

MATTHEW NORRIS
AGM REPORT
FEB 2022

I write this report after another 12 months of disruption caused by COVID 19 lockdowns and restrictions. It has been a difficult environment to work within and have tried my best to navigate this context to the best of my abilities. It is hard to work with a remote community. It is hard to stay connected and begin the rebuilding process as the vast majority of the community have been protecting themselves and discovering new rhythms to their daily lives.

Personally it has reminded me how important it is for a faith tribe to gather together regularly, to worship together, to care for one another, to pray, too fast, too serve and too belong together. The gathering together is central to our coherence as a church. Hopefully moving forward we can once again gather together in deeper and more significant ways.

A Museum or A Living Faith Community

One of the advantages of the last 2 years is that it has given us the ability to reflect on who we are, who we want to be and what the world around us needs us to be.

The world continues to change at a fast pace. Faith is not as celebrated as it once was. People are being stretched by new work practices and work place expectations. People are more focused on their immediate needs around events, holidays and leisure activities. There has been a massive shift from analog thinking to digital thinking. This area is changing. The people `re changing. The new development is coming and is going to have a huge impact on the area.

The old models of doing 'church' need to be thought about and reflected upon. Are they still relevant? Are they going to sustain us into the future. Of course there is goodness and beauty in the past and we never want to lose that but also there is a need to press forward into a new future.

As a faith leader I feel that this is a moment in time that we can't miss. It seems to be that for the majority of people church has become a sort of museum - a familiar sentimental echo of the past. A familiar place but a place to just visit every now and then to satisfy some memory echo or to enhance another non faith event ie Christmas.

We need to adapt. We need to position ourselves in new and modern ways to welcome in the modern seeker of truth and love. We need to seek the life giver and truth speaker. We need to be a passionate connected Holy people

with Christ at the centre of all we are and do. We need to be authentic and active worshippers who proclaim Jesus is Lord.

Over the last 6 months we have been focussing on the theme 'BELONGING' - to be an ACTS 2 people of GOD loving each other and worshipping together in the face of a hostile world outside our doors.

I recognise lots of different forces working against this over the last 6 months but hopefully as we move forward and away from COVID 19 restrictions we can truly seek the Holy Spirit together to connect us and empower us in new and exciting ways so that we become the living faith community that God wants us to be.

These beginnings of these adaptations can be seen in the practical changes to the church building, the cafe, the move to contactless and BACS tithing, a more social entrepreneurial approach to raising finances and different ways we promote the church in a digital age. These are pragmatic changes positioning the church to face a new future.

Crisis and Risk Management

We have survived 2 very troubled years in the life of the church. We have survived financially. We have been slowly recovering in numbers on a Sunday AM . The church is being used every day of the week by Toddler Groups, Slimming World and many other people who are hiring the space. We have ideas and plans to use the new cafe to reconnect with each other and the community outside.

This is all very positive but it is fragile.

As a Church we need to be thoughtful and conscious about this uncertain future. We are not in a crisis but we need to prepare now so we don't fall into one. We need to be more intentional about using our resources better and in a more productive way to ensure the church has a long and impactful future.

As Trustees we are beginning to ask these questions and try and utilise the churches resources for the glory of God.

By seeking new revenue streams and creative fundraising ideas/events we can begin to use our resources better so that we can employ others to fill the gaps we require to build a better future.

I would value all your prayers as we seek Gods will within this process. The trustees want to make positive empowering decisions into the future that are saturated in the presence of God to bring abundance to our faith community.

Alongside this conversation we have also begun to formalise our policies to be more in line with the good practice demands by the charity commission. We are a church but we are also a faith charity. This has to be taken seriously. If we don't conform to the charity commission standards then they have the power to act against us. We have begun a more formalised conversation and have begun to designate roles within the trustees to satisfy these needs.

Health and Safety : Helen Hayes

Financial Accountability : Sonia Morrison and Colin Barclay

Safeguarding : Karon Nicholl

We want to emerge from the previous two years stronger and more prepared for a positive future.

At this point I want to thank everyone who has continued to support the work of the church during these difficult times. We appreciate your continued support and values every good gift that you have given during these last few years.

THIS IS US!

Since September 2021 we have been tracking the churches progress - the people who have been attending are probably the people who are going to attend - the finances we have in the bank are the start up finances for our rebuild. This is who we are and probably who we will be for a little while. This is US!

I urge you to stop looking at empty seats and focus your hearts, minds and Christlikeness on those who are present. We all need each other. We need to take responsibility for each other. We need to be Acts 2 people filled with the presence and sharing our lives together. This is who God wants us to be! This is us!

A New Adventure.

As a church we need to start a new spiritual adventure. We need to be seeking new wine to fill new wine skins. We need to be pressing forward into a new and exciting time of Gods presence and Gods good gifts. I cannot walk this adventure alone. I am only responsible for my own adventure with GOD. We all need to find a new spiritual place in our hearts where recommit to seeking the way, the truth and the life of Christ. This is God's church but we need to be connected belonging spiritual people. We need to become a

living spiritual faith community loving each other first and seeking how we invite others onto this adventure with us.

In Conclusion

This is US! Protect it. Cherish it. Work for each other. Worship. Gather. Pray together. Be creative. Serve one another. Belong. This is the way. This is who we are and who God wants us to become. Let's start a new journey together and be present to the God who is present.

Submitted

Rev Matthew Norris

12.2.2022

Church of the Nazarene, Bristol Accounts for 2020 – 2021

Church Income	
Slimming World	£ 1650.00
Offerings	£11615.00
Property Rental	£ 8500.00
Bookings	£ 2644.00
Gift Aid	£ 3307.00
Loan Repayment	£ 1635.00
Asian Church	£ 300.00
JRS Grant	£ 5067.00
Electricity Refund	£ 277.00
Transfer in Building	£ 4017.00
Coffee	£ 251.00
Gift	£ 65.00

Total **£39328.00**

Church Outgoings

British Telecom (Manse)	£ 602.00
British Telecom (Church)	£ 915.00
Salaries (MN)	£10207.00
Gas Service	£ 547.00
Nazarene Head Office	£ 2652.00
EDF (church)	£ 588.00
Gas (church)	£ 1203.00
Cleaning	£ 1820.00
Wessex Water	£ 507.00
Council Tax (Manse)	£ 1896.00
Manse Insurance	£ 566.00
Kids Club/Youth/Toddlers	£ 52.00
Utilities (Manse)	£ 1359.00
Tax / NI / Pension (MN)	£ 1420.00
Café	£ 474.00
Office	£ 108.00
Building Fund	£ 2400.00
IT	£ 264.00
Business Waste	£ 146.00
Worship	£ 972.00
Online	£ 949.00
Crossways Insurance	£ 463.00
Training	£ 250.00
Covid Expenses	£ 560.00
Church Maintenance	£ 6215.00
Gift	£ 100.00
Gift Aid Admin	£ 90.00
Church Insurance	£ 2844.00
Wages (GN)	£ 650.00

Church Security	£ 525.00
Hospitality	£ 16.00

Total **£41521.00**

Bank Balance

O/B	£14924.00
Credits	£39328.00
Outgoings	£41521.00

Closing Balance **£12731.00**

Building Fund

Opening Balance	£22742.00
Credits	£ 2400.00
Debits (Trans current ac)	£ 4017.00

Closing Balance **£21125.00**

Anniversary Account

Opening Balance	£1670.00
Credits	£ 0.00
Debits (Trans to current ac)	£ 0.00

Closing Balance **£1670.00**



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

BRISTOL KNOWLE PARISH CHURCH
OF THE NAZARENE

On accounts for the year
ended

²⁰²¹
OCT
SEPT 2020 - AUG 2021

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

P 1 / 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/09/2021.

**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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

MP Cardwell

Date:

21/07/2021

Name:

MP CARDWELL

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

BSC ECONOMICS

Address:

79 REDCATH RD, KNOWLE
BS4 2EX

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.