

New Life Baptist Church

2020

Annual report for the year ended 31 December 2020

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Statutory Information

Registered Charity Number

Registered as a charity in England & Wales with number 1164973

Registered Address

37 Abbey Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5NG

Trustees

Mr H Williams

Mr D Mellen

Mrs T McVey

Mr R Jackson (retired 22 April 2021)

Mrs C Staves

Mrs A Williams

Mrs K Paterson (appointed 1 December 2020)

Property Trustees

East Midland Baptist Trust Company Limited

The Baptist Union Corporation Limited

Baptist House

129 Broadway

Didcot

Oxfordshire OX11 8RT

Bankers

Cooperative Bank

Delf House,

Southway,

Skelmersdale,

Lancashire WN8 6NY

Independent Examiner

Debbie Caine

New Life Baptist Church

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Annual Report for 2020

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

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by a constitution approved by the members in December 2015 and updated in October 2018. The constitution states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which required them to publicly profess their faith in God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

The members Meeting takes place several times a year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint the Minister, Treasurer and Church Secretary and other Leaders who are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. The Leaders, Minister, Treasurer and Church Secretary are the Charity Trustees. 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 Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though 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 principal objective 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.

Much of 2020 was dominated by restrictions on social gathering, due to the Covid Pandemic. Due to these limitations, a Sunday Worship Video with worship, prayers and preaching was made available to our congregation, via both a link on our Website, and a newly organised Facebook group (a closed group to provide security for members). As well as Sunday Services, each evening of the week for several months a video recording of an 'Evening Reflection' was available. This frequency was reduced in the autumn to three evenings per week. In addition, we started producing a 'Thought For the Day' both on the Church email system and the Church Facebook group each weekday morning.

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The Church Facebook group serves as a community ‘hub’ for any in the Church to use and enjoy, and creates community. It is used regularly for photos, wildlife videos, poetry, and inspirations. This network both informs and is a channel of interaction.

In October, when restrictions on gathering together had been lifted, our 10.30am Sunday service resumed at Rushcliffe school. Masks, and hand sanitizers, were available, and social distancing was maintained. The areas used were cleaned with disinfectant. No congregational singing was allowed, but music was listened to and enjoyed, and prayers and a talk given.

As with many activities, we closed our “in person” services again in November going back to posting recordings. In December we returned to Rushcliffe and began streaming our services live over YouTube as well. But with the increase in covid cases we decided to close our “in person” meetings at Christmas. We have had to adapt throughout the year but continue to be a friendly and welcoming community, albeit in a different way.

The Church small groups that used to meet for weekly bible study and social interaction, in each others homes, mostly still met, but over Zoom, or Group WhatsApp, phone, or socially distanced walks, when that was allowed. We met (and still meet) for weekly prayer on Tuesday evenings by Zoom, and held our Leadership meetings alternate weeks by Zoom. In 2020 we joined with a church in Leicester running an Alpha course for people interested in discovering more about Christianity.

The Church has a vision for a meeting place for people in the community who are lonely or perhaps suffering from mental health issues. In a “normal year” the church operates a wellbeing café in the mornings from Monday to Thursday in a rented property at 37 (37 Abbey Road). From Friday to Sunday, the premises are leased and used by a local tea shop. With the covid-19 pandemic we have had to be creative in keeping in touch with people. As a support group we were able to keep the wellbeing café open on a limited basis, taking lots of precautions to keep the group safe or closing the premises when we considered the risk of meeting too high. But we also invested in online meetings through Zoom and keeping in touch regularly by telephone.

The Church ran a milkshake bar for teenagers weekly during term time until the covid-19 restrictions began in March 2020. We hope to be able to reopen at some time in 2021.

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

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrates that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

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Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship, community involvement and encouragement.

2020 was an extremely challenging year because of Covid. Throughout the lockdowns and re-openings, the Trustees have been greatly encouraged by most members of the Church in their active participation in what has been provided – both on-line and in the walks and Church picnic, when we were briefly allowed to meet together in a larger group outside. The membership remains at 69.

A Church Vision Day in 2019 resulted in the desire for a Minister to lead the Church. This request was implemented by the Trustees, who revised the Church Profile, and the Church's details were given to the Baptist Union's Settlement Team, who matched us with various candidates. After much discussion, telephone calls, and zoom meetings amongst the Leadership, Paul Muir was invited to preach at a service in December 2020 and after a number of further meetings with the leadership and with church members, we called him to be the Minister of the church at a Special Church Meeting in February 2021.

The church has a number of members with severe mental health issues and the support the church gives these people has been favourably commented on by those involved professionally in their care. In addition, external agencies continue to support the wellbeing café aimed at people with such issues. A number of our members are involved in other community activities such as Safe Families. The Church also actively supports The Friary in West Bridgford, which provides much needed assistance for deprived members of our community. A measure of the professional involvement has been the awarding of a successful grant application from the local borough council.

The successful establishing of a new venture in 2019 at a local residential complex for the elderly, providing both bible study and social interaction went well until lockdown restrictions caused its temporary closure. This group is not very technically minded and so they each receive a reasonably regular phone call, with a socially distanced doorstep visit with chocolates and a card prior to Christmas.

With much regret we were not able to invite people from the community on our coach day trips because of the necessary Covid restrictions.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The most significant expenses relate to the renting of premises and the employment of part-time team members.

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We rent a space to meet on a Sunday morning and rent our wellbeing cafe at 37 Abbey Road.

Our paid team members throughout the year were:

Mr D Mellen our Children's and Church support worker
Mrs V Bragg who is the Centre Host at our Wellbeing Café
Mrs A Williams our church administrator.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies 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 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.

Approval and declaration

I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

- the trustees have approved the above report and attached accounts; and
- have authorised me to sign them on their behalf

Carol Staves
15 West View
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7LS

13 May 2021

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Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages 3 to 8

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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 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 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 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 matter has come to my attention

1. 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; and
- 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 my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Debbie Caine

Independent Examiner

43 Blanford Gardens, West Bridgford,

Nottingham, NG2 7UQ

FCCA CTA

5 May 2021

New Life Baptist Church

2020

Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2020

Receipts and Payments account

		Year to 31 Dec 2020	Year to 31 Dec 19
Receipts:	Note	£	£
General Offering		74,150	81,642
Tax Recovered	3	26,189	26,757
Rental income		7,200	9,600
Grant income	4	11,000	-
Investment income		436	306
Special Offerings	5	3,739	15,884
Total Receipts		122,714	134,189
Payments:			
Employment costs	6	25,113	72,682
Church activities	7	2,312	27,765
Office & admin costs		3,072	2,763
Rent, property & insurance costs	8	21,557	25,983
Subtotal		52,054	129,194
Giving away	9	16,679	15,404
Total payments		68,733	144,598
(Deficit) / Surplus		53,981	(10,409)
Opening Funds:		67,925	78,334
Funds at the end of the period:		121,906	67,925
General Funds:		121,906	67,925

The notes on pages 5 to 8 form part of this Statement

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Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of assets and liabilities

Assets:

The balance reported as total funds is made up of the following assets:

	Note	At 31-Dec-2020	At 31-Dec-19
Cash on deposit with the BU		82,603	36,180
Cash at Co-Operative Bank		39,175	31,637
Cash in hand		128	108
		<u>121,906</u>	<u>67,925</u>

In addition to the assets above, the following items should be taken into consideration to understand the financial status of the church:

Equipment (at insured value)		33,703	32,102
Gift aid tax recoverable		4,400	13,500
Rental deposit (on 37 Abbey Road)		3,900	3,900
Total Assets		<u>163,909</u>	<u>117,427</u>

Liabilities:

		At 31-Dec-2020	At 31-Dec-19
Special offerings to pay on	9	122	162
Sunday morning rental		1,400	2,000
Church outing deposits held over		450	
Total Liabilities		<u>1,972</u>	<u>2,162</u>

Prepared by	Huw Williams
Assisted by	Mhel Handy
	Rob Moss
Independent Examiner	Debbie Caine

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 29 April 2021 and signed on their behalf by Huw Williams (treasurer)

The notes on pages 5 to 8 form part of this Statement

New Life Baptist Church

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Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2020

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting policies

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

2 Church Funds

Apart from special offerings which are paid on within a few weeks or used for specific church projects, and the grant income received for Renew 37 (see note 4), all church funds are unrestricted and may be used for any of the church's ordinary purposes.

3 Tax Recovered

Tax recovered under the gift aid scheme covers the period April 2018 to September 2020 (18 months). The amount recovered in the 2019 accounts was for 15 months to March 2019. The amount receivable for donations made between October and December 2020 is shown under 'assets'.

4 Grant income

Early in the year, the church received a discretionary grant from Rushcliffe Borough Council to support the work of Renew 37 of £1,000. As part of the response to the covid pandemic, the church, along with other local rate-payers, received a further £10,000 from Rushcliffe Borough Council in March.

The use of this income is restricted to costs on Renew 37, but as those costs are far in excess of the grants (the premises costs alone exceed £15,000) we have not shown restricted funds separately.

5 Special offerings

Paid away or to be paid away (see note 9)

	Year to 31 Dec 2020	Year to 31 Dec 19
Breakfast services	572	1,859
Other special offerings	738	485
Subtotal	<u>1,310</u>	<u>2,344</u>

Utilised during year

Gifts for Renew 37 costs	2,309	1,005
Money towards church weekend in 2019	-	12,427
Sale of surplus assets (tents)	120	
Fundraising costs (quiz night food and venue)		108
	<u>3,739</u>	<u>15,884</u>

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Notes to the accounts

6 Trustee remuneration

Throughout 2020 we had two trustees who were paid by the church (in 2019 we had two or three trustees who were paid by the church). David Mellen, an employee of the church, was appointed as a leader (and therefore a trustee) in May 2016 and Alison Williams was appointed as a leader (and therefore a trustee) in December 2018 and took on the paid role of administrator in May 2019. Ruth Maple, another employee, was appointed as a leader (and therefore a trustee) in November 2016 and left in June 2019.

The church constitution says that a minister will usually be paid and that trustees can be paid with the approval of the church members in general meeting. The church considered whether or not to appoint paid employees to the leadership team before appointing David Mellen and Ruth Maple and whether to appoint an existing trustee to a paid position before employing Alison Williams. In particular the trustees considered the disadvantage of some trustees being unable to participate in decisions when they had a financial interest in those decisions because they were being paid by the church; the trustees could not identify any situations in which this might prove to be a problem.

The figures shown below are for remuneration, pensions, and other costs paid whilst the employees were also trustees.

	Year to 31 Dec 2020	Year to 31 Dec 19
Remuneration (total gross)	£6,116	£45,791
Pensions (total employer payments)	£419	£1,769
Expenses	£0	£24

Expenses

Expenses were primarily travel costs for paid trustees

Training and related expenses are also paid for or on behalf of church members involved in particular areas of church service whether they are trustees or not. The relevant costs are shown under the appropriate headings in the expense analyses. No separate record is made of how much of these costs is incurred for or on behalf of trustees.

Termination agreements

During 2019 the church agreed a payment to an employee who was also a trustee after taking appropriate advice and getting the necessary approval from the charity commissioners. The amount is included in the total gross remuneration figure above.

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Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2020

Notes to the accounts

	Year to 31 Dec 2020	Year to 31 Dec 19
7 Analysis of Church Activities		
General		
Catering - general	165	471
Church weekends 2019	-	17,931
Church days out	see below ⁽¹⁾ (441)	200
Equipment & repairs	402	681
Craft materials for 37 and trips from 37	99	928
Pastoral (gifts/cards and financial support)	405	1,609
Publicity	133	120
Service Materials	148	16
Training / conferences	see below ⁽²⁾ (717)	2,082
Visiting Speakers	1,640	1,120
Other general payments	237	1,106
Children and youth		
Milkshake bar	241	964
Other children and youth costs	-	538
	£2,312	£27,765

⁽¹⁾ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were not able to take people on our usual day out in March, but money had already been collected in and was left with the church for the next time we can take a trip

⁽²⁾ Normally the church pays for a leaders' conference for the following January and collects back contributions from some attendees after the conference. Because of COVID-19 the 2021 conference happened online for free, so the 2020 figures mostly reflect the contributions received back for the 2020 conference.

	Year to 31 Dec 2020	Year to 31 Dec 19
8 Rent, property & insurance costs		
37 Abbey Road	15,502	17,150
Other property and insurance costs	6,055	8,833
	£21,557	£25,983

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Annual accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2020

Notes to the accounts

	Year to 31 Dec 2020	Year to 31 Dec 19
9 Analysis of Giving away		
BMS World Mission	3,150	3,000
Friary Drop in Centre	3,600	3,600
Home Mission Fund (EMBA)	2,500	2,400
Nottingham Refugee Forum	696	696
Tearfund	1,230	996
Open Doors	996	996
Renew Wellbeing	-	590
Nottingham Trent Christian Union	500	-
Butterfly Space (Malawi)	1,000	-
Bless Network	500	-
Other giving (under £500)	1,158	749
Giving from General Fund	15,330	13,027
Special offerings paid away (see note 5 and below)	1,349	2,377
Total Giving away	£16,679	£15,404

£122 of the special offerings were paid away in 2021 (previous year £162 paid away in 2020)

Included in special offerings paid away were additional gifts to Friary Drop in Centre of £143 (2019 £162), Tearfund £428 (2019 £450) and Renew Wellbeing £nil (2019 £200)

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Termination agreements

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Open Doors	996	996
Renew Wellbeing	-	590
Nottingham Trent Christian Union	500	-
Butterfly Space (Malawi)	1,000	-
Bless Network	500	-
Other giving (under £500)	1,158	749
Giving from General Fund	15,330	13,027
Special offerings paid away (see note 5 and below)	1,349	2,377
Total Giving away	£16,679	£15,404

£122 of the special offerings were paid away in 2021 (previous year £162 paid away in 2020)

Included in special offerings paid away were additional gifts to Friary Drop in Centre of £143 (2019 £162), Tearfund £428 (2019 £450) and Renew Wellbeing £nil (2019 £200)