

Shepherd Drive Baptist Church Ipswich

Charity No 1183504

**Annual Report
Year Ending
March 31st 2021**

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Shepherd Drive Baptist Church

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Address	Laburnum Close Pinewood Ipswich IP8 3SL
Trustees	Mr. Simon Robinson (Minister) Mr. Peter Newton (Minister) Mrs. Sheryl Brett (Minute Secretary) Mr. Matthew Brett (Treasurer) Mrs. Debbie Cook Mrs. Christine Robinson Mr. Will Cates Mr. Alan Durrant Mr. Gary Haseman
Property Trustees	The Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia) Ltd
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner	Mr. John Whayman 51 Cowper Street Ipswich IP4 5JA

Report of the Trustees of Shepherd Drive Baptist Church for the year end to 31 March 2021

The Trustees of Shepherd Drive Baptist Church Ipswich, have pleasure in presenting their Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" as they apply to smaller charities.

Trustees

The Church is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The trustees named on page 3 have served throughout the year, having been appointed as the first trustees on registration of the church as a CIO. They are appointed by the members and hold office under the constitution and rules of the CIO.

The trustees are the deacons and elders of the Church. During the past year Simon Robinson, Christine Robinson and Peter Newton are the only trustees who have been paid as full or part-time workers for the church. The trustees are responsible for the control and management of the Church and are appointed by the members of the Church.

The Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia) Ltd. holds the title deeds of the Church Property.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document. Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to have been publicly baptised on the profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Members' Meetings normally take place at least four times per year and have responsibility for the overall policy of the church. In accordance with the Constitution, the members have appointed nine Trustees, 3 of which are the Elders of the church (who have also been appointed by the Members) and are responsible for the day-to-day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity.

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 Meetings 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.

Affiliations

The Church is a member of the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia) Ltd, and a participating church of Grace Baptist Mission.

Objectives and Activities

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith. As a church we want to share both the word and love of God locally in the community we serve and also worldwide. In order to achieve the principal objective as set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both for its membership and the wider community. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to encourage people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. This service usually takes place each Sunday at 11.00 am and will include singing, prayer and a Bible talk. During this service there is also a children's programme of activities which runs in parallel.

At the end of our Sunday service there is time to chat over tea/coffee, giving us the opportunity to further encourage each other and to get to know each other better.

The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend our main worship service and any of the other meetings we hold. However, members' meetings are limited to those who are in membership.

On the first Sunday of each month, we meet for a time of prayer during the evening. In addition, on the third Sunday in each month we hold a Communion service followed by a fellowship tea. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised on the Church Notice Board and the website (www.sdbc.org.uk).

The Church runs a series of Bible study/prayer groups during the week to encourage growth in faith and discipleship. These are held both at the church and in the homes of some members, and further details of these can be obtained from the Elders, or at the Sunday worship service.

The Church also runs a Parent and Toddler Group which meets in the Church premises on Wednesday mornings. This aims to support families in the community, providing a safe environment for young children to play and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. From time to time the Church runs courses for people interested in discovering more about Christianity, entitled 'Christianity Explored'.

For the older generation, we provide a fellowship group known as "Senior Moments" which takes place once a month and also a Ladies' fellowship group which meets fortnightly.

We also run a monthly "Coffee, Craft & Chat" group for women; men's and women's social evenings and also have a walking club that meets periodically during the year.

The Church runs two weekly events for Young People on Wednesday and Friday evenings, as well as our quarterly Messy Church family events held on Saturday mornings.

The Church operates robust systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted and DBS-checked. The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programme by numbers only, (including financial numbers) but also in less tangible ways, such as strengthening fellowship and encouraging growth in people's faith.

The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2020/21 was a positive year in the life of the Church. However, it was also a year that was significantly impacted by Covid-19 which resulted in a number of church activities being suspended for periods of time in line with government guidelines to protect members of the church and the wider fellowship.

During the year, two people joined the church, having publicly shared how they had come to faith in Jesus Christ. Two members left the fellowship during the year to join another church resulting in 72 people being in membership as at 31st March 2021

Average attendance at worship services has largely been maintained during the year (when we have been able to meet). However, as a result of Covid-19, attendance has at times been lower. In periods where we were unable to run public services, we provided virtual services and fellowship groups on-line.

Our children's work, Toddler Group and other community events have been similarly impacted by the virus, but in the times when Covid restrictions were lifted, we were encouraged by the numbers of people who returned to our services, study groups and other activities.

The Church has looked to support local, national and worldwide charities, both prayerfully and financially. Charities such as Caring for Life, Grace Baptist Mission and Open Doors have all received financial help from the Church during this year. We also have a number of church members who give their time as they volunteer their services at the Oasis English Language School based in Ipswich.

We also look to the needs of the community and try to help as we are able/have opportunity with compassionate/practical assistance.

As a Church we look to the Lord as we seek to progress with our Building Project. This is needed as the Church has continued to grow over a number of years. After receiving planning permission, it is hoped that this project will be able to move forward later this year.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds necessary to carry on its activities from within its own Membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year. The Church is heavily dependent on its Membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities.

In recent years, the Church's expenditure has been greater than income, and this has resulted in reliance on our Reserve Fund. This trend needed to be addressed and a number of our members responded to meet this need, with some either starting to give via standing order and others increasing their existing giving.

Our overall financial position has improved this year as a result of these steps, but it has also benefitted from lower costs which reflect the suspension of a number of our church activities for periods of time due to Covid-19 restrictions and safeguards.

During the year, we received total income of £90,017, with expenditure of £71,609. This resulted in an overall surplus of £18,408 which increased the balance of our General Fund to £20,005. We have agreed as a church membership to use some of this surplus to make a contribution to our church building project. We are also planning to transfer £25,000 from our "Future Ministries fund" reserve to our Building project fund in the next financial year.

At the year-end the Total Assets were £217,561. This significant increase over the previous year's figure reflects grants and offerings received towards our building project.

A number of gifts have been made from our Compassion Fund this year and at the year-end, this had a small deficit which will be met by contributions early in the 2021/22 financial year.

Reserves Policy

In line with guidelines from the Charities Commission the Trustees set up a Reserves Policy to enable the Church to function effectively and protect its ability to meet its obligations in the event of a decline in our income or a major cost.

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of reserves to be set aside is in the range of £20,000, which represents approximately 3 months of expenditure. This reserve is covered by funds in our Future Ministries Fund.

The assets retained for the use of the Church

Furniture, Kitchen Equipment, Audio Visual Equipment and Television.

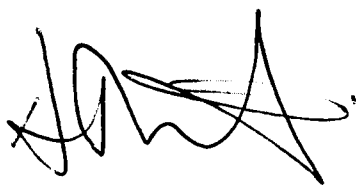
Liabilities

None

Approved by the Trustees on the 25th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signed
Simon Robinson (Chairman)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Durrant', with a large, stylized 'A' and a horizontal flourish.

Signed
Alan Durrant (Trustee)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Shepherd Drive Baptist Church CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of **Shepherd Drive Baptist Church CIO (the Trust)** for the year ended **31st March 2021**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:-

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed:-



Name:-

Mr S J Whayman

Address:-

51 Cowper Street
Ipswich
IP4 5JA

Date:- 29th October 2021

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank Current Account	66,494	27,484	-
	CAF Bank Deposit Account	-	123,603	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	66,494	151,067	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

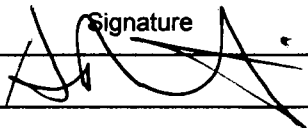
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets				

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets				

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ALAN DURRANT	19/01/22