

BRIXHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity Number: 1175103

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2020

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Name of the Charity: BRIXHAM BAPTIST CHURCH Registered Address: Market St
Brixham Devon TQ5 8EU

Charity Registration Number: 1175103

Date of Registration: 11 October 2017

Trustees as at 1st January 2020

Martine Brumwell
Barrie Chivers
Jim Collins
Chris Forster
Steve Hurley

Martine Brumwell and Steve Hurley stood down in January 2020

Trustees appointed at Annual Meeting on 14th December 2020

Geoff Andrews (resigned 31/08/2021)
Jonathan Cox
Bernard Lewis
Joy May
Edwin Pocock

Minister: Pastoral Vacancy

During this year we have been in a period of Pastoral Vacancy. We have engaged with the South West Baptist Association with a view to filling this vacancy. Restrictions imposed in March 2020 because of the Covid 19 pandemic have hindered the process.

Property Trustees: The Baptist Union Corporation,
(Baptist House, PO Box 44, 129 Broadway, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 8RT).

Bankers: Barclays Bank.
Lloyds TSB.

Independent Examiner: Ian Barrett FCA FCIE

BARRETT'S

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND CHARTERED TAX ADVISERS

22 Union Street, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 2JS

CHARITABLE OBJECT

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document since 11th October 2017 when the Charitable Incorporated Organisation was formed. The Approved Governing Document, the Constitution, affirms the principle purpose of the Charity as being the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance education, and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world. The Church occupies premises which are held in trust for the Church by the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd. as Holding Trustee. The premises continue to be held on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above objectives. Included in the premises are four small flats let to tenants at a low rent. A Manse is provided for the Minister's use for the better performance of his duties.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

Membership of the church is obtained in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Governing Document of the church. Whilst highly valuing and encouraging baptism by total immersion, the church practises open membership in that those who seek membership but have not been baptised according to the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle may, at the discretion of the church members' meeting, be accepted for full membership based on their profession of faith. Church members are expected to adhere to the beliefs of the church, to commit themselves to serving Christ within the church and beyond, and to abide by the decisions of the church meeting.

Church Members' meetings take place at regular intervals through the year with one of these meetings constituting the Annual General Meeting at which members receive the annual accounts and reports, and consider matters of relevance to the coming year. A minimum of four ordinary meetings are required annually. Special and Ordinary Church Members' meetings took place on 22nd January 2020. The Annual Meeting was due to take place on 17th March 2020 but it was postponed because of concerns regarding the emerging Covid 19 pandemic. It was eventually held as a virtual meeting on 14th December 2020, with church members participating via Zoom and YouTube. The church did not, therefore, hold the four ordinary meetings required because of the exceptional circumstances of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and all trustees are appointed by church members' meetings observing the requirements of the governing document. Trustees are encouraged to attend relevant training courses organised by the South West Baptist Association. The managing trustees, guided by the minister, are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness and for the financial and legal aspects of the charity. Church members are encouraged to seek appropriate roles they might take in furthering the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective. The trustees take relevant matters to the church meeting for consideration, and similarly matters may be raised by church members for trustee discussion and deliberation. A consensus of opinion is sought whenever possible; however, the governing document permits decisions to be made as necessary through appropriate majorities at the church meetings.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The church provides, and provided in 2020, a variety of activities available to its membership and to the community at large in order to achieve its stated principle objective – as set out above. The aim throughout is to show, through word and deed the love of Jesus Christ to the community in which the church is set and to the wider world beyond, and to bring people into closer relationship with Him as living Lord. These activities were severely curtailed in March 2020 when lockdown restrictions were introduced because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

WORSHIP

Central to this work is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services continued at the beginning of 2020 with a morning service at 10.30 a.m. and evening service generally at 6.30 p.m. These had to stop in March 2020 when worship services were either stopped or restricted because of the Covid 19 pandemic. A full range of children's and young people's programmes operated during the morning services. Members of the church were encouraged to exercise gifts of preaching, speaking, teaching and leading worship within the services. In 2020 we had four people leading worship and a growing team of musicians before the pandemic. Government restrictions limited the amount of music in churches during the year and congregations were not permitted to sing.

Responding to restrictions around worship meant the church had to explore other ways of enabling the congregation to engage in worship. This was done initially through recorded services presented on YouTube and, when restrictions eased slightly, live streamed services from the church. At times we were able to have a restricted number in the congregation. These have been well received and have enabled the church to engage with people in ways that were not possible before.

We have a very successful Children's and Families provision called eXcite that meets in the Hall on Sunday Mornings. The families have breakfast together followed by sessions and then gather in church at the end for a time of sharing and worship together. This ministry is connecting very effectively with our wider community and making church accessible and relevant for children and families. We are particularly reaching many disadvantaged families on a Sunday Morning. In March 2020, when the pandemic began, our Youth, Children's and Families Worker provided daily online videos for these children and families which included a Bible Story, activities and challenges for the children to do. The children and families engaged and responded well to this; they sent their work in and it was shown and celebrated via our online services. This was one way in which we ensured that we maintained contact with and provision for our families.

Regular weekly prayer meetings were held at the beginning of the year on Thursday mornings and before the Sunday morning service but these had to stop because of pandemic restrictions. However, prayer meetings have been held via the Zoom Conferencing Software and this has enabled a number of people to engage with them.

The church aims to be a welcoming community where those attending can feel confident that they are valued.

YOUTH, CHILDREN'S and FAMILIES WORK

Throughout the year we had contact with around 150 young people every week through our children's, families and youth work. Our aim this year continued to be to share and show the love of Jesus and to enhance children's and young people's quality of life through providing a range of weekly activities that support and engage the local community. Our Children's and Families Worker together with a team of 20 committed volunteers, carried out this work with good support from the wider church community. However, in March 2020 we had to provide new strategies to support our families through the pandemic.

There have been many highlights this year for which we praise God. We see it as important to reach and connect with our community for the benefit of Families in Brixham. We have built a very strong reputation in the community for creating a loving, safe, educational environment with a real sense of belonging.

Weekly Activities

Our Children's and Families Worker met with families, including disadvantaged families, from the community offering a listening ear and support. In 2019, she completed a training course in Plymouth and became a facilitator for 'Kids Matter'. 'Kids Matter' is a well-established, evidence-based parenting programme aimed at disadvantaged families in the local community. We ran three programmes in 2020, one at The Front Room in person and two via zoom. More information about Kids Matter can be found on their website <https://www.kidsmatter.org.uk/>

Every Monday, around 10-15 young people attend Ignite discipleship group, our weekly bible study for young people. They enjoy exploring God's word and having the opportunity to grow in their understanding of faith. In March 2020, we began delivering session online. We explored two main topics, 'Prayer' and 'Studying God's word'. We unpacked how both are essential to our daily walk with God. The young people began writing prayer journals and this helped them to connect with God.

On Thursdays, our Children's and Families worker ran three parent discipleship groups, 10 parents in each. These began running via zoom during the pandemic. They took an Alpha style approach, exploring topics such as 'Who is Jesus'. 'How can I have faith' and 'Why evil and suffering?'. As a response, many of these parents signed up to an Alpha Course to take place in 2021. Some of our parents gave their lives to the Lord through these groups, for which we praise God.

The Girls' Brigade continue to meet on Thursday evenings. They continued to deliver sessions on zoom and these were well attended. Our previous Minister, Geoff, has agreed to remain Chaplain of the Girls Brigade for the foreseeable future and our Children's and Families Worker continues to work with the Girls' Brigade through the year and is running the Senior Section at present. We are grateful to the dedicated team of officers and helpers who run the Girls' Brigade on behalf of the church. Several of the girls also attend church on a Sunday.

Supporting our Community through the Pandemic

We are thankful to Brixham Youth Enquiry Service (The Edge) and to Transforming Plymouth Together for assisting us in providing food parcels to the disadvantaged families with whom we are in contact. This was an effective way of practically showing the love of Jesus.

As a Church, we worked together to provide over 1000 packs to teachers and staff in local Primary Schools and to many other community groups and organisations in the town. The purpose of the packs was to bless the community and to show our appreciation for them. Our Children and Families Worker began putting together a prayer document including prayer requests/updates from community groups and organisations. This is ongoing and helps to keep the church informed in what is going on in the community and, specifically, how they can pray for them or actively support them.

Our Children's and Families Worker continued to be on the Governing Board for Brixham Church of England Primary School. She also continued in her role as Chair of Young Brixham Partnership, which is comprised of representatives working with young people and families in the community.

On Wednesdays our Children and Families Worker delivered 'Sing and Sign', a national programme aimed at developing children's speech and communication. This continued via Zoom from March and has been another effective way of building relationships with our community.

Even through a pandemic, we were still able to help families to grow in their faith and sense of belonging and for this we praise and glorify God.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The work of our café "The Front Room" continued four days a week at the beginning of the year and had to close in March 2020. It is staffed by a team of 15 volunteers. Most of these are connected with the church, but one or two come from other churches. The Front Room also gives opportunity to volunteers who, for one reason or another, are on a journey back into full time work. The Front Room is open to the community fulfilling the aim of the church to be engaged with its community. It offers a place for people to come and sit and chat as well as drink coffee and choose food from a limited menu. It can be very busy at times and has become a regular meeting place for a number of groups within the town. This has been a loss to many people and will be reopened when restrictions are eased.

Our Christian bookshop continued to operate on three days a week during 2020. It continues to supply our local churches and wider community with Christian books, bibles, cards, music and gifts. We have been consistent in our opening days and, in addition to offering quality Christian resources, the bookshop helps achieve the wider mission of the Church to be open and accessible. This, too, had to close in March 2020 and remained closed for the rest of the year.

Our coffee morning continued to run every Thursday up until March 2020 and was closed in line with government guidelines because of the Covid pandemic. The coffee morning provided a place for the community to meet and had a steady stream of visitors until it was closed. The aim will be to reopen when the situation allows.

The church continues to provide pastoral support to those in need who come to the church or with whom we have contact. However, the pandemic has meant that we have had to rethink how this contact is maintained. Leaders of the church shared lists of names of those with whom the church was in contact and sought to telephone these and make sure they were o.k. and respond to any particular needs that arose. A weekly newssheet was compiled and emailed or mailed to each of these people. Our normal small group meetings, a focus of much of our pastoral care, had to stop in March 2020 but contact was maintained in other ways.

Many other activities which the church would normally run have had to be paused. These include an "Intentional Health' course and our engagement with other churches in the town through Christians Together in Brixham.

The Charity Commission guidelines on public benefit have been perused, and the trustees consider that the activities indicated above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public. Things that would normally be provided for public benefit have been severely restricted during 2020 it is hoped that these will recover in the latter part of 2021.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Church membership reduced during the year through the death of one member and the transfer of membership of two church members to another Baptist church due to their move away from Brixham. At the end of the year church membership stood at 65 The fellowship, which includes those who are not church members but who attend church regularly on Sundays, numbered around 80 up to the start of the pandemic. Despite this we have been able to engage through other means with these people online.

We have been able to maintain contact with people of all ages during the year with online resources like Facebook and YouTube. Communion services have been held online on a few occasions.

The church measures its performance not simply in terms of numbers, including financial numbers, but also through the assessment of its success, or otherwise, in less tangible areas such as encouragement, discipleship and fellowship.

The church had regular contact with over 150 children and young people and their families and this has significantly enhanced the quality of life and sense of belonging for disadvantaged families.

Up until the start of the pandemic the Front Room coffee shop continued to attract people who would not otherwise have contact with the church. Volunteers welcomed locals and visitors to the Front Room and it was clear that the listening ear and social interaction offered was important to individuals who were lonely or socially

marginalized. Some Front Room 'regulars' were welcomed along to Sunday services.

It is part of the church's core vision to be engaged with the community and it is our intention that these links will grow when Covid restrictions are lifted in the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The church continued to raise the funds it needed to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation, together with the net income received from the flats property and from the hiring out of the church hall and The Front Room.

The church expressed its part in the life of the wider Church through grants made to organisations, societies, and individuals, working nationally or internationally with Christian objectives compatible with the church's own objectives.

The church is heavily dependent on its fellowship working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, most of which ran without significant impact on the church's expenditure, but nonetheless contributed considerably 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 the 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.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Charity law requires the trustees (the church leadership) to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
4. Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The leadership are responsible as managing trustees for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity law. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

SIGNATURE AND DECLARATION

I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that the trustees have approved the report on pages 2 to 9 and the accounts on pages 10 to 12 and have authorised me to sign on their behalf.

Signed:

Chris Forster (trustee)

Date: 21st September 2021

Brixham Baptist Church

Charity No 1175103

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2020

	2020			2019		
	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Donations	4596	0	4596	1989	0	1989
Offerings gift aided	2492	0	2492	6139	0	6139
Offerings non gift aid	7862	0	7862	12428	0	12428
Standing orders	30565	0	30565	22676	0	22676
Gifts	600	0	600	1140	0	1140
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
BMS	625	0	625	0	1037	1037
Home Mission	0	0	0	0	53	53
Other	150	0	150	0	0	0
Build fund	1079	0	1079	0	0	0
<i>Charitable activities</i>	0					
Front Room	2605	0	2605	11388	0	11388
Youth events	1976	0	1976	907	0	907
Bookshop	119	0	119	279	0	279
Coffee mornings	232	0	232	1554	0	1554
Flowers	105	0	105	415	0	415
<i>Investments</i>	0					
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rent	19933	0	19933	21826	0	21826
	72939	0	72939	80741	1090	81831
Expenditure on:						
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Front Room	320	0	320	641	0	641
Staff costs	21045	0	21045	30382	0	30382
Travel & other expenses	0	0	0	1435	0	1435
Youth worker expenses	1838	0	1838	3334	0	3334
Visiting ministry	870	0	870	2363	0	2363
<i>Church</i>						
Insurance	4557	0	4557	4419	0	4419
Light, heat & water	5592	0	5592	5294	0	5294
Repairs & maintenance	4030	0	4030	20203	0	20203
Professional survey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleaning expenses	2783	0	2783	2673	0	2673
Equipment	925	0	925	3714	0	3714

Brixham Baptist Church
Charity No 1175103
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2020 (cont'd)

	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>		<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Manse</i>						
Council tax & water rates	361	0	361	2138	0	2138
Insurance	244	0	244	237	0	237
Service charge	131	0	131	131	0	131
Repairs & maintenance	480	0	480	180	0	180
Other	135	0	135	87	0	87
<i>Other</i>	0					
Worship & outreach	2280	0	2280	1051	0	1051
Events	0	0	0	862	0	862
Intentional health	185	0	185	745	0	745
Training	0	0	0	248	0	248
Professional costs	1356	0	0	0	0	0
BMS	1500	0	1500	452	2048	2500
Home Mission	1500	0	1500	947	53	1000
Donations	1150	0	1150	297	0	297
Telephone & web hosting	707	0	707	767	0	767
Copyright & TV Licence	406	0	406	729	0	729
Stationery & photocopier	1899	0	1899	1187	0	1187
Church refreshments	0	0	0	433	0	433
Flowers	135	0	135	797	0	797
Other	569	0	569	1285	0	1285
<i>Flats expenditure</i>	0					
Repairs & maintenance	1252	0	1252	0	0	0
Other	69	0	69	607	0	607
Subscriptions	0	0	0	0	0	0
 B/fwd balances written off	 0	 0	 0	 -307		 -307
	56319	0	56319	87331	2101	89432
 Net Receipts/payments	 16620	 0	 16620	 -6590	 -1011	 -7601

Bank & Cash Balances

<i>At beginning of year</i>	55564	0	55564	62154	1011	63165
<i>At end of year</i>	72184	0	72184	55564	0	55564

Brixham Baptist Church

Charity No 1175103

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2020

	2020			2019		
	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Cash Funds						
Barclays Current Account	13508	0	13508	15994	0	15994
Barclays Business Saver Account	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lloyds Current account	58676	0	58676	39570	0	39570
Cash	0	0	0	0	0	0
	72184	0	72184	55564	0	55564

Note

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on the assets of the CIO.

Approved by the Trustees on 21st September 2021

and signed in their behalf by Chris Forster

Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Brixham Baptist Church CIO
Charity no. 1175103

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Brixham Baptist Church (the Church) for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the charity trustees of the church 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 church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Ian Barrett FCA FCIE
Barretts
22 Union Street
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

22nd September 2021