

Annual Trustee Report 2023

What a difficult thing it is to write a report that does justice to all that has happened at Pinner Baptist Church in 2023! The growth in numbers, in activities, in community, in governance and in faith, is so varied it is difficult to know where to begin.

The year started, as always, with a **Service of Re-Dedication** on 15 January, followed by a lunch together in the church hall. The leaders were commissioned for a further year of service and all church members and congregation also committed themselves for 2023, and so began another year of prayer, worship and service at Pinner Baptist Church.

By the end of 2022 we had returned to almost a normal way of doing things after the various restrictions imposed by the covid pandemic. But there was one major change that took place early in 2023 - we stopped using the little plastic cups with the peel-off tops containing the bread and wine for Communion. Once we made this decision, we moved to the present system of the congregation coming up to receive the wafer and the little cup of wine, then returning to our seats so that we could share the Communion all together. **This was a major step forward and enabled us to feel part of the Communion Service and realise anew the significance of what we were doing.** We were also relieved not to have to peel off the little tops anymore! Our thanks to Vino and Su Ramachandra, Marilyn Graceson and Anne Jayawardene, the Communion Stewards, who make sure everything is always ready for this special part of our services.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

The leaders have continued to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month for prayer, with the church prayer meeting for everyone on the 3rd Wednesday. In 2022 we had returned to face-to-face prayer meetings, but in 2023, we changed it to both face-to-face and on zoom, enabling those who are unable to come out in the evenings, or just too late home from work, to take part. Both prayer meetings have been well supported throughout the year.

The Wednesday morning Connect Group continued to meet, but two new groups also started early in 2023, both on Thursday evenings, one in Edgware and one in Pinner. We are grateful to Alice and Grant Benjamin, and Smitha Nair and Vinod Nagappally for hosting these groups.

A 10-week course on the book of Romans was run in early autumn by Vino Ramachandra - well attended and much appreciated. With the many preaching series including: - Exodus, Ephesians, Joshua, there were many opportunities to grow in knowing the Bible.

POP-UP KITCHEN EVENTS AND CHURCH LUNCHES

There were 3 of the Pop-up events in 2023: - A Chinese meal in February; an African meal in May, and an Indian meal in September, master-minded by Siew Tran, Kin Chen, Vinod Nagappally, Smitha Nair Wendy Tang, Nelson Ma and Margaret Field. Members were invited to bring guests to enjoy the wonderful cuisine and the good company. As well as the January church lunch to celebrate the Re-dedication, there was a 'Bring and Share' lunch on Palm Sunday and then a church picnic in Little Common Park in August and a wonderful Caribbean Lunch the week after our Windrush Service, arranged by Arlene Weekes and Marilyn Graceson. We are blessed with many talented cooks and creative ideas, to make possible these occasions to bring our community together over food.

CELEBRATING THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Pinner Baptist Church has always made a point of celebrating the special times of the year. Once again there were lovely posies given to all the women in church on Mothering Sunday, and Palm Crosses handed out on Palm Sunday. We were able to hold a Kaleidoscope Easter Service, an in-person Maundy Thursday Service in the evening, with Taizé music and a 'Last Supper' table, plus an early Good Friday Service, before many members joined the PAC Walk of Witness through Pinner and then a celebratory service on Easter Sunday, followed by a few Easter eggs!

Later in the year we celebrated Harvest with a Harvest table and extra gifts for the Harrow Food Bank and London's Community Kitchen. On Remembrance Sunday, we observed the 2-minute silence and had representatives at the War Memorial in Pinner High Street. Then Christmas we observed Advent, with our weekly Advent Candles, Carol Service with candle-light, a choir, youth involvement and mulled wine and mince pies to finish. In 2023, we held a Christingle Service, for children and families, in the afternoon; something we had not done for a long time. Many families came along and the children loved processing round the church with their Christingle, a lit candle in an orange, and the whole thing was followed by a tea with sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes etc in the church hall. This was well received by everyone who came and something we will want to repeat. Christmas Day Service saw Manoj and his wife, Maria showing their dramatic skills in a very poignant sketch written by Manoj, plus children coming up to show us their Christmas toys.

Another new service for 2023 was a watchnight service on 31 December at 11.30pm. Many people gathered for this new opportunity to welcome in 2023.

CORONATION COMMUNITY FUN DAY 8 MAY 2023

In 2022 we held a very successful Fun Day for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, so with a Coronation to celebrate, it seemed a good idea to repeat the exercise. This time the weather was not as kind, so we were unable to hold it outside in the rear playground, but we made good use of the whole premises, the lower hall and the church sanctuary. In the hall we had a bouncy castle, balloon modelling, making flower decorations, making a crown, a Union Jack windmill, and other crafts, while in the church we served cream teas and cakes, had a face painting table, some games, and musicians entertaining in the corner.

We estimated that over 200 people came through our premises that day, some from the nursery, from Super Dads, local neighbours and friends and family. It was a lovely day with so many people taking part in one way or another. We enjoyed doing it so much that we plan now to have an annual community fun day, even without a royal event to celebrate. Our thanks to all those who helped in any way to make this possible.

WINDRUSH SERVICE 24 SEPTEMBER

With the number of members of our community with origins in the Caribbean, we decided to have a service to commemorate the Windrush anniversary. We came in to find the church decorated with flags, fruit and flowers from the different countries; the former Mayor of Harrow and other Councillors attended. There was a testimony from Lesline Lewinson and a poem read by several members, a very moving service and a blessing to all who took part and all who were there. It was followed the next week by the Caribbean lunch after the Harvest Service.

OUR REGULAR ACTIVITIES

As well as special activities and events, there are all the groups that meet on a regular basis and do such faithful work week by week or month by month.

- Sunday School and Youth Group - thank you to Paola, Kathy and all the teachers for the good sessions every Sunday, where children run to go out to their classes!
- Little Pips - thank you to Paola and Nikki for the way this group has grown during the year, with some now coming along to an occasional Sunday Service
- Half-term Fun Days - 2 of these were held and very successful in 2023, with such large numbers coming that they have now had to put a limit on numbers and book in advance.
- Super Dads - although no longer run by members of PBC, it is very popular, with large numbers, and many come to our other events - the Fun Days and Christingle last year.
- SALT - the women's Bible Study group meet regularly for study and fellowship and also enjoyed a lunch out and a Christmas meal.
- Men's Ministry - they have had several special speakers, usually with a breakfast, and a BBQ on one occasion and dinner out for special times.
- Kaleidoscope - the seniors group meeting twice each month. There was no Holiday at Home this year, but a wonderful Canal Boat Trip on 1 August and a full cream tea in the church later in August.
- Food Bank Collections - every month we have opened our doors and collected much needed food for Harrow Food Bank and London's Community Kitchen, with drivers delivering the food during the next week. There has also been coffee and biscuits on offer for those who wish to stop and chat. Our thanks to Jane Everitt for organising this.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our thanks to Manoj for arranging all the preachers throughout the year and giving us his inspiring messages on so many occasions. But the services would not be possible without a lot of people being involved in background work.

- Audio/Visual Team - thanks to Adam and Carys for making sure we have people every Sunday to set up the sound, look after the cameras and project the words, often with some difficult technical issues to deal with.
- Worship Teams - planning their music in advance and coming in early to rehearse. We are blessed to have so many skilled people able to help in this way.
- Stewarding Team - it's very important that people are welcomed in a friendly way and given help where needed; they are the first point of contact with the church. Thank you to Su Ramachandra for making sure this is all in place.
- Catering Team - where would we be without our coffee and biscuits (sometimes cakes as well) after the service. But it means people have to arrive early to get set up, so thank you, Siew, for arranging this.
- Flowers - it's always lovely to see the church looking good, so thank you to Gloria who provides many of our decorations.

EVERYTHING ELSE

All of the things mentioned so far are what people see when they come to the church, but there are a lot of other things that happen which are mostly unseen, but without which the church could not function.

- Office and Finance Administrator - after Joe Soares moved away to Bath, we had to find somebody else for our church office. Janice Cheung started work as our Office Administrator in February 2023, gradually taking on more of the work of booking church premises, looking after the calendar and doing all our copying and filing.
- Finance Officer - Ted Knotwell retired as our Finance Officer in September 2023 after 11 years in the job. We had a small farewell gathering for Ted and gave him a leaving gift. With Ted leaving, Janice then also took on the work that Ted had done, paying all the invoices and keeping track of our finances.
- Gift Aid - Margaret and John Crush had done a great job of looking after our Gift Aid claims for 10 years, and decided to retire in April 2023. We were grateful to Bola Ogbe for agreeing to take on this role.
- Admin Assistant - Fabricia Teixeira has worked for the church for over 7 years and officially retired in December 2023, when we had a small farewell gathering. But Fabricia is still helping out from home, with sending out some of our church communications.
- Church Manse - the church house in Towers Road, Hatch End; the tenants vacated in March, and it was then found a lot of work was needed, including replacing some of the damp course. With no rent coming in for several months, the church had to finance the much-needed work. We did have some help from a group of 3 volunteers, Ian Sweet, Peter Clark and Pete Smith who tackled the garden to get that in order and also did a number of tasks to help out the repairs inside the house. Our Premises Manager, Daniel, also did a lot of the work to make the manse ready for occupation. New tenants moved in late summer, which means we started to get rent again to cover some of what we had paid out.
- Church Windows - the large church windows had been in need of repair for many years, but we had put it off due to the cost. We decided it had to be done, partly for safety's sake. So major repairs and refurbishment were carried out in 2 phases - the first phase saw the large front window and the high window in the music corner repaired, then phase 2 later in the summer enabled all the ground floor windows to be done. There are still 2 high windows to be dealt with in phase 3 in 2024.
- Fire Risk Assessment - we had a full fire risk assessment carried out by Chubb, who service our fire fighting appliances. This led to changes to several areas of the church, especially in relation to storage, to ensure safety.
- Jigsaw Nursery - in April 2023, we were informed that Jigsaw Nursery owners Sarah Stent and Nicky Butler had sold the whole nursery to Families First. This is a large umbrella organisation with nurseries all over the country. We now deal with the various departments for all compliance matters. Work was done on re-decorating the 3 side classrooms in the summer holidays and the large back hall during the Christmas holidays, by Daniel O'Brien, with help from Dudley Hinds, Gloria Hinds and Peter Clark,

We are very grateful to all those who help in the finance area of church life: - Vino Ramachandra, Bola Ogbe and Jones Shu join me on that group, plus the work of Kevin Ogilvie, who does the monthly and yearly accounts. A great deal of work is also done by the property group, especially by our Premises Manager, Daniel O'Brien, plus Ian Sweet, Dudley Hinds and Cristian Carlescu.

We have been quite amazed at the income we have received in 2023 to make all this possible and thank all of you for your gifts, both regular and occasional.

PLANNING AHEAD

Although we are very fortunate to have many people volunteering in various roles in the church, it was still obvious to us that the main work of church governance was resting on just a few people, and we realised this could not go on indefinitely, so after discussions and investigations, it was decided to seek to employ an Operations Manager to take on many of these roles. By the time of writing this, our new Operations Manager, Lizzie Thomson, has started working for us and we look forward to easing the burden on some of our members, and to see the work of PBC expand with the extra vision this will bring to the church.

In April 2023, the words 'Hatch End Baptist Church' started appearing on our leaders' agendas, as we heard about their situation and the suggestion that we might help out by doing a 'rescue merger'. This was new ground for all of us, making us question and feeling quite anxious about what this might mean. But over the next months there were several meetings, with members of HEBC, with the Regional Minister, and at church meetings, where it was possible to raise questions and find out if this is right for us. As I write, we have committed ourselves to working with this and trying to make this new situation work and enable a small church to keep going. We don't yet have all the answers, but we are open to listening to what God wants us to do and to find the best way forward for both HEBC and PBC. We are aware that we are in exciting, but slightly scary, times!

PEOPLE

We welcomed 13 new members into full membership in 2023, with several others joining our circulation list. This is always a joy when people decide to make Pinner Baptist Church their home. But others are moving on, in one way or another.

Derek Best died last year and he will be greatly missed, doing so much for this church as church secretary, deacon, property team and so many other things. His funeral was an occasion that brought several former members back to PBC.

We said goodbye to Joe Soares when he moved away to Bath, and will be shortly saying goodbye to Jones and Cherith Shu, with Matteus and Alessandra, as they move to Brazil, they will be greatly missed.

Yanice and Orlando Bonzi finished their studies at LST and stepped down from their role as our worship leaders. We thank them for all that they brought to our worship and wish them well as they move on.

Naomi Buijs will also be moving on, and we are grateful for all her musical gifts to the church.

Whether people make PBC their home for a short time or a longer time, we hope they will always feel welcome and part of the community.

MANOJ

Our very grateful thanks to Manoj for all his devotion and care for Pinner Baptist Church. For the generous gifts of time and energy that he brings to his role as our Pastor. As well as his work with PBC, Manoj is Chair of the Evangelical Alliance; part of the NW District of the London Baptist Association, attending Ministers meetings; and is very committed to the work of the Pinner Association of Churches. We continue to pray for him and his family, Maria, Chandni and Ishaan.

It is always a worry when writing a report like this that I will have left out something that you felt was important or significant. If that is the case, then my apologies. We are so blessed to be part of a congregation where there are all ages, plus so many different nationalities, abilities and gifts; a congregation that sees new people coming along each week and where so many people are now feeling this is their home. We pray that we will continue to be a place of welcome, a place where unity dwells and where God's love is seen in action.

Joyce Eavis April 2024

Pinner Baptist Church

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Pinner Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set in pages of the Annual Report.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act **2011** (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Anthony Ogilvie FCCA

20th March 2024

75 Stanley Park Road

Carshalton Surrey SM5 3H



Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	189,247	—	5,561	—	194,807	109,688
Income from charitable activities	100	—	—	—	100	376
Other trading activities	94,324	—	—	—	94,324	87,164
Investments	1,391	165	—	—	1,556	253
Outreach Income	—	999	1,755	—	2,754	—
Total income	285,062	1,165	7,316	—	293,542	197,481
Expenditure on:						
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Minister Direct	48,058	—	—	—	48,058	35,804
Manse Expenditure	15,138	—	—	—	15,138	—
Church Expenditure	103,848	—	3,500	—	107,348	56,879
Support Costs	36,514	—	—	—	36,514	29,648
Outreach Expenditure	31,564	772	5,185	—	37,521	37,148
Other expenditure	8,687	—	—	—	8,687	7,631
Total expenditure	243,809	772	8,685	—	253,266	167,111
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	41,252	393	(1,369)	—	40,276	30,370
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	200	—	—	—	200	957
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	(200)	—	(200)	(957)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Net movement in funds	41,452	393	(1,569)	—	40,276	30,370
Total funds brought forward	72,912	65,031	3,763	—	141,706	111,336
Total funds carried forward	114,364	65,424	2,195	—	181,983	141,706
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General Fund	114,364	—	—	—	114,364	72,912
Designated						
Disabled Access	—	5,000	—	—	5,000	5,000
Reserve Fund	—	60,196	—	—	60,196	60,031
Special Events	—	228	—	—	228	—
Restricted						
Fellowship Fund	—	—	250	—	250	250
Outreach Kaleidoscope	—	—	42	—	42	—
Outreach Men's Group	—	—	(111)	—	(111)	—
Window Fund	—	—	2,013	—	2,013	3,513

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Current assets			
6510	HSBC Community Account	38,470	36,191
6511	HSBC Money Manager	42,232	30,702
6515	NAT West	78,494	71,788
6516	Petty Cash	12	12
6520	Capital Deposit	—	—
6521	LB Property Board 15956	219	100
6525	LB Property Board 15961	4,162	4,116
Z05	Accounts Receivable	20,840	—
	Total Current assets	184,430	142,909
Liabilities			
0501	Uncleared Transactions	—	—
0510	Loans Received	—	—
6699	Agency collections	—	1,203
Z04	Accounts Payable	2,447	—
	Total Liabilities	2,447	1,203
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	181,983	141,706
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	40,276	30,370
Z01	Starting balances	141,706	111,336
	Total Reserves	181,983	141,706
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	114,364	72,912
	Designated	65,424	65,031
	Restricted	2,195	3,763
	Endowment	—	—
	Total	181,983	141,706

Analysis of income and expenditure

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Donations and legacies							
General Offerings		85,442	—	—	—	85,442	48,050
Loose Collections		4,165	—	—	—	4,165	2,818
Stewardship Donations		6,240	—	—	—	6,240	10,900
General Donations		6,904	—	—	—	6,904	3,918
SumUp donations (card reader)		22,813	—	112	—	22,925	3,759
Gift Aid Refunds		44,712	—	—	—	44,712	16,255
Thank Offerings		18,971	—	2,000	—	20,971	21,162
Specific Donations		—	—	3,449	—	3,449	2,824
Total		189,247	—	5,561	—	194,807	109,688
Income from charitable activities							
Sundry Receipts		100	—	—	—	100	376
Total		100	—	—	—	100	376
Other trading activities							
Lettings		14,580	—	—	—	14,580	15,141
Nursery Income		41,311	—	—	—	41,311	35,692
Cottage Rent		24,000	—	—	—	24,000	16,909
Manse Rental		14,433	—	—	—	14,433	19,423
Total		94,324	—	—	—	94,324	87,164
Investments							
Bank Interest		1,391	165	—	—	1,556	253
Total		1,391	165	—	—	1,556	253
Outreach Income							
Outreach Men's Group Income		—	—	693	—	693	—
Outreach Kaleidoscope Income		—	—	1,062	—	1,062	—
Outreach - Special Events Income		—	999	—	—	999	—
Total		—	999	1,755	—	2,754	—
INCOME TOTAL		285,062	1,165	7,316	—	293,542	197,481

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on charitable activities - Minister Direct

Minister's Net Salary	36,244	—	—	—	36,244	24,224
Baptist Minister's Pension Fund	9,135	—	—	—	9,135	6,537
BU Pension Fund Deficit Contribution	12	—	—	—	12	2,294
Minister's Expenses	59	—	—	—	59	629
Visiting Ministers	1,850	—	—	—	1,850	2,100
Minister Training	758	—	—	—	758	20
Total	48,058	—	—	—	48,058	35,804

Expenditure on charitable activities - Manse Expenditure

Manse Maintenance	15,138	—	—	—	15,138	—
Total	15,138	—	—	—	15,138	—

Expenditure on charitable activities - Church Expenditure

Church Maintenance	51,518	—	3,500	—	55,018	20,532
Cleaning Labour	17,224	—	—	—	17,224	13,106
Cleaning Materials	2,340	—	—	—	2,340	1,195
Church Utilities- Electricity	12,003	—	—	—	12,003	5,164
Church Utilities - Gas	6,129	—	—	—	6,129	5,708
Church Utilities - Telephone/broadband	605	—	—	—	605	567
Church Utilities - Water	1,339	—	—	—	1,339	1,041
Church Utilities Waste Collection	624	—	—	—	624	627
Furniture & Equipment	2,002	—	—	—	2,002	2,063
Premises Manager	9,518	—	—	—	9,518	6,535
Audio Visual Equipment	547	—	—	—	547	341
Total	103,848	—	3,500	—	107,348	56,879

Expenditure on charitable activities - Support Costs

Insurance	6,338	—	—	—	6,338	7,003
Legal Fees	—	—	—	—	—	2,787
Admin Asst's Wages	2,184	—	—	—	2,184	546
Finance Officer's Fees	2,816	—	—	—	2,816	3,379
Photocopier Costs (net)	677	—	—	—	677	524
Office Expenses	2,432	—	—	—	2,432	1,540
PAYE & NI	13,516	—	—	—	13,516	9,250
Office Administrator	7,732	—	—	—	7,732	3,821
Payroll management fee	818	—	—	—	818	798
Total	36,514	—	—	—	36,514	29,648

Expenditure on charitable activities - Outreach Expenditure

Youth & Children's Worker	15,318	—	—	—	15,318	14,287
Youth & Children's Worker Pension	3,270	—	—	—	3,270	3,564
Church-Worship, Music & Literature	1,854	—	—	—	1,854	511
Children & Young People	502	—	—	—	502	865
Church Donations exp	6,272	—	—	—	6,272	7,322
Specific Donation Exp	—	—	3,561	—	3,561	2,994
Worship Leaders	4,200	—	—	—	4,200	5,200
Outreach - Special Events	—	772	—	—	772	1,426
Outreach General	—	—	—	—	—	601
Outreach Men's Group	—	—	804	—	804	256
Outreach Kaleidoscope	—	—	820	—	820	—
Outreach SALT	23	—	—	—	23	51
Outreach Members Transport	125	—	—	—	125	(9)
Outreach Discipleship	—	—	—	—	—	81
Total	31,564	772	5,185	—	37,521	37,148

Other expenditure

Cottage Maintenance & Costs	257	—	—	—	257	628
Gifts to Members & Staff	955	—	—	—	955	549
Catering	1,095	—	—	—	1,095	1,112
Training/Conferences & Courses	789	—	—	—	789	295
Subscriptions	1,441	—	—	—	1,441	1,876
Sundry Payments	—	—	—	—	—	771
Professional Fees	4,150	—	—	—	4,150	2,400
Total	8,687	—	—	—	8,687	7,631
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	243,809	772	8,685	—	253,266	167,111
GRAND TOTAL	41,252	393	(1,369)	—	40,276	30,370

Notes to the Accounts**New format of accounts**

This year, the church's income exceeded £250,000. As a result, the accounts format has changed from being produced on an Income and Expenditure basis to that of the Accruals basis.

The Baptist Pension Scheme

During 2023 the church continued to contribute to the general deficit of the Baptist Pension Scheme

Non-Monetary Assets

Land and buildings used by the Church (freehold titles vested in the Custodian Trustee the London Baptist Property Board)

1. The Church, the cottage and buildings in Paines Lane, Pinner
2. The Manse at 25 Towers Road, Pinner
3. Furniture and equipment at the Church, Manse and Cottage