		1,545,000	1,517,555	
Contents of the Church premises are currently insured for		140,000	137,959	
		£1,685,000	£1,655,514	
9. Cash balances of Church organisations				
	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance
Lunch Club	125	99	164	60
Acorns (Toddler Group)	24	194	175	43
	£149	£293	£339	£103

In 2020 there were no donations made by the Church organisations above to charitable causes.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ASHBY BAPTIST CHURCH ON ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiners

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is our responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

Our 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 Charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning 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 Examiners' Statement

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

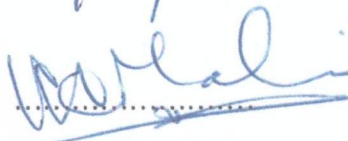
1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the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

Dated:

31/01/21

21/2/2021

Signed:



Keith Malin
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Linton
Swadlincote
Derbyshire DE12 6QE

Sandra Shaw
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Moir
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