

BRIXHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity Number: 1175103

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2023

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 from 1st January 2023 to the date of this report

Julia Andrews (from March 2023)
Barrie Chivers (resigned April 2024)
James Collins
Jonathan Cox (resigned May 2023)
Chris Forster (resigned December 2023)
Rev Darrell Holmes
Bernard Lewis
Rev Colin Opie (from February 2024)

Minister: Rev. Darrell Holmes

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

Bankers: 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 principal 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, however it is currently rented out.

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 for the coming year. A minimum of four ordinary meetings are required annually. Ordinary Church Members' meetings took place during the year on 29th January, 21st March (including AGM), 23rd May, 18th July, 20th September and 28th November.

The church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and all trustees are appointed by church members' meetings, observing the requirements of the governing document. The managing trustees 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 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 by voting or secret ballot.

This was the second full year of the ministry of our Pastor Rev Darrell Holmes. Colin Opie continued to serve the church as part time Pastor in Training. Maria Orton continued to serve as part time Children Youth and Families Worker. Sharon Stoneman retired as part time cleaner and was replaced by Adline Lewis.

Our Mission continued to be "***Shining for Jesus in the darkness***" which is focussed around:

Shining for Jesus and living lives glorifying to Him.

Sharing Jesus with the next generation and removing obstacles that prevent them coming to Him.

Shaping our community with love, showing compassion to the least, the last and the lost.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The church provides, and provided in 2023, a variety of activities available to its membership and to the community at large, in order to achieve its stated principal

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.

WORSHIP

Central to this work is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services continued throughout 2023 with a morning service at 10.30am followed by a time of fellowship and drinks, which has proved very popular. A new initiative which proved popular was Breakfast Church when members of the adult congregation and the children and families from 'Shine' met for breakfast and a more informal service in the renovated Church Hall. At the first Breakfast Church missionaries from Africa working with BMS presented news of their work. Further Breakfast Church services are planned.

A wide range of people from within the congregation have been involved in our Sunday services, for example preaching, leading or sharing prayers, reading scripture, sharing answers to prayer and leading sung worship.

Our weekly teaching has been presented in sermon series:

Knowing Jesus the **I AM**,
Born for change (Moses),
Jesus understands,
Courageous living (Joshua) and
Ordinary people involved in the nativity.

These have been applicable to everyday life and appreciated for giving insight into parts of both Old and New Testament. They are available by YouTube from the church website: brixhambaptist.org.uk . Regular all-age services have also enabled the children and families to join with the main congregation for focused teaching. Furthermore, barely a week went by without at least a few visitors from around the country and world, many of whom were on holiday or made us a destination church when they were in town.

Our services have been livestreamed and have had a strong following from online viewers, averaging around fifty devices each week. Brixham Baptist Church is therefore reaching far more than just the local community.

PRAYER

We acknowledge that prayer is a vital part of our corporate and individual lives. Regular midweek prayer meetings (alternate Wednesdays) and pre-service Sunday prayer meetings were held. A monthly Ladies Prayer Breakfast took place. Other prayer events during the year included Prayer for Unity and Prayer for Healing. An on-line prayer network enabled prayer requests to be shared.

FELLOWSHIP

Several groups continued to meet for friendship, study, prayer and encouragement. A new men's group commenced.

EVANGELISM

As part of our vision to share Jesus and in keeping with the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle that it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to take part in the evangelisation of the world, we have organised specific evangelistic events including the Easter Trail and performance of the Fisherman's Tail both at Furzeham Primary School and in the Church.

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES WORK

In 2023, we continued to connect with around 30 families in the local community through our various church activities and community contacts.

Our Children Youth and Families Worker, Maria Orton, worked with a dedicated team of 20 volunteers who were able to continue with the following activities. Our aim this year continued to be to share and show the love of Jesus and to enhance the childrens' and young people's quality of life through providing a range of weekly activities that support and engage the local community.

Shine (formerly called eXcite)

Our Sunday Morning programme for children and families continued to be a great success. Shine delivered a diverse and engaging programme that provided a relevant and accessible framework for showing and sharing God's love. It met the needs of families of all backgrounds, those that are new to church and those that have grown up in church. Families ate together, explored a series in the Bible in groups with creative craft, and then presented what they had done to the wider church family at the end of the service. It was great to see Shine continually growing and we were pleased to welcome some new families in 2023.

Girls Brigade:

The Girls Brigade continued to meet on Thursday evenings. We are grateful to the dedicated team of officers and helpers who run the Girls Brigade as part of our church. It remained well attended and a fruitful part of our Children's Work.

Parents, Carers and Toddlers:

Our Parents, Carers and Toddlers Group continued to reach a good number of families in the community and has a good reputation within the town for being a warm and welcoming group for relationship building, where the children can learn and grow in a safe environment. Each week we shared a Bible Story which was well received.

Kids Matter:

We ran this parenting course 'to equip parents and carers in the local community who are facing disadvantage with confidence and competence enabling them and their children to thrive'.

Youth Alpha:

We ran a Youth Alpha course on completion of which the group of young people continued to meet for teaching and friendship.

Parent Discipleship:

Maria spent time discipling, supporting and praying with parents.

Christmas Hamper Project

In November, we invited local Health Visitors and Social Services to work with us to provide hampers for families in need within the local community. We made 40 hampers of books, toys, Bible Stories and more and these were a great blessing to the families who received them. We also hosted a Christmas Dinner Celebration for 100 people comprised of families we are connected with through our various provisions. We thank God for the many opportunities he has given us to disciple and bless families in our local community.

OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Our café 'The Front Room' continued throughout 2023 although reduced to two days a week. It was staffed by a team of volunteers most of whom were connected with our church, but a few came from other churches and the wider Brixham community. The Front Room was open to all, fulfilling the aim of the church to be engaged with its community and providing a space in which customers felt welcomed and secure. It provided hot and cold drinks and a limited food menu and enabled people, both local residents and visitors to Brixham, to sit and chat. It was very busy at times and was a regular meeting place for individuals and groups in the town.

Community coffee mornings were recommenced in the Church Hall on Thursday mornings following the closure during covid. They provided a drink and biscuits to those from the community or the congregation free of charge with the opportunity of donations. This provided a meeting place for friendship particularly to those who may be lonely without such provisions.

Craft and Chat group met weekly for friendship while participants could join in a range of craft activities in the "Front Room". **Bible Journaling group** also met regularly and enjoyed craft activities focusing on the bible. Both of these groups were open to all and were not restricted to members of the congregation.

Meals were provided at Christmas and New Year to which members of the community and congregation were invited.

We donated **Filled Backpacks** for distribution by a charity for the homeless in Torbay. We also donated **Shoeboxes** filled with items for children in need distributed by Samaritan's Purse.

A new **Church Website** was developed to provide access to the general public and more detailed access to church members or leaders.

Our **Safeguarding Policy and Procedures** were reviewed, updated and brought to the attention of the congregation.

We discussed and responded to the **Baptist Union Consultation** on Ministerial Recognition Rules related to same sex marriage.

USE OF THE BUILDING

A new Pastor's Office more appropriate for use was built within the church building. The Church Hall was renovated and carpeted making it a more welcoming space. An increasing number of groups from the community used the premises during 2023.

In addition to the four flats which are rented out, we have submitted plans for conversion of part of the building to two more flats.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

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.

We had 6 new members in 2023. We were saddened to lose 2 church members who resigned or transferred membership and 3 church members who died during 2023. At the end of the year church membership stood at 68.

We are grateful to all the volunteers who gave their time and effort to the work of the church.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023

The church continued to raise the funds needed to carry on its activities from within its membership and wider congregation. This was supplemented by the net rental income received from the flats and manse, and income received from the Front Room cafe together with income from hiring out both the church hall and The Front Room.

The church played 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. Specific aid was given to Compassion UK and the Syria/Turkey earthquake appeal.

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 trustees were grateful to the church's congregation for their generous financial support that enabled the church hall to be upgraded.

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 year end 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 8 and the accounts on pages 9 to 11 and have authorised me to sign on their behalf.

Signed:

J. Andrews (trustee)
25th June 2024

Brixham Baptist Church

Charity No 1175103

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2023

	2023			2022		
	<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	42	0	42	2243	0	2243
Offerings	9242	0	9242	5837	0	5837
Standing orders	37157	0	37157	39559	0	39559
Gifts	225	0	225	57	0	57
Gift Aid	0	0	0	18315	10283	28598
BMS	0	917	917	0	216	216
Home Mission	0	201	201	0	0	0
Other	3274	296	3570	2942	5199	8141
Build fund	0	0	0		490	490
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Front Room	8044	0	8044	9345	0	9345
Youth events	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bookshop	0	0	0	113	0	113
Coffee mornings	91	0	91	0	0	0
<i>Investments</i>						
Interest	546	0	546	32	0	32
Rent	36521	0	36521	35621	0	35621
TOTAL INCOME	95142	1414	96556	114064	16188	130252
Expenditure on:						
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Front Room	3550	0	3550	5828	0	5828
Staff costs	48694	0	48694	42995	0	42995
Travel & other expenses	1476	0	1476	502	0	502
Youth worker expenses	2769	0	2769	1619	0	1619
Visiting ministry	145	0	145	100	0	100
<i>Church</i>						
Insurance	4855	0	4855	4283	0	4283
Light, heat & water	6754	0	6754	3472	0	3472
Repairs & maintenance	11389	11558	22947	1779	54251	56030
Professional survey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleaning expenses	219	0	219	281	0	281
Equipment	107	0	107	2650	0	2650

Brixham Baptist Church

Charity No 1175103

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2023(cont'd)

	2023			2022		
	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Ministerial Housing</i>						
Council tax	1909	0	1909	1854	0	1854
Housing	8820	0	8820	8400	0	8400
<i>Manse rental property</i>						
Insurance	314	0	314	294	0	294
Service charge & fees	1555	0	1555	1518	0	1518
Repairs & maintenance	394	0	394	450	0	450
<i>Other</i>						
Worship & outreach	886	0	886	1019	0	1019
Events	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training	65	0	65	855	0	855
Professional costs	720	0	720	2160	0	2160
BMS	2250	201	2451	2100	0	2100
Home Mission	2250	705	2955	2423	0	2423
Donations	800	464	1264	1530	1705	3235
Telephone & web hosting	904	0	904	573	0	573
Copyright & TV Licence	327	0	327	365	0	365
Stationery & photocopier	604	0	604	814	0	814
Church refreshments	191	0	191	0	0	0
Other	586	0	586	362	0	362
Loan repayment	0	0	0	0	15000	15000
Bank charges	219	0	219	218	0	218
Warm room	0	0	0	0	1075	1075
Calendars	0	0	0	179	0	179
4 Front Theatre	1033		1033			
<i>Flats expenditure</i>						
Repairs & maintenance	255	0	255	4687	0	4687
Development	6692		6692			
Other	3296	0	3296	4853	0	4853
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	114028	12928	126956	98163	72031	170194
Transfer						
Net Receipts/payments	-18886	-11514	-30400	15901	-55843	-39942
Transfers	-11171	11171	0			
Bank & Cash Balances						
At beginning of year	100072	2635	102707	84171	58478	142649
At end of year	70015	2292	72307	100072	2635	102707

Brixham Baptist Church

Charity No 1175103

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2023

	2023			2022		
	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Cash Funds						
Lloyds Current account	17595	0	17595	40249	0	40249
Lloyds Deposit account	50283	2292	52575	59394	2635	62029
Cash	2137	0	2137	429	0	429
	70015	2292	72307	100072	2635	102707

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 25th June 2024

and signed on their behalf by B. Lewis

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 2023.

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).

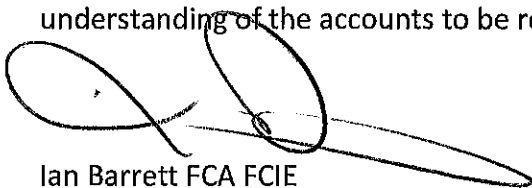
I report in respect of my examination of the church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

1st July 2024