

HOLMER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1184109

Details

Other names HGBC

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-06-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS 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.

Activities: Our purpose is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. As a Baptist Church we serve the local community and provide support services to them in the form of worship and related activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£128,027	£95,279	-	-
2023-12-31	£107,331	£95,063	-	-
2022-12-31	£92,153	£74,865	-	-
2021-12-31	£111,926	£107,210	-	-
2020-12-31	£84,606	£132,711	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carol June Chen		2025-07-21
Christine Edwina Davy		2023-06-26
Claire Louise Spinks-Gillen		2025-07-21
David John Sawyer		2025-03-31
Matthew David Smith		2025-07-21
Stephen Reginald Phillips		2023-06-26

HOLMER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1184109

Accounts

*Holmer
&
Green* 
Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Pastor's Report 2024 – Anthony Smith

Isaiah 40:30-31

*“But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.”*

I can't deny I have very mixed emotions as I write this report being the last one as your paid Pastor. I started my ministry here with those words above from Isaiah ringing in my head. Indeed, they are, if you hadn't noticed, the words above the doors as you enter the church.

Those words have been a constant source of encouragement, challenge and refuge when times have been tough. However, looking back over the last year, I am so encouraged with all that has happened.

We are blessed with an amazing preaching team, worship team, Trustees and Elders. God is indeed good.

My specific thanks also must go to Rachael for all she has done for the church over the last year.

So many who faithfully volunteer in so many other areas. Forgive me for not mentioning you all but you know who you are. We couldn't do it without you and you have my thanks for all you do.

The main theme I felt God was leading us into was a call to prayer for renewal. Thank you to everyone who has faithfully prayed particularly on the days in the month you committed to.

As a result towards the end of 2024, we saw a significant number of people exploring baptism. Praise God! That will continue into 2025. Please keep praying. There is more to do!

We saw our membership grow with not only new people being added to the fellowship but as a consequence new and varied gifts being added as well.

Finances throughout the year have been secure so Thank you to all who give so faithfully.

We have continued to support specifically “Every Life” and “Tek Ura”.

We have sought to build the kingdom not only locally but further afield and it has been an absolute blessing to hear from those organisations and others about how God is being faithful to their calling.

The last year has in many ways been a year of securing the foundations we already had but preparing for an expansion of His kingdom. I am really excited for the church for 2025 as someone new comes to lead you on into the next season. HGBC is not a building it is a community and we go forward from 2024 united in our calling.

A significant part of 2024 has been looking for a new pastor. Whilst that may seem challenging my encouragement is that we must not become desperate but with such spiritually talented people in our fellowship to keep moving forward and trust God and wait for as long as He determines. He has a plan. We are simply called to Trust and Obey.

I am not sure what 2025 holds for me but I am so encouraged by all that has happened in 2024. In particular our desire to reach out more into the community. The planning for the new "Sunflower" group which started fully in 2025 was a fulfilment of a vision I felt God laid on my heart pre Covid and it is finally happening. I promise that until I leave I won't give up on my passion for all of you and this church community.

Finally Thank you to all of you who have prayed for me, put up with all my faults and continually encourage me. Many of you know that I regularly sing when in the office the words below which are my testimony to God's faithfulness.

However, just before I finish, I want to pay tribute to Adele for her continual support, guidance and encouragement particularly when things have been tough not only in 2024 but throughout the years. I couldn't have done this ministry without her. Thank you! Apparently, she has plans to keep me busy when I retire!

*God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died, to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives*

CHORUS:

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives*

*How sweet to hold a newborn Baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This Child can face uncertain days because He lives*

*And then one day, I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory
And I'll know He lives*

Blessings and prayers as you move forward.
Life **IS** worth the living! Just because He lives

Anthony (Pastor and Friend)

THE CHURCH YEAR 2024: Church Secretary – Derek Brown

As church secretary I am aware of almost all the elements of church life both physical and spiritual. The exercise of writing an annual report focuses the mind on all the blessings we have received in the past year

One of the most exciting of these is to see the growth in membership and those attending the services. However the baptistry being used for a double baptism on Easter Sunday made it a real celebration of the resurrection of Jesus!

Rachael continues to work tirelessly to reach out to the children and families who are part of our church family both within and without the church building. The school work and term parties together with events including Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Cracked continue to be a blessing to many as well as those attending our Tuesday Toddlers group. Thank you to all those who regularly support her together with all the children and parents that the fellowship comes into contact with.

Who Let the Dads out? once a month on a Saturday for Dads and their children is also an initiative which continues to grow and enables us to reach and support those within the community.

As I said last year our building is a tremendous resource and an asset to have at our disposal. 25 years after the initial construction, a number of major repairs have been necessary to maintain its integrity as a safe facility. Electrical re wiring including replacing the car park lighting and the refurbishment of the vestibule has been carried out to make a more welcoming space to those entering the building. These works have obviously involved a considerable financial investment but, as our treasurer has stated many times 'God is good' and we have been able to cover these costs via the generosity and commitment of the fellowship.

Attendance at our worship services on a Sunday and a Wednesday continues to grow and our Sunday online presence is enjoyed by those who are unable to attend in person. Life Groups, Oasis Toddlers, Pop in Lunches and Women's fellowship continue to attract good numbers as does Simply Walk who use the church building on a Monday morning. All these activities enable us to continue to share the Good News and at the same time make real friends with those living around us.

On behalf of the church I would like to thank all members of the fellowship who give so much of their time and commitment to ensure the Gospel continues to be shared with those around us. Whatever area that is, Children and youth work, Audio Visual support, Stewarding, Tea and Coffee duties, Leading and preaching plus many other things remember, to paraphrase of Ecclesiastes 11:1, 'if you cast your bread upon the waters it will return to you on every wave'.

In June 2025 Anthony will be retiring after over 10 years as pastor here at Holmer Green. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his commitment to the fellowship over this time. Much has been achieved which can be attributed to his passion to establish and grow the Kingdom .

Not only has he overseen the spiritual growth of the fellowship but he has also encouraged many individuals to 'step up to the plate' and find the calling of God on their lives.

Through the team ministry model that has developed under his guidance the leadership has been strengthened and a variety in the way God's Word is delivered on a Sunday and Wednesday has been established.

His managerial skills enabled the fellowship to face and survive the trauma of Covid, which many other churches sadly failed to do, by encompassing new technology to 'keep the flock together'.

Financially the fellowship is also in a healthy place due to his practical guidance especially in relation to the Pension fund deficit and in so many other ways where he has used his 'bargaining skills' to achieve the best result in building the kingdom both spiritually and practically.

I trust he will indeed enjoy his retirement when it comes in June and he will take the time to relax and reflect on a job well done!

Thank you Anthony!

This brings us to the future. As we continue to seek the way ahead for the fellowship and the right person to lead us forward I am reminded of a hymn I used to sing in my youth the chorus of which says,

*I know Who holds the future, And He'll guide me with his hand.
With God things don't just happen; Everything by Him is planned.
So as I face tomorrow, With its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles, Give to Him my all.*

One new initiative I haven't mentioned is the regular Friday evening 'Pray for revival' meetings and the Prayer days. CH Spurgeon said 'prayer is the powerhouse of the church' and I am convinced that the blessing we are currently enjoying are as a direct result of these meetings.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 we read:

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves
and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will
heal their land.*

We live in a very needy world but praise God, Jesus is the answer!

God bless you

Derek

Treasurer's Report 2024 – Stephen Box

This report sets out the key figures recording the income and expenditure of the church from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. They have not yet been audited by an external auditor. However the amount of money we have in the bank is confirmed by bank statements and will not change. We ended the year with just over £100 000 in the bank. This is considerably more than the Baptist Union recommends but that situation will change if we cease to gain income from the manse.

There are three tables attached.

Balance Sheet

This is in our case not very relevant. It captures what the organization is “worth” at a particular by listing assets and debts. We do not have any outstanding debts. The assets are a combination of the cash we have available in our bank accounts and property.

The properties listed are the manse and the church building. The buildings technically belong to the Baptist Union so whether or not they should appear on our balance sheet is debatable. The figures are intended to be rebuilding costs rather than the market value of the manse and church. They were last valued by the Baptist Union in 2016.

If the buildings are counted as belonging to the church then we are “worth”
£1 260 257

The most useful figure on the balance sheet is the cash in hand sum of £100 267.

Income and Expenditure Sheet

As the title suggests this table lists all the income and expenditure for the year.

There are five sections on the financial statements. The first two refer to “Restricted” giving. This is sums of money that have been given for a specific purpose. In our case we have two restricted funds. One is called the “Pastor’s Fund”. This is used to help to meet the needs of those known to the pastor. The other fund is the proceeds of recent Gift Days that we have given to Tek Ura. The money has been given to them so the auditor may well agree to us moving this money into the General Fund. We will then close that restricted account.

The table summarises our income and outgoings. There are some numbers under a heading of Notes. Each number refers to separate table that provides more details. Finally this sheet sets out the balance carried forward to the start of 2025.

Our regular, faithful giving amounted to £66 027, a small increase on the year 2023. Overall we have generated a “surplus” in 2024. One large contributing factor to that has been a full year’s rental income from the manse.

We spent nearly £21 000 on the church building last year. That includes work on the guttering, lighting and the refurbishment of the foyer. We will continue to keep up a high standard of equipping our main worship centre.

Giving to mission

The deacons/trustees have committed us to giving away about 10% of our income to mission - mainly overseas. In addition to that we have received some money that has been raised for specific missions. The table shows that we have reduced the number of organisations we have supported. Our biggest giving (£10 434) has been to the Albanian charity "Tek Ura". We have committed to this level of support for three years and are working to ensure that our relationship is developing into a significant partnership with this group who are displaying the love of Jesus in their area. In total we have given £11 612 to overseas mission - well above our 10% target (which we nominally calculate as £8 000).

As mentioned above the manse has been rented out for the whole of 2024 and has produced a net rental (once maintenance and letting fees are deducted) of £20 511. We have needed to spend very little on maintenance - installing an extractor fan and cutting back some trees. We raised the rental by 5% at the start of 2025.

Our Gift Aid tax refund from HMRC of £15 105 is a significant sum of money. Just about all of our regular giving can trigger a rebate. To make a claim we simply sent to HMRC the name, address of each Gift Aid donor and the amount that each has given over the year. We are also able to claim on cash giving up to a value of £30 per gift. They are very punctual in sending us the refund.

Summary

Our financial position is very sound. We have managed to keep our buildings in good condition and have made some improvements. We have supported a Pastor and a part time Families Worker. Other treasurers sometimes tell me they are surprised that a church of our size can support two ministers such as ours. It has been possible as a result of the generosity of our members. Thank you all. We are grateful to the probation service for including us on their list of sites where people doing community service can repay their debt to society. They have certainly saved us some money.

We expect 2025 to bring its own challenges but we have entered the new year in a strong position where we have money to support a number of initiatives to extend God's Kingdom.

God is Good!

Stephen

Holmer Green Baptist Church

Income and Expenditure for year ending 31st Dec 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund		
Balance brought forward	745.91	5245.91
Receipts (Note 3)	50.00	
Direct Charitable Expenditure	465.00	4,500.00
Balance carried forward	<u>330.91</u>	<u>745.91</u>
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund		
Balance brought forward	6,000.00	6930.00
Receipts	2,540.00	
Transfer to General Fund for Tek Ura	8,540.00	930.00
Balance carried forward	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>
General Fund		
Receipts		
Weekly Offerings	66,331.50	63,610.05
Other donations received	0.00	
Other raised income for miss (Note 2)	3,210.95	2,763.36
Other income (Note 3)	49,944.72	34,027.36
Transfer from Restricted Fund (Tek Ura)	8,540.00	
Total	<u>128,027.17</u>	<u>100,400.77</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure		
Cost of services	1,053.84	1,437.87
Ministry	47,622.06	41,455.65
Church / Manse upkeep (Note 4)	20,891.18	32,883.34
Other causes (Note 2)	17,635.79	11,495.27
Other expenses (Note 5)	8,075.68	7,791.13
Total	<u>95,278.55</u>	<u>95,063.26</u>
Surplus/deficit for the year	<u>32,748.62</u>	<u>5,337.51</u>
Balance brought forward	68,949.52	63,612.01
Surplus/deficit for the year	32,748.62	5,337.51
Balance carried forward	<u>101,698.14</u>	<u>68,949.52</u>
All Funds balance carried forward	<u>102,029.05</u>	<u>75,695.43</u>

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards, and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

Basis of Property Valuations

The church and manse are revalued as per Baptist Union recommended figures every 5 - 7 years when they carry out a review. The last review was conducted on 19th December 2016.

Status of Charity

The charity was formally registered with the Charity Commissioners in 1996.

Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by the Financial Reporting Standard Number 1 and have not prepared a cash flow statement on the basis that this is a small charity.

2 Other Causes

	2024 Raised £	2024 Given £	2023 Raised £	2023 Given £
Raised For Missions supported	1731.19		1186.50	
BMS World Mission		120.00		2070.00
Home Mission				
Leprosy Mission		105.00		650.00
Spurgeons				330.00
Operation Sami		1000.00		235.00
Rope/Project Possible				479.09
Wycombe Youth for Christ		300.00		300.00
Books/leaflets given away		20.00		76.49
One Can Trust				564.31
Tearfund				1288.50
Everylife International		350.00		400.00
Tek Ura (Stewardship)		10434.00		0.00
Wycombe Homeless Connection		83.36		480.39
Restore Hope		200.00		100.00
Who Let the Dads Out	149.66	232.13	96.00	222.36
Pop In		1,547.87		1378.01
Events		1,596.39		1074.27
Junior Church		336.35		488.60
Playmates / Toddlers	1,230.10	750.09	1,386.45	709.90
Schools		197.94		186.56
Youth Club	100.00	132.89	94.41	233.26
Simply Walk (exp)		195.35		228.53
	<u>3,210.95</u>	<u>17,601.37</u>	<u>2,763.36</u>	<u>11,495.27</u>

3 Other Income

	2024 £	2023 £
Pop In (Inc)	2,802.20	1,624.60
Use of Premises General	1,276.64	450.00
Events	1,147.66	821.70
Interest	2,426.42	1,882.15
HMRC Refund	15,105.39	15,464.75
Simply Walk (Inc)	2,106.27	2,070.62
Other Income	2,796.35	939.50
Manse Rental	21,646.00	10,274.04
Unexplained surplus income	637.79	500.00
	<u>49,944.72</u>	<u>34,027.36</u>

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Church & Manse Upkeep	2024	2023
	£	£
Water charges : manse / church	0.00	295.52
Electric / gas : manse / church	2,336.04	2,772.12
Telephone / broadband	588.53	729.86
Insurance	1,895.82	1,675.71
Repairs and purchases (general)	16,070.79	5,181.49
Manse Expenses	0.00	1,938.77
	<u>20,891.18</u>	<u>12,593.47</u>

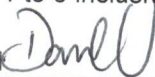
5 Other Expenses	2024	2023
	£	£
General Administration / Sundries	770.18	176.85
Fees and subscriptions	2,246.21	2,390.72
Cleaning and catering	2,410.94	2,656.33
Photocopying and printing	1,675.98	1,576.05
CCLI	972.37	861.17
	<u>8,075.68</u>	<u>7,661.12</u>

6 Non-monetary assets held for the church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by The Charities Custodian Trustee, The Baptist Union Corporation. These assets are stated at insured values. Last valuation by Baptist Union 19th December 2016.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Church and contents: Church held for church's own use	980,000	980,000
Manse: 6 Weathercock Gardens, Held as investment	180,000	180,000
	<u>1,160,000</u>	<u>1,160,000</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities (balance sheet) as set out in pages 1 to 6 inclusive for the year ending 31st December 2023 are as approved by the Deacons.

Signed  (Church Secretary) Date: 12/10/2025

Holmer Green Baptist Church

Balance sheet

Dec 31st 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed (non-monetary) Assets	6		
Church and Manse			
Church Held for church's own use		980,000.00	980,000.00
Manse Held for investment		180,000.00	180,000.00
		<u>1,160,000.00</u>	<u>1,160,000.00</u>
Monetary assets			
Lloyds current account		15,717.99	6,382.32
Lloyds Instant Access account		15,105.39	15,464.75
Lloyds Instant Access Online account		-	-
BU Corp 7 day account (opened Jan 2023)		28,258.76	22,641.42
BU Corp 3 month account (opened Jan 2023)		42,946.91	31,206.94
			-
Cash in hand		<u>102,029.05</u>	<u>75,695.43</u>
Non Monetary assets		1,160,000.00	1,160,000.00
Total assets		<u>1,262,029.05</u>	<u>1,235,695.43</u>

**HOLMER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31/12/2024**

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts as set out in the following 4 pages, under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission,
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matters, except as disclosed below, have come to my attention:

1 Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement in the accounting requirements of the 2011 acts have not been met,

- 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 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.

Matters requiring disclosure

The accounting procedures did not make it possible to follow all entries to the various categories of income and expenditure and I understand that a new accounting system has now been introduced for 2025.

The balances in the accounts at the year end exceeded the balances shown in the accounts by £637.79 of which £626.80 may relate to a receipt of £626,80 in February which I cannot see in the accounts. This difference has been adjusted for by an additional line in income.

I am satisfied that the balances totalling £102 029.35 shown in the accounts represent the true position at the year end.

Mr P Roberts
21 Partidge Close
Chesham
Bucks

Signed 

Date..... 10/10/25

HOLMER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1184109

Accounts

Treasurer's Report 2023 – Steve Box

Summary

It is pleasing to be able to report that the church finances are still in a strong position. We have run for a whole year with the salary of a pastor part time and a Families Worker. We have been able to keep our property in well maintained condition and we have been able to give generously to other ministries. God has been good to us.

Throughout the year we have received £100 400 in income and have spent £95 063, a surplus of £5 337. This is smaller than last year's surplus, largely because we have spent more on the manse and the church buildings.

At the end of December our position was that we have £75 695 in the bank. We finished the year with one month of Gift Aid refunds so we have £1200 owing to us.

The accounts show two items in our Restricted Funds. That is where money that was given for a specific purpose is recorded. We have £745.91 which was raised in our 2022 Gift Day giving that can only be spent on supporting those in the church and beyond with cost of living difficulties. Most of the money set aside for that purpose has now been distributed, notably a £3000 gift to Restore Hope. The second sum recorded in this way is £6000 from the 2023 Gift Day offering. That will be given to Tek Ura (see below) on a monthly basis through 2024.

Our regular weekly offerings are very similar to last year at £63 600. Our total income is higher than last year, mainly because we have been gaining rental income from the manse for half of the year.

Giving to ministries

After much debate the trustees and elders have decided to make some changes to our giving to Baptist Union Home Missions (BU) and Baptist Missionary Society (BMS). Reservations have been expressed about the way that our giving to these organisations has been used. We have little control and are not confident that our generosity has supported the growth of God's kingdom in the way that most of our givers would wish.

We have continued to pay our BU "subscription" of £5 per member but have been giving no money above that. We have reduced our giving to BMS to a nominal amount of £10 per month. Before that decision we intended giving 2% of our income (about £1600) to Home Missions and 3% (about £2400) to BMS. This giving is being redirected to other ministries. The money that would have gone to the BU Home Missions will be given to a local church that would benefit from some extra financial support. The money that would have gone to BMS is being given to Tek Ura in Albania.

We have been able to give a total of over £11 000 to a wide range of ministries: Leprosy Mission, Spurgeons, Operation Agri, Project Possible, Wycombe Youth for Christ, One Can Trust, Tear Fund, Everylife, Wycombe Homeless Connection and Restore Hope.

Gift Day

We held a Gift Day in October that drew a generous response. This year the leadership decided that we would use the Gift Day offering to support Tek Ura in Albania. This organization has been funded by BMS but have had their funding withdrawn. The total giving was £6000 (with Gift Aid reclaim to be added). When we add in the money that we would have sent to the BMS we should be able support the work of a physiotherapist. We intend giving to Tek Ura in this way for three years to help their planning.

Manse

We have had tenants in the manse since June. The letting is now managed by John Nash - a more local estate agent/lettings management company (for 8% of the income). We have collected rental of £12 000. However we have spent a serious amount of money to ensure that our tenants are treated well. We have replaced a boiler and the gas fire, replaced soffit and barge boards, some fencing work, purchased a new microwave and a new oven. If we include the council tax that we paid before the tenants took on the responsibility we have spent over £15 000 on the manse. We are hoping that nothing else will need replacing for a while now!

Church Building

Our total spend on the church buildings has also been about £15 000. The larger bills have been for the log cabin, picnic benches, a new shed, upgrading the lighting, dishwasher repairs and insurance.

We are in the process of getting quotations for a refurbishment of the entrance lobby. As part of our consideration we have met with the team from Holy Trinity, Hazlemere Church who designed their church redesign church and in particular The Atrium. We hope to be able to present a more attractive and modern look to give a more positive first impression to visitors and users of the building.

Reserves and savings

Trustees have decided to keep at least £30 000 in reserve. This will be kept in a separate bank account and will only be used in very serious circumstances. Over the past year we have place £55,000 in savings accounts that have produced for us an extra £2000 of income. We have chosen to put the money with the Baptist Union savings accounts which have been managed in such a way to enable them to offer loans to church groups.

We have begun 2024 with a confidence that God has continued to provide all that we have needed to play our part in His work in our village and surrounding area.

God is Good!

Stephen Box

Treasurer March 2024

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2023
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

Note	2023 £	2022 £
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund		
Balance brought forward	5,245.91	400.86
Receipts 3	-	5,590.00
Direct Charitable Expenditure	4,500.00	744.95
Balance carried forward	<u>745.91</u>	<u>5,245.91</u>
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund		
Balance brought forward		
Receipts	6,930.00	
Direct Charitable Expenditure	930.00	-
Balance carried forward	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
General Fund		
Receipts		
Weekly Offerings	63,610.05	64,372.38
Other donations received	0.00	0.00
Other raised incor 2	2,763.36	2,912.09
Other income 3	34,027.36	24,869.07
Total	<u>100,400.77</u>	<u>92,153.54</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure		
Cost of services	1,437.87	2,288.27
Ministry	41,455.65	42,282.83
Church / Manse u 4	32,883.34	12,593.87
Other causes 2	11,495.27	10,039.49
Other expenses 5	7,791.13	7,661.12
Total	<u>95,063.26</u>	<u>74,865.58</u>
Surplus/deficit for the year	<u>5,337.51</u>	<u>17,287.96</u>
Balance brought forward	63,612.01	46,324.05
Surplus/deficit for the year	5,337.51	17,287.96
Balance carried forward	<u>68,949.52</u>	<u>63,612.01</u>
All Funds balance carried forward	<u>75,695.43</u>	<u>68,857.92</u>

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2023

Balance Sheet

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Church and Manse	980,000.00	980,000.00
Church Held for church's own use	180,000.00	180,000.00
Manse Held for investment	1,160,000.00	1,160,000.00
Monetary Assets		
Lloyds current account	6,382.32	13,046.53
Lloyds Instant Access account	15,464.75	55,811.39
Lloyds Instant Access Online account	0.00	
BU Corp 7 day account (opened Jan 2023)	22,641.42	
BU Corp 3 month account (opened Jan 2023)	31,206.94	
		0.00
Cash in hand	75,695.43	68,857.92
Non Monetary Assets	1,160,000.00	1,160,000.00
Total Assets	1,235,695.43	1,228,857.92
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund	745.91	5,245.91
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund	6,000.00	
General Fund	68,949.52	63,612.01
Cash at Hand	75,695.43	68,857.92

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards, and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

Basis of Property Valuations

The church and manse are revalued as per Baptist Union recommended figures every 5 - 7 years when they carry out a review. The last review was conducted on 19th December 2016.

Status of Charity

The charity was formally registered with the Charity Commissioners in 1996.

Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by the Financial Reporting Standard Number 1 and have not prepared a cash flow statement on the basis that this is a small charity.

2 Other Causes

	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Raised	Given	Raised	Given
	£	£	£	£
Raised For Missions supported	1186.50		1652.20	
BMS World Mission		2070.00		2460.00
Home Mission		0.00		1000
Leprosy Mission		650.00		174.93
Spurgeons		330.00		0
Operation Agri		235.00		0.00
Rope/Project Possible		479.09		1500.00
Wycombe Youth for Christ		300.00		300.00
Books/leaflets given away		76.49		113.9
One Can Trust		564.31		105
Tearfund		1288.50		768.2
Everylife International		400.00		500
Love Wycombe		0.00		100.00
Wycombe Homeless Connection		480.39		
Restore Hope		100.00		
Who Let the Dads Out	96.00	222.36	109.50	430.25
Pop In		1,378.01		936.38
Events		1,074.27		118.86
Junior Church		488.60		260.40
Playmates / Toddlers	1,386.45	709.90	1,150.39	654.17
Schools		186.56		176.00
Youth Club	94.41	233.26		287.28
Simply Walk (expd)		228.53		154.12
	<u>2,763.36</u>	<u>11,495.27</u>	<u>2,912.09</u>	<u>10,039.49</u>

3 Other Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Pop In (Inc)	1,624.60	1,777.50
Use of Premises General	450.00	856.00
Events	821.70	768.20
CAF Donation	0.00	120.00
Interest	1,882.15	23.53
HMRC Refund	15,464.75	15,836.59
Simply Walk (Inc)	2,070.62	1,643.08
Other Rebates	939.50	3,844.17
Manse Rental	10,274.04	0.00
Refund of fees	500.00	0.00
	<u>34,027.36</u>	<u>24,869.07</u>

**Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements**

4 Church & Manse Upkeep	2023	2022
	£	£
Water charges : manse / church	1,124.40	295.52
Electric / gas : manse / church	1,854.33	2,772.12
Telephone / broadband	770.80	729.86
Insurance	1,326.94	1,675.71
Repairs and purchases (general)	12,734.21	5,181.49
Manse Expenses	<u>15,072.66</u>	<u>1,938.77</u>
	<u>32,883.34</u>	<u>12,593.47</u>


5 Other Expenses	2023	2022
	£	£
General Administration / Sundries	112.95	176.85
Fees and subscriptions	1,824.04	2,390.72
Cleaning and catering	2,716.04	2,656.33
Photocopying and printing	2,211.82	1,576.05
CCLI	<u>926.28</u>	<u>861.17</u>
	<u>7,791.13</u>	<u>7,661.12</u>

6 Non-monetary assets held for the church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by The Charities Custodian Trustee, The Baptist Union Corporation. These assets are stated at insured values. Last valuation by Baptist Union 19th December 2016.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Church and contents: Church held for church's own use	980,000	980,000
Manse: 6 Weathercock Gardens, Held as investment	<u>180,000</u>	<u>180,000</u>
	<u>1,160,000</u>	<u>1,160,000</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities (balance sheet) as set out in pages 1 to 6 inclusive for the year ending 31st December 2023 are as approved by the Trustees.

Signed  (Church Secretary) Date: 25th March 2024

*Holmer
&
Green* 
Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Holmer Green Baptist Church
The Common
Holmer Green
High Wycombe
Bucks HP15 6TD

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(Telephone : 01494 712479)

Pastor's Report 2023 – Anthony Smith

God's Faithfulness

As in previous years I thought I would give this report a title. **"God's Faithfulness"** seems appropriate.

Psalm 33:4 For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

Every single action God takes is sure and steady. Every word He speaks is always good and true. People let us down—but God will never let us down in the ways that matter most. He keeps every promise, always. His unfailing love will never end.

As I reflect on this last year that verse in Psalm 34 really resonates with me. We have faced a number of challenges but God has truly been faithful and those in the church have risen to each challenge and opportunity that we have faced.

The personal highlight for myself was to take my sabbatical, even if it was somewhat overdue. It was a wonderful time of relaxation, renewal and reflection. Whether it was visiting our mission partners in Albania, walking some of the Camino, catching up on reading materials, visiting other churches or a relaxing holiday, it was a wonderful opportunity I am truly grateful to you all for affording me this opportunity, Thank you!

It enabled me to particularly take stock of where we are and what the future looks like for me and the church. I concluded as they say on "Bargain Hunt" that "We are in safe hands" why, because we are in God's hands.

For myself I have been your formal Pastor now for over 10 years (even though I only came for 5!) and you have been such a blessing to me. During that time, we have faced many challenges together and found God to be faithful. We have received God's blessing in so many ways. Truly God is faithful. When I went on my sabbatical I foolishly thought, how will they cope, who will cover this, will there be a church left when I come back and many other thoughts. I confess my sin to you!

The reality was very different, the church grew in strength. We saw others take up the reigns in an amazing way. We saw God's gifts released. I don't think we had to drop anything during my time away as others filled those opportunities. Some of my Pastor friends say on their sabbaticals the church simply tried to hold the church together.

How faithful God was to us. One of my first services back I remember sitting in the congregation thinking How faithful God has been. I almost felt redundant. That reminded me of a phrase my old boss used to say. "Tony (yes he called me Tony) work to make yourself redundant." I now understand fully what he meant.

For our size of church, the last year has shown what an amazing group of preachers, worship leaders, musicians, teachers, helpers we have and not forgetting the amazing tea and coffee team without whom we would definitely struggle. Some have up front roles which are very visible but there are many working behind the scenes. We need all of them to make HGBC what it is today held together and empowered by God's Holy Spirit.

The last year has shown what a gifted group of Trustees and Elders you have. What a blessing we have in Rach leading our families work and so many others that work so hard for all of us. I cannot name you all as the report wouldn't be long enough and I would be bound to forget someone.

The main result of the last year is that I am more confident than I have ever been that as you search for the right person to replace me that God will be faithful **IF** you diligently seek his way.

I love the phrase "The past is a closed door, the present is an open one, and the future is an approaching one"

I believe the message of God for the last year has been "He is faithful and he will guide you into the next exciting chapter for this church in Holmer Green." The future is exciting. As we reflect on 2023 yes let's give thanks but let's all appreciate the best is yet to come. Praise God!

Your Pastor and friend

Anthony

THE CHURCH YEAR 2023: Church Secretary – Derek Brown

The discipline of preparing an annual report gives you the opportunity to look back and review how God has continued to bless us over the last year.

2023 began with many challenges for the fellowship here in Holmer Green. The first being the task of recruiting someone to take on the children and families' work within the fellowship. We were delighted that Rachael Smith, who had been in the role before starting her own family, was able to fulfil this vacancy. She is doing a tremendous job reaching out to the families in the area via school visits, assisting with Oasis, our mother and toddler's group, and children and youth activities on a Sunday.

Special events including Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Cracked, with the school children and staff attending the church building, and after school Party Nights have also been a great success in making contact with local families.

The second challenge was to cover the services and meetings whilst our pastor Anthony embarked on his long overdue sabbatical. As church secretary traditionally the task of finding speakers to fill the preaching slots would normally have fallen on me. We are so blessed that not one meeting required action in this way. I am so grateful to God for those members and friends who faithfully prepared, preached and served us in this way, on behalf of the fellowship thank you!

We know the church is not just the building but the people who worship in it. As Peter writes in chapter two of his first letter ***'you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.'*** This is very true, however our building is a tremendous resource which can easily be taken for granted. As someone who has been involved in the past with the setting up of worship in hired accommodation and halls I can testify to what an asset it is to have such a facility at our disposal.

As with any property ongoing maintenance and repair is necessary to preserve the integrity of the building. We also have a duty as stewards of what we have received from the Lord to ensure it continues to be a welcoming and safe place for all those who use it. The manse also falls into this category. This year this responsibility has resulted in a number of major and costly works being undertaken.

As our treasurer has said in his report "God is Good" and thankfully we had sufficient funds not only to carry out these works but maintain our regular financial commitments. On that note I would like to thank the finance team for all the time and hard work they carry out behind the scenes to ensure everything is in order with the church finances.

Worship services on a Sunday and a Wednesday continue to be well supported and our Sunday online broadcast is appreciated by many both near and far who are unable to attend in person. Our other regular meetings, Life Groups, Oasis Toddlers, Pop in Lunches and Women's fellowship continue to attract good numbers. Who let the Dad's Out, continues to grow and our friends at Simply Walk on a

Monday continue to enjoy the hospitality the church building provides them. These opportunities enable us to reach out to those on the fringes of the church community as well as the regular members and it provides an opportunity to share the Good News in an informal way and make real friendships with those living on our doorstep.

Anthony has kindly let us know that he intends to retire in June 2025 after serving 10 years in the role as our pastor although he had only agreed to 5! We thank him for his commitment, love and service to the fellowship over that time.

This will mean changes in the months ahead while the leadership team seek the Lord for the way forward and the correct role for any appointment that is made.

Our official membership currently stands at 47 but we have many regular attendees at both our services. It would be lovely if we could increase this number going forward, so do pray about who you could approach to take this step and encourage them to talk to any of the leadership team should they have any questions.

In my report last year I wrote of the blessing that our Ukrainian refugee families had brought to the fellowship. Sadly the hostilities continue and many of them have now been found longer term accommodation in the area which has meant some have left us and others have returned home to be with their loved ones. We continue to remember and thank God for them and pray that this evil war which has destroyed and disrupted so much of their lives will cease and peace will reign once more.

For them and for the fellowship I will end with this promise from Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

As we look to what the Lord has in store for us I am sure you will join me with an **Amen!**

God bless you
Derek Brown

Contact Information 2023

Pastor:

Anthony Smith

anthony@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Secretary:

Derek Brown

secretary@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Treasurer:

Steve Box (Co opted)

treasurer.stephen@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Trustees:

Richard Chen

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Chris Davy

safeguardingassistant@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Claire Spinks-Gillen

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Steve Phillips

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Elders:

Mark Coventry

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Bob Davy

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Holmer Green Baptist Church
Independent examiner's report to the trustees
on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts, as set out on the following 4 pages, under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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 the course of my examination, no matters, except as disclosed below, have 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.



Sarah Horn
Chartered Accountant
7 Bunbury Avenue
Great Barton
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2SZ

01-Mar-24

Date

HOLMER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1184109

Accounts

*Holmer
Green
Baptist Church*



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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2022

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Pastor's Report 2022 – Anthony Smith

Unlike previous years I thought I would give this report a title “**Faith in Action**”

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see “ (Hebrews 11:1).

Many people think that Faith is some kind of imaginary hope or wishful thinking. However Biblical Faith is the complete opposite.

As Christians and as part of this fellowship we see evidence of how God has provided for us in the past and that gives us all hope as we look to the future even when we cannot see what is coming. Isn't the Christian life exciting!

The past year has seen it's challenges but God continues to bless our church. Many of you will remember the challenge we faced some years ago when we had a large pension debt. In reality we were humanly bankrupt. However, we cleared that debt and we are now in a strong financial position but we will not let the money simply sit in the bank. We have been building the kingdom and investing to do that. We had faith but couldn't see but God knew.

The investment in the log cabin has given the older children a space they can call their own. It has been part of our financial investment in the Kingdom. We have invested in members of staff and will continue to do so.

We have more helpers involved with our children's work than we have had for a long time and God is blessing us with a significant growth in our children's numbers. That, of course, brings responsibility. We have risen to that challenge with God's help and we will build on these solid foundations into 2023.

We have more people engaged in Sunday worship, Preaching, Leading. Mid-week ministries and so the list goes on. Between the 2 services we have seen significant growth.

We have opened our doors to Ukrainian families showing Jesus' love and compassion to them. Thank you!

Let's remember as we reflect on last year God has answered our prayers! Praise God.

As people have risen to the challenge of 2022 let's keep striving to release and enable others into 2023.

The challenge as we look towards 2023 as we leave 2022 behind is where can we all serve. Maybe in new areas, Maybe giving that invitation for someone to join us. Most of all I would encourage us all to continue to develop prayer within HGBC

There is too much that has happened at HGBC to write it all down but let's all take time to **remember**. My thanks go to all of you for the part you have played in 2022.

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. (Isaiah 46:9)

We could all look back over the year at all has happened and Give thanks.

Let's acknowledge and celebrate what God has done in 2022 but anticipate for even greater things in 2023. I love these verses in the message version of the Bible.

All Jesus did that day was tell stories—a long storytelling afternoon. His storytelling fulfilled the prophecy: I will open my mouth and tell stories; I will bring out into the open things hidden since the world's first day. (Matthew 13:34-35 MSG)

As we reflect on 2022 let's all tell the stories on what God is doing in HGBC. There are so many! Let's be excited about all that has happened.

So, as we look ahead I am reminded of this verse.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV)

Wait! Didn't Isaiah just say to remember the past and now he's saying forget the past? Yes, rear-view mirrors are for looking at what God has done to strengthen the way forward, not to get stuck in old ways.

Finally, as always, you have my utmost thanks for all your love, prayer and support to Adele and myself.

Blessings

Your Pastor and friend

Anthony

THE CHURCH YEAR 2022: Church Secretary – Derek Brown

My review last year began with a comment on the impact the Covid pandemic had wrought on life in general and on church activities here at Holmer Green Baptist Church. Legal restrictions to isolate were finally lifted on the 24th February 2022. Although this began a slow return to a form of normality, life for many would never be the same again especially those who lost loved ones during this time.

One of the benefits of this period however was that we were forced to change the traditional way our services were run. Due to the support and technical skills of many members, the Sunday service had been broadcast on line and this continues enabling us to reach those unable to physically attend and to reach out to those further afield.

Also due to the risks to our senior and vulnerable members the Wednesday meeting became a safer environment for them to enjoy worship and fellowship together and we have been really blessed with an increase in people attending this meeting.

On the very day Covid restrictions were officially lifted here in England Russian troops invaded Ukraine bringing fear and destruction to so many. We immediately prayed, and continue to do so, for an end to this evil and cruel action and sought God as to how we could help.

In Hebrews 13:1-2 we read *'Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.'* Little did we know what impact this passage would have on many of our members directly and the church as a whole. We have been so blessed by the Ukrainian families hosted by our church members and others in the village. We consider them an integral part of our 'church family' as they participate in so many of our activities especially the children who have added a whole new dynamic to our Sunday School and youth activities. We would share with them this passage from Ephesians 2:19 which reads *'Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.'*

The Cabin is now fulfilling the vision for its construction as a resource in facilitating the needs of our youth and we pray this will develop further in the days ahead as we engage with the schools in our area.

Once again our contact with Curzon and Holmer Green Junior schools has been maintained by the pastors. RE groups and Assemblies as well as Easter Cracked and Christmas Unwrapped are always appreciated by the teachers and staff as well as the pupils of course who are the potential church of tomorrow.

Our weekly Life Groups, Oasis Toddlers, Pop in Lunches and Women's fellowship meetings continue to attract good numbers. Also the Saturday 'Who let the Dad's Out' initiative and hosting the local Simply Walk group on a Monday allow us to reach out to people within our community. We are so grateful for the members and friends who serve the fellowship so sacrificially by heading up these endeavours and

thereby ensuring these meetings continue to thrive and grow and we pray they too will be blessed!

As can be seen in the financial pages of this report we continue to be blessed by members and friends giving generously and sacrificially during these difficult times. I thank you and God our father for His care and provision and we will continue to support those in need at home and abroad as stewards of God's provision to us.

As a society many 'Christian values' are under threat in these days but we trust that God will continue to build His church here in Holmer Green. We pray that we will grow in Him seeking His guidance and leading in ways we can support the fellowship in any way we are able.

'Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.'

Blessings

Derek Brown

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Annual General Meeting March 27th 2023
Treasurers' Report

Summary

It is pleasing to be able to report that the church finances are still in a strong position. We have been able to fund the salaries of a pastor (part time) and an associate pastor (full time). These roles have enabled us to run a wide range of programmes and services to help grow the Kingdom of God. We have also been able to keep our fabric (church building and manse) in good condition, ensuring that our worship and service to the community can take place in well maintained accommodation. We have invested in IT so that our internet services can be of high quality. In addition we have also been able to support a number of other ministries in our local area, other areas of UK and overseas. Our total of gifts to these ministries was just over £7 000.

At the end of December our position was £68 900 "in the bank". This includes the Gift Aid refund of £15 836 from HMRC for the whole year and the reclaimed deposit from the manse rental (This was delayed from 2021 as a result of extended negotiations.)

The large sum of money in the bank gives a slightly distorted figure as there are some large bills due to be paid in early 2023.

Income and Expenditure

The accounts show that our income overall is £20 000 lower than last year. This is partly because we have not been receiving any manse income. We also recorded two years of Gift Aid tax reclaim in 2021. Once these factors are taken out the level of giving in 2022 is very similar to 2021.

Our expenditure on "Ministry" is lower than 2021 partly as a result of having a church officer having manse occupancy as part of the remuneration package. Our income from the manse was correspondingly lower than in 2021.

In round figures our overall income in 2022 was £92 000 and our expenditure was £75 000, a surplus of £17 000

Gift Day

We held a Gift Day in October to produce a fund that supports the financially vulnerable within and without the church through the current "Cost of Living" difficulties. Church members gave generously over and above their regular giving and a total of about £5500 was raised. This money is now ring fenced and can only be used for the purpose for which it was collected. The audited accounts regard this money as "Restricted Funds"

Reserve and Savings

The Baptist Union recommends that we retain about six months of operating costs (salaries and major bills), as a reserve. We have chosen to set aside £30000 as our reserve that will only be used in very extreme circumstances. This will be kept in a separate account.

Over the past year with interest rates so low we have kept all our money with Lloyds Bank in two separate accounts, with very little interest being gained. Now that interest rates are increasing trustees have put some money into savings accounts run by the Baptist Union and offering 3.5% to

4% interest. Our £30 000 reserve will go into a one year deposit (at 4%) and a further £25 000 in an instant access account paying 3.5%. The rest of our banking will remain with Lloyds. We expect to gain £2000 of interest over the year. We will be running with a current account with a fairly large credit. That will guarantee that we never have any cashflow problems and will not have to be fiddling about transferring money out of a savings account.

Giving to ministries outside the church

Trustees have made a commitment to give away 10% of the church's income to wider Christian ministry.

In 2022 this policy led to gifts totalling around £7000, biggest gifts are as follows

Baptist Missionary Society	2460
Baptist Home Missions	1000
Project Possible	1500
Everylife	500
Wycombe Youth for Christ	300
Leprosy Mission	175
Love Wycombe	100
Tear fund	768
One Can	105
Books given away	175

In addition we raised and gave away a further £1652 that was raised for specific missions.

Upcoming expenses

We are still awaiting an overdue council tax bill for 2022 for the manse and we have not yet spent all the money that has been allocated to the refurbishment of the outside area so there will be a few large bills to come in the early part of this year.

We are investing in the cabin (TV screen and furniture) and the outside "play" area (new tables and children's toys.) Orders have been placed for some of these items. The project will be finished for Spring 2023.

We have had to do some maintenance work on the manse – replacing fascia boards and soffits will take place in May/June 2023 and cherry tree felling and a new boiler has been installed.

The computer equipment in the church has been upgraded – mostly paid for now.

God is Good.

I am very happy to respond to any queries Please contact me by email if you wish to know more details. treasurer.stephen@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Steve Box

Treasurer March 2023

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2022
(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund			
Balance brought forward		400.86	374.86
Receipts	3	5,590.00	150.00
Direct Charitable Expenditure		744.95	124.00
Balance carried forward		<u>5,245.91</u>	<u>400.86</u>
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund			
Balance brought forward			10440.00
Receipts		-	412.50
Direct Charitable Expenditure		-	10852.50
Balance carried forward		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
General Fund			
Receipts			
Weekly Offerings		64,372.38	65575.12
Other donations received		0.00	720.00
Other raised income for mission	2	2,912.09	1109.41
Other income	3	24,869.07	44521.60
Total		<u>92,153.54</u>	<u>111926.13</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure			
Cost of services		2,288.27	791.43
Ministry		42,282.83	64736.04
Church / Manse upkeep	4	12,593.87	26821.71
Other causes	2	10,039.49	6894.87
Other expenses	5	7,661.12	7966.07
Total		<u>74,865.58</u>	<u>107210.12</u>
Surplus/deficit for the year		<u>17,287.96</u>	<u>4716.01</u>
Balance brought forward		46,324.05	41608.04
Deficit/surplus for the year		17,287.96	4716.01
Balance carried forward		<u>63,612.01</u>	<u>46324.05</u>
All funds balance carried forward		<u>68,857.92</u>	<u>46724.91</u>

All the charity's operations are continuing operations and there were no operations discontinued or acquired during the year.

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards, and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

Basis of Property Valuations

The church and manse are revalued as per Baptist Union recommended figures every 5 - 7 years when they carry out a review. The last review was conducted on 19th December 2016.

Status of Charity

The charity was formally registered with the Charity Commissioners in 1996.

Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by the Financial Reporting Standard Number 1 and have not prepared a cash flow statement on the basis that this is a small charity.

2 Other Causes	2022	2022	2021	2021
	Raised	Given	Raised	Given
	£	£	£	£
Raised For Missions supported	1652.20		604.46	
BMS World Mission		2460.00		2430.00
Books/leaflet given away		113.90		0
Leprosy Mission		174.93		821.37
Spurgeons		0.00		1618
Operation Agri		0.00		100.00
Rope/Project Possible		1500.00		0.00
Wycombe Youth for Christ		300.00		300.00
One Can Trust		105.00		0
Tearfund		768.20		0
Love Wycombe		100.00		0
Everylife International		500.00		0
Home Mission		1000.00		
Messy ChurchWho Let the Dads In	109.50	430.25	76.00	59.31
Pop In		936.38		542.64
Events		118.86		138.78
Junior Church		260.40		308.52
Playmates / Toddlers	1,150.39	654.17	428.95	309.17
Schools		176.00		109.09
Youth Club		287.28		91.22
Simply Walk (expd)		154.12		66.77
	2,912.09	10,039.49	1,109.41	6,894.87

3 Other Income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Pop In (Inc)	1,777.50	761.85
Use of Premises General	856.00	628.00
Manse	0.00	10,543.00
Events	768.20	0.00
CAF Donation	120.00	0.00
Interest	23.53	3.57
HMRC Refund	15,836.59	30,457.03
Simply Walk (Inc)	1,643.08	730.47
Other Rebates	3,844.17	1,397.68
	24,869.07	44,521.60

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Church & Manse Upkeep	2022	2021
	£	£
Water charges : manse / church	295.92	0.00
Electric / gas : manse / church	2,772.12	2,539.78
Telephone / broadband	729.86	531.38
Insurance	1,675.71	1,491.83
Repairs and purchases (general)	5,181.49	12,624.40
Manse Expenses	<u>1,938.77</u>	<u>9,634.32</u>
	<u>12,593.87</u>	<u>26,821.71</u>

5 Other Expenses	2022	2021
	£	£
General Administration / Sundries	176.85	270.05
Fees and subscriptions	2,390.72	1,823.22
Cleaning and catering	2,656.33	1,854.06
Photocopying and printing	1,576.05	1,373.06
CCLI	861.17	820.58
Transferred to restricted gift day fund		1,825.10
	<u>7,661.12</u>	<u>7,966.07</u>

6 Non-monetary assets held for the church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by The Charities Custodian Trustee, The Baptist Union Corporation. These assets are stated at insured values. Last valuation by Baptist Union 19th December 2016.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Church and contents: Church held for church's own use	980,000	980,000
Manse: 6 Weathercock Gardens, Held as investment	<u>180,000</u>	<u>180,000</u>
	<u>1,160,000</u>	<u>1,160,000</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities (balance sheet) as set out in pages 1 to 6 inclusive for the year ending 31st December 2022 are as approved by the Deacons.

Signed _____ (Church Secretary) Date: _____

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Independent examiner's report to the trustees
on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts, as set out on the following 8 pages, under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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 the course of my examination, no matters, except as disclosed below, have 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.





Sarah Horn
Chartered Accountant
7 Bunbury Avenue
Great Barton
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2SZ

Date

HOLMER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1184109

Accounts

*Holmer
&
Green* 
Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Holmer Green Baptist Church
The Common
Holmer Green
High Wycombe
Bucks HP15 6TD

www.holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

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(Telephone : 01494 712479)

Pastor's Report 2021 – Anthony Smith

Over the last year we have continued to deal with the challenges of COVID. It has shown just how adaptable our church is. My thanks go to, and I won't name them all, everyone who has contributed so much to the fellowship here. On the spiritual, pastoral, technical and practical side. What an amazing team.

With that in mind let me share a few thoughts with you and conclude with some comments about 2021 specifically.

Amidst the challenges facing the travel industry one airline CEO expressed his strategic recovery plan in three words: survive, revive, thrive. Initially the hope would simply be for the organization to survive. The strategy then moved towards reviving, and thriving again.

In the Bible, Jesus offers words of invitation that speak into those three stages of life recovery. I think these three words are pertinent for our church and all of us that form part of this fellowship. I'm only too well aware of many churches in our world and a number locally who have struggled over the past few years. Some churches are still struggling in survival mode, and we need to continue to pray for and support the extended church family. Comparatively, at Holmer Green Baptist we have been significantly sheltered. By God's grace and the strength of the people God has placed here, we've experienced God's presence and power in our midst through the global pandemic.

I wonder which of these words best expresses your experience over the past year?

To those weary **survivors**, Jesus says **“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11v 28-30**

To those in need of **reviving**, the Bible declares **“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40 v 31.**

To each of us, there is a calling to **thrive**, to bear fruit, to see lives changed as the gospel is proclaimed. A calling to shine like a light; to walk in God's confidence and authority; and to speak words of hope in our world. Indeed, we have been invited into God's work on the earth.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us. The Lord has anointed us to proclaim good news to the poor. He is sending us to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind. He is asking us to set the oppressed free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. (Luke 4:18-19)

In the context of the above I think we can claim we have **survived**. There has of course been pain and suffering but we have come through it. We have a strong leadership team who have come together and are all committed to leading the fellowship forward. Your support throughout the year for all the team has been amazing.

We have needed **reviving** and the life groups, pastoral support and friendships have given us this opportunity.

Indeed, not only that but we have seen the congregation grow in total as we have developed our Sunday, Wednesday and online presence. We must seek now with God's help to **Thrive** in 2022.

The challenge is there but with the Father's leading and the Holy Spirits empowerment and a Gospel message that is as relevant as ever we must seek to thrive in 2022

Finally, as always, you have my utmost thanks for all your love, prayer and support to Adele and myself.

Blessings

Your Pastor and Friend

Anthony

THE CHURCH YEAR 2021: Church Secretary – Derek Brown

Having agreed to become a trustee/deacon in late 2019, the word Covid had not even entered my vocabulary. The effect this terrible pandemic has wrought on the world is now known by everyone from the youngest school child to the oldest members of our community and has impacted our lives in ways we could not even imagine.

The church has always been a place where people of faith have come together for corporate worship and fellowship where those in need can find comfort and support. The past two years have therefore been a real challenge to all we seek to achieve as a body of believers here in Holmer Green and its environs.

Most of our regular meetings were cancelled altogether, but due to the technical expertise of church members we were able to continue with the broadcasting of our Sunday services, initially online and then also 'socially distanced' at the church.

2021 began with another 'lock down' and face to face services were again not resumed until Easter. We must acknowledge the faithful support of the musicians and audio visual team during this time who along with the pastors made the broadcasting of services possible. This whilst maintaining the common hope we have as believers in Jesus, severely diminished the real bond of fellowship of just 'being together'.

Praise God! as the vaccines began to take effect Sunday services were able to resume from Easter onwards as did the Wednesday service, both of which were reasonably well attended as folk began to work through the risks and procedures that Covid enforced on them.

During this time we were joined by Alan Biswas-Rooney as associate pastor and work began on restoring the youth activities making use of the new log cabin which was constructed at the rear of the church in June. This facility has also been used for Life Group and Oasis meetings and will be a valuable asset going forward. Toddlers group also resumed in June with a restriction on numbers and we were able to hold our family celebration and BBQ at the end of the same month. Simply Walk, Women's Fellowship and Pop in Lunch also restarted over the following 3 months.

A new event called 'Who let the Dad's Out' was started at the church as a platform on a Saturday morning for fathers to meet together with their children, to play and get to know our church family. We trust these meetings will continue to grow and will result in an increase in those coming to faith and adding to our fellowship.

Throughout the year our contact with Curzon and Holmer Green Junior schools has been maintained by the pastors. This involved RE groups and Assemblies as well as Easter Cracked and Christmas Unwrapped events both online and at the Church for the children, together with parenting courses for parents. This is an amazing opportunity which we will continue to support and in turn will benefit from by growing the church of tomorrow.

We have been blessed financially with many members giving generously and sacrificially through these difficult times as can be seen in the financial section of this report, for which we thank them and God our father for His care and provision. As a fellowship we continue to give to those in need at home and abroad and acknowledge that, as stewards of God's provision to us, we should be generous to those in need.

As to the future, we trust the Lord for an increase in his Kingdom here in Holmer Green and pray that in turn we will grow in Him as members of the church and continue to support the fellowship in any way we are able.

Blessings

Derek Brown

Treasurer's Report 2021 – Steve Box

Throughout the year 2021 our accounts have been in a strong position. We have been able to make significant improvements to our premises and ministry and still ended the year with reserves healthy. Many thanks are due to our Book Keeper Jenny Wilkins, for her professional work in recording all of our income and expenditure so efficiently and to Elaine Brown our Assistant Treasurer for work in dealing with cash giving.

One feature of our giving in recent times has been the number of regular standing orders that have been set up by members and friends of the church. That provides a regular source of income and makes the claiming of tax through the Gift Aid scheme more straightforward. Our income has increased this year as a result of much faithful commitment to the work of the Kingdom of God.

Our accounts for the year 2021 show two years of Gift Aid claims (for 2020 and 2021), totalling £30000. Going forward we plan to reclaim tax at the end of each quarter.

We are still committed to giving a tenth of our income to support the work of the gospel more widely. We have not managed that aspect of our finances as well as we would have liked this year. A major gift of £1500 to Project Possible was made after December 31st so does not show. When included our outreach giving totalled £8395. (These items show as "other causes" in the accounts).

With changes of personnel in the finance team we overlooked a previous commitment to give a sum of money to Baptist Home Missions. Trustees/deacons have resolved to make good that promise this year.

A summary of our "outreach" giving is as follows.

BMS World Mission	2430.00
Home Mission	
Leprosy Mission	821.37
Spurgeons	1618.00
Operation Agri	100.00
Rope/Project Possible	0.00
Wycombe Youth for Christ	300.00
Books Given away	0.00
Church outreach initiatives	1625.00
Total	6895.00

We had some big expenditures on our premises – the church and the manse in 2021. The manse required a major refurbishment costing about £8000. Early in the year we invested in some improved lighting in the church. A gift enabled us to replace the commercial dishwasher in the kitchen. The cost of "Jane's Cabin" appears as a large expenditure in 2021 accounts although the generous gift that paid for it appeared in 2020 accounts.

After a few years when the manse was rented out it has gone back to its original purpose – housing our associate pastor. This will obviously mean that we do not receive any rental income but the associate pastor’s remuneration package is adjusted to compensate.

The Ministers Welfare Fund was created to support families in need during Covid restrictions. It has not been used in 2021.

We ended the year with £46000 “in the bank”. Our intention is to keep £35000 as a reserve and about £5000 as a working contingency. We are therefore able to set a balanced budget for next year that includes all our expected expenses and income.

Our accounts have been audited and will be made public on the Charity Commission website shortly.

God is good!

Steve Box

Contact Information 2021

Pastor:

Anthony Smith

anthony@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Secretary:

Derek Brown

secretary@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Treasurer:

Steve Box (Co opted)

treasurer.stephen@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Deacons:

Claire Spinks-Gillen

claire.spinks-gillen@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Elaine Brown

elaine.brown@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Bob Davy

bob.davy@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Elders:

Mark Coventry

mark.coventry@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Independent examiner's report to the trustees
on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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

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- 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.



Sarah Horn
Chartered Accountant
7 Bunbury Avenue
Great Barton
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2SZ

04-Mar-22

Date

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund			
Balance brought forward		374.86	-
Receipts	3	150.00	4,948.86
Direct Charitable Expenditure		124.00	4,574.00
Balance carried forward		<u>400.86</u>	<u>374.86</u>
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund			
Balance brought forward		10,440.00	-
Receipts		412.50	10,440.00
Direct Charitable Expenditure		10,852.50	-
Balance carried forward		<u>-</u>	<u>10,440.00</u>
General Fund			
Receipts		£	
Weekly Offerings		65,575.12	47,134.72
Other donations received		720.00	1,030.00
Other raised income for mission	2	1,109.41	1,308.36
Other income	3	44,521.60	35,133.41
Total		<u>111,926.13</u>	<u>84,606.49</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure			
Cost of services		791.43	411.30
Ministry		64,736.04	39,253.00
Church / Manse upkeep	4	26,821.71	9,448.52
Other causes	2	6,894.87	8,056.38
Other expenses	5	7,966.07	75,541.62
Total		<u>107,210.12</u>	<u>132,710.82</u>
Surplus/deficit for the year		<u>4,716.01</u>	<u>-48,104.33</u>
Balance brought forward		41,608.04	89,712.37
Surplus/deficit for the year		4,716.01	-48,104.33
Balance carried forward		<u>46,324.05</u>	<u>41,608.04</u>
All funds balance carried forward		<u>46,724.91</u>	<u>52,422.90</u>

All the charity's operations are continuing operations and there were no operations discontinued or acquired during the year.

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2021

(Balance sheet)

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed (non-monetary) Assets	6		
Church and Manse			
Church Held for church's own use		980,000.00	980,000.00
Manse Held for investment		180,000.00	180,000.00
		<u>1,160,000.00</u>	<u>1,160,000.00</u>
Monetary assets			
Lloyds TSB current account		2,149.81	640.40
Lloyds deposit account		43,831.33	40,108.07
Lloyds savings account (opened June 2018)		743.77	11,674.43
Cash in hand		-	-
		<u>46,724.91</u>	<u>52,422.90</u>
Non Monetary assets		1,160,000.00	1,160,000.00
Total assets		<u>1,206,724.91</u>	<u>1,212,422.90</u>
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund		400.86	374.86
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund		-	10,440.00
General Fund		46,324.05	41,608.04
		<u>46,724.91</u>	<u>52,422.90</u>

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards, and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

Basis of Property Valuations

The church and manse are revalued as per Baptist Union recommended figures every 5 - 7 years when they carry out a review. The last review was conducted on 19th December 2016.

Status of Charity

The charity was formally registered with the Charity Commissioners in 1996.

Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by the Financial Reporting Standard Number 1 and have not prepared a cash flow statement on the basis that this is a small charity.

2 Other Causes	2021 Raised £	2021 Given £	2020 Raised £	2020 Given £
Raised For Missions supported	604.46		690.26	
BMS World Mission		2430.00		2340.00
Home Mission				804
Leprosy Mission		821.37		782.26
Spurgeons		1618.00		660.5
Operation Agri		100.00		10.00
Rope/Project Possible		0.00		660.50
Wycombe Youth for Christ		300.00		300.00
Books Given away		0.00		114.5
Messy ChurchWho Let the Dads In	76.00	59.31		76.52
Pop In		542.64		460.38
Events		138.78		1,185.92
Junior Church		308.52		402.52
Playmates / Toddlers	428.95	309.17	595.30	57.08
Schools		109.09		152.99
Youth Club		91.22	22.80	0.00
Simply Walk (expd)		66.77		49.21
	<u>1,109.41</u>	<u>6,894.87</u>	<u>1,308.36</u>	<u>8,056.38</u>

3 Other Income	2021 £	2020 £
Donations/misc		
Pop In (Inc)	761.85	815.20
Use of Premises General	628.00	472.00
Time 4 God (Inc)	0.00	101.95
Events	0.00	1,136.00
Manse	10,543.00	15,520.80
Interest	3.57	19.14
HMRC Refund	30,457.03	15,124.98
Simply Walk (Inc)	730.47	464.89
Other Rebates	1,397.68	1,438.45
Ministers Welfare Fund	-	4,948.86
Refund of fees	0.00	40.00
	<u>44,521.60</u>	<u>40,082.27</u>

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Church & Manse Upkeep	2021	2020
	£	£
Water charges : manse / church	0.00	354.78
Electric / gas : manse / church	2,539.78	1,971.29
Telephone / broadband	531.38	620.68
Insurance	1,491.83	1,442.93
Repairs and purchases (general)	12,624.40	4,432.44
Manse Expenses	9,634.32	626.40
	<u>26,821.71</u>	<u>9,448.52</u>


5 Other Expenses	2021	2020
	£	£
General Administration / Sundries	270.05	69,156.77
Fees and subscriptions	1,823.22	2,749.90
Cleaning and catering	1,854.06	1,972.41
Photocopying and printing	1,373.06	841.29
CCLI	820.58	821.25
Transferred to restricted gift day fund	1,825.10	-
	<u>7,966.07</u>	<u>75,541.62</u>

6 Non-monetary assets held for the church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by The Charities Custodian Trustee, The Baptist Union Corporation. These assets are stated at insured values. Last valuation by Baptist Union 19th December 2016.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Church and contents: Church held for church's own use	980,000	980,000
Manse: 6 Weathercock Gardens, Held as investment	180,000	180,000
	<u>1,160,000</u>	<u>1,160,000</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities (balance sheet) as set out in pages 1 to 6 inclusive for the year ending 31st December 2021 are as approved by the Deacons.

Signed  (Church Secretary) Date: 14th March 2022

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Independent examiner's report to the trustees
on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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



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Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2SZ

04-Mar-22

Date

HOLMER GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1184109

Accounts

*Holmer
&
Green* 
Baptist Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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The Common
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PASTOR'S REPORT– Anthony Smith

The year began as many other years. The excitement of a New Year and all that it would bring. We had great plans, which included reaching out to the community with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. We were still looking for the right person to come as the Assistant Pastor. How little any of us knew what was to come upon our nation?

God will surprise us. He will come when we least expect it, when we need him most, and we will not have time to prepare for him. He will see the **real state of our lives, and our church.**

Well, none of us had prepared for COVID. I don't think anyone saw that coming. Despite our plans for Easter, we went into Lockdown. Some churches effectively shut down. Some decided to keep the wheels turning as much as they could. How did I feel God was leading us at HGBC?

In scripture the flood came as a surprise. People were doing their own thing. The weather was sunny and normal. However, when Noah got into the ark, the flood came and destroyed those unprepared.

We are reminded to be **prepared** for God's **ultimate surprise**. He will come when we least expect it. We should not wait for something before we change and prepare. We should not wait for things to settle down before we live for Him and serve him.

We need to be prepared anytime for anything. Then allow God out of His Grace and Mercy to surprise us.

And how God has surprised us. You only have to read the Church Secretary's report to see how God has blessed us. Needless to say, I won't repeat everything again but I do want to add my own reflection.

I felt a very strong sense from God that we mustn't sit back and let COVID win, but that we should, despite the unfolding tragedy for so many, look for the opportunities. We would tackle the challenges head on and you all did. Thank you.

As a Leadership Team and a congregation, we took the opportunity and I was staggered, yes I use that word intentionally, at just how people responded.

Pastoral care reached a new, if somewhat different methodology, height of care and support.

Skills within the fellowship came to the fore and we managed to get online really quickly. The AV team didn't leave it there but week by week the technology was improved and we ensured even those who couldn't get online had the opportunity to hear the service.

How God has blessed us. We have seen the congregation grow in a way I suspect none of us anticipated. We saw Life Groups develop and become effective despite the restrictions. After a year like this surely we can see God is in control and it excites me, and I hope you, for what 2021 will bring. For too long I sense we have expected people to come to us whereas God's word is clear that we should "GO"!

Matthew 28:18-20 **The Great Commission** - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, **GO** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Because of COVID-19 and other challenges, this has been a year of hardship and pain, a year of illness and struggle, a year of many changes and revaluations, and a year in which the church has been reminded it has a broad mission not confined to any one place or time. We have faced grief and loss. There have been financial hardships. We've also been reminded that church is much more than a building or a collection of buildings. The church of Jesus Christ is a group of redeemed people on mission with God in the world."

With that in mind, "We have found and will continue to find new ways to tap into the Holy Spirit, to discern where God is calling us, and to creatively pursue this mission".

As we prepared to move into 2021 we needed to question what the church will look like in the future, how our world will rearrange itself, and what our place will be in it.

As I close, what thought will I leave with you? It is simply but profoundly what we read in Scripture. 2 Chronicles 7:14 - If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Friends it has been a strange and troubling year, but God has been faithful and he is as it says in Hebrews 13:8 - "The same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

This year with all its challenges has been one of preparation and for us to “GO”

My utmost thanks for all your love, prayer and support to myself and Adele.

Blessings

Your Pastor and Friend.

Anthony

THE CHURCH YEAR 2020 - Roy Allcorn, Church Secretary

The Year Started Normally

The four numbers 2020 usually mean perfect vision. No-one could have foreseen what effect the year 2020 would have on everyone’s lives and livelihoods yet alone on the life of Holmer Green Baptist Church and its Fellowship. In the future, when the next generations look back at our Annual Reports for a glimpse of our history, it is interesting to wonder what they will make of what was a most unusual year and then maybe marvel at the ways we succeeded in mitigating many of the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Normally, whatever that word now means, the Church’s Annual Report traditionally comprised what we called Departmental Reports which were contributions from those who took responsibility for all our various activities. The whole report therefore formed a record of one year in our history. Given a dramatic reduction in all our activities from March, as reported below, we decided that this summary overview of the year was the best and indeed only practical answer.

This report is written with that in mind and will look at what we were able to achieve in difficult and ever-changing circumstances. It will also reflect on the things we were prevented from doing due to national restrictions. It is fair to say, however, that the opportunity was taken to change many things because there was little choice but to do this. The irony is that towards the end of 2019 the Church was continuing to flourish and grow having sown many seeds in the wider community during our 150th Anniversary year. Sadly, everything we were familiar with came to a sudden halt as you will read in this narrative.

We were most thankful that we had achieved our new incorporated charitable status effective 1st January 2020 (with our own charity number 1184109). This was quite a complex and protracted process but we were pleased and relieved that all our efforts had

come to a fruitful conclusion. The key reason for making this change was to remove the personal liability which might have befallen Deacons within an unincorporated charitable structure.

The other good news, this time in February, was that we managed to pay off our portion of the BU pension scheme debt which for us came to £68700, a large figure but notably much less than the starting figure of £135400 in November 2018. All our prayers here were answered.

From the start of January our Church year started as normal with the complete range of well-established activities and worship services. We had the weekly Sunday morning service plus once a month a Sunday evening service originally called "Praise and Prayer" and then re-named "Encounter". Many from local area churches were attracted to this café-style contemporary worship.

We continued with our ever-popular Toddler Group on Tuesday mornings and our two Youth Groups on Friday evenings. Our more traditional worship service on the first and third Wednesday mornings of the month called Time 4 God was followed each first Wednesday by the popular Pop-in Lunch. Our three Life Groups were well established and either met at the Church or in rotation in people's homes. From the start of the year the Monday morning prayer group continued to meet at the Church, the Women's Fellowship met on alternate Thursday afternoons and Messy Church held on a Sunday restarted, now once a month at a time coinciding with the morning Church service.

Use of the Church's facilities included bookings for the use of the Hall, which included those who took part in the local health focused "Simply Walk" volunteer-led walking activity supported by the local Council.

National Lockdown No.1

Everything carried on until around the middle of March when the first warning signs of an emerging coronavirus pandemic were being talked about. We started monitoring closely both government and Baptist Union guidance. On Monday 23rd March the country entered a national lockdown and given the ensuing restrictions we had no choice but to cancel everything planned including all our worship services from the previous Sunday. Ironically this same March date was when we were due to hold our AGM and so this had to be cancelled. We were fortunate that those Deacons (Trustees) who were due to stand down

at this meeting, as part of our conversion to a CIO, agreed to stay on until we could find a way of holding what would effectively be a double AGM.

Looking back, it was indeed a blessing that we were able to respond so quickly to this challenge by enabling our first virtual service to go out as a recording on Facebook on the Sunday after lockdown. This was followed by, on that same evening, some worship songs broadcast in the same way instead of Encounter. Other initiatives followed with ideas for family worship and for children being prepared and circulated. Two Life Groups started meeting on-line and a key priority was the establishment of ten pastoral support groups because pastoral visits had to be scaled back. The opportunity was taken of distributing recordings of the Sunday morning services on CD to those who could not use the Facebook technology. Anthony introduced a series of emailed and printed coronavirus updates as another way of communicating to the Fellowship.

By July it was clear that activities like those listed above would have to be postponed to 2021 at the earliest. So as the year unfolded all we could do was continue with the live streamed Sunday services and Sunday Club on Facebook and use video communication software for prayers, Life Groups and Leadership Team meetings. One key decision taken by the Leadership Team was to offer the role of Associate Pastor to Alan Biswas-Rooney after he had met with us and preached for us at the morning service on Sunday 20th September when Harvest was also celebrated (offerings from this went to Operation Agri and One Can). Again, more prayers answered.

We had been able to re-open the church ready for 9.45am on Sunday morning 13th September and a special Wednesday afternoon service followed on 14th October for those unable to come, for a number of reasons, on a Sunday morning. We could have opened before this for worship as allowed for within the regulations. but given factors such as Summer holidays, we needed time to be as prepared as possible having put all the required safeguards and signage in place. This timing also allowed the last planned areas of the Church to be re-decorated in July/August. During the Summer we used pre-recorded services and pre-prepared Sunday Club videos.

We had studied BU and Government guidelines continually. In the end we embraced the parts which laid down the requirements for the safe re-opening of places of worship. We introduced mandatory wearing of face masks, socially distanced seating layouts, signage, hand sanitising, one-way entrance/exit systems and always recorded contact details of all

who came to services. This was alongside many other measures identified in a detailed risk assessment including working from home.

Next Lockdown No.2

This was effective from 31st October and just prior to this on Sunday 25th October we were able to have our Gift Day which was aimed at raising funds for a lighting upgrade and for the balance of the costs of the new cabin at the rear of the Church. This latter installation was agreed back in 2019 mainly for use by the Youth Groups and the Sunday Club.

The series of Wednesday afternoon services were quite short-lived however and the last one was on 4th November given the new restrictions.

We had one Church booking prior to this period but this only lasted for two separate evenings due to the official introduction of another set of new restrictions.

Buckinghamshire however moved into tier 4 on the 19th December. Before this we had a successful "Carols in our Car Park" event on Sunday 13th December. Whilst we also had a carefully managed in-person family service on Christmas morning our service on 27th December was live streamed. We supported Spurgeons and Rope with our usual Christmas card scheme and Christmas Day offering. Earlier in the month one scaled-down session of *Christmas Unwrapped* was held at Curzon School. Much of our other school support work during the year was cancelled including *Easter Cracked* and *It's Your Move*.

Church Membership and Meetings

A meeting of Church Members was held on 22nd January and which turned out to be the last one possible under the various Covid-related restrictions disallowing such meetings. The Leadership Team managed to meet regularly using video communication software.

Faced with all the overriding restrictions, which disallowed any means of having in-person meetings, this online meeting software enabled decisions to continue to be made for and on behalf of the Members and the Fellowship in order to keep the Church running. These decisions were communicated periodically with the aim that they would all be put to a Church Members' meeting when possible.

Three members of the Leadership Team, as mentioned earlier, who were due to stand down at the March 2020 AGM agreed to stay on for another year. In June three Church Members were co-opted onto the Leadership Team which gave them a good insight into the workings of the Church.

By the close of 2020 our Church membership numbers were stable at 50 having added one and having had one Member's death. There remained 12 people on our list of Friends. Processing applications for membership became impossible as was promoting membership. So very much steady state at present but an injection of new Members will be a focus for the forthcoming years.

Other Key Points Throughout The Year

Some notable highlights were:

- Having become a CIO, the leadership Team decided, based on advice, that merging the old and new charitable entities was the best course of action for the Church.
- Our support for Mission continued with regular monthly payments. Please see Simon's Finance for further information. Our giving to the Baptist Missionary Society was supplemented by monies raised through the BMS Birthday Scheme. We gave additional support to the Leprosy Mission with a special donation of £643 having had to cancel the usual Leprosy Mission Sunday in April. A plant sale in May for MNDA raised £1136.
- Instead of our annual Church Anniversary service we relayed as part of this, on Sunday 28th June, a video from Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union.
- We managed an open-air worship service in the front car park on 26th July.
- During the year we were able to maintain the church gardens including having the grass mown. All the periodic fire safety checks were carried out and other items of maintenance undertaken at the Church. At the Manse some repairs were carried out on our behalf through the managing agents.
- Our method of collecting Sunday morning weekly offerings, given the need for social distancing, was changed by positioning a box for donations at the exit.

In Conclusion

In a challenging and uncertain year, several things remained constant throughout. Individual and corporate prayer remained a key cornerstone of Church life. Whilst both income and expenditure fell (see the financial report) our efforts in transferring offerings over to Standing Orders bore fruit in terms of sustaining income. Receipt of our Gift Aid refund from 2019 helped balance the books given that our cashflow had taken quite a hit.

The efforts of everyone concerned in keeping the faith with and for us in all areas are to be commended. Also, we applaud those who helped by maintaining Sunday worship services online after the first lockdown and who then pioneered live streaming via You Tube from

September. This and many other aspects throughout the year highlighted a noteworthy team response to all the new challenges.

With God's undoubted support we found sustained energy despite all the difficulties. We rose to all the many challenges and soon realised that this year had provided an opportunity to review what we did and how we did it. It also allowed us to do things differently with, for example, live streaming of Sunday worship services like many other churches were doing. The numbers viewing this way were truly praiseworthy and highlighted God's grace towards us.

So, it was a year like no other and one which those attending our Church in future will scarcely believe. Anyone looking back we see it was a true testimony of our faith in supporting and maintaining His Kingdom locally. A few changes also give us a springboard for future growth.

FINANCE REPORT – Simon Heath, Church Treasurer

2020 was of course very hard for many, and for some, loss of income caused real impact on lives, not to mention the constant uncertainty and concern about the future. The Church responded wonderfully, in the spirit of love and unity, to the call for dedicated support to the Minister's Fund. This is usually a nominal fund for confidential needs as the Minister deems appropriate. The Trustees allocated £5,000 of the budget to support this fund, which was subsequently almost entirely reimbursed by donations.

We designated Gift Day donations to lighting maintenance and the planned cabin for children's/youth activities. Once again, giving amounted to an amazing £10,590 (£10,395 in 2019) which, together with 25% to be reclaimed on gift aided donations, will total £12,580. We repeat our thanks to those who were able to give so generously. It should be noted that this fund is carried forward (as part of the below-mentioned balance), as no associated expenditure was realised before the end of the year.

This year, a single Gift Aid refund was claimed for 2019 totalling £15,124.98. The claim for the complete year of 2020 will now be prepared following completion of the annual accounts.

The Trustees (in lieu of a Church Meeting) agreed to an increase in Anthony's stipend and manse allowance in line with the Baptist Union recommendations of 2.08% and 0.5% respectively. The Manse, which remains rented out whilst not used for Minister's residence, continues to bring in an income of around £15,500 a year.

The Church's finances at the end of 2020, as shown by the Income & Expenditure Account below, are healthy with a balance of over £50,000 at year end. This is despite clearing our pension scheme debt in March.

Following the temporary reduction in Reserves Policy in preparation for paying off the pension debt, and subsequent balance recovery, the reserve was reverted from £10,000 to £26,000. The conclusion therefore is that our available balance, minus reserves and allocated funds, was just over £15,500 at year end.

The Church retained three accounts this year with Lloyds Bank – current, deposit and savings accounts. Having converted to a CIO, these accounts need to be replaced to recognise this change in legal entity; this is pending Lloyds Bank action when they resume such activities following the pandemic.

Thanks go to all those who have helped in any way during the year with the various tasks related to the finances. I am indebted to Bruce and Gwyn Waugh and subsequently Elaine Brown (in their roles as Treasurer' Assistant) for continuing to do all the processing of the Sunday morning offerings, various banking and related duties. We remain very grateful to Jenny Wilkins for administering our accounts and to Sarah Horn (nee Woolston) who has again been the Independent Examiner for our annual accounts.

God has blessed us by answering our prayers, as we continue to seek the best ways of applying our finances to support and extend His Kingdom in our village and beyond. A major part of this is our target to give 10% of donations received towards mission work. We actually donated over 9.6% of our giving received.

Causes we support regularly are CBA Home Mission, BMS and Wycombe Youth for Christ. Whilst occasionally, we give to Leprosy Mission, Rope, Spurgeons, Operation Agri and the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

On the following page is a summary of the Income and Expenditure Account for 2020:

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund		
Receipts	4,948.86	
Direct Charitable Expenditure	4,574.00	
Deficit for the year	374.86	
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund		
Receipts	10,440.00	
Direct Charitable Expenditure	-	
Surplus for the year	10,440.00	
General Fund		
Receipts		
Weekly Offerings	47,134.72	57,444.46
Other donations received	1,030.00	5,895.00
Other raised income for mission	1,308.36	6,161.54
Other income	35,133.41	41,327.68
Total	84,606.49	110,828.68
Direct Charitable Expenditure		
Cost of services	411.30	843.80
Ministry	39,253.00	46,558.77
Church / Manse upkeep	9,448.52	19,543.97
Other causes	8,056.38	15,591.47
Other expenses	75,541.62	9,441.28
Total	132,710.82	91,979.29
Deficit/surplus for the year	-48,104.33	18,849.39
All Funds Total	-37,289.47	18,849.39
Balance brought forward	89,712.37	70,862.98
Deficit/surplus for the year	-37,289.47	18,849.39
Balance carried forward	52,422.90	89,712.37

All the charity's operations are continuing operations and there were no operations discontinued or acquired during the year.

Holmer Green Baptist Church

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees
on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts, as set out on the following 8 pages, under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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 the course of my examination, no matters, except as disclosed below, have 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.



13/03/2021

Sarah Horn
Chartered Accountant
7 Bunbury Avenue
Great Barton
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2SZ

Date

Holmer Green Baptist Church

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2020 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund			
Receipts	3	4,948.86	
Direct Charitable Expenditure		4,574.00	
Surplus for the year		<u>374.86</u>	<u> </u>
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund			
Receipts		10,440.00	
Direct Charitable Expenditure		-	
Surplus for the year		<u>10,440.00</u>	<u> </u>
General Fund			
Receipts			
Weekly Offerings		47,134.72	57,444.46
Other donations received		1,030.00	5,895.00
Other raised income for mission	2	1,308.36	6,161.54
Other income	3	35,133.41	41,327.68
Total		<u>84,606.49</u>	<u>110,828.68</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure			
Cost of services		411.30	843.80
Ministry		39,253.00	46,558.77
Church / Manse upkeep	4	9,448.52	19,543.97
Other causes	2	8,056.38	15,591.47
Other expenses	5	75,541.62	9,441.28
Total		<u>132,710.82</u>	<u>91,979.29</u>
Deficit/surplus for the year		<u>-48,104.33</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
All Funds Total		<u>-37,289.47</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
Balance brought forward		89,712.37	70,862.98
Deficit/surplus for the year		<u>-37,289.47</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>52,422.90</u>	<u>89,712.37</u>

All the charity's operations are continuing operations and there were no operations discontinued or acquired during the year.

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2020
(Balance sheet)

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed (non-monetary) Assets	6		
Church and Manse			
Church Held for church's own use		980,000.00	980,000.00
Manse Held for investment		180,000.00	180,000.00
		<u>1,160,000.00</u>	<u>1,160,000.00</u>
Monetary Assets			
Lloyds TSB current account		640.40	3,924.79
Lloyds deposit account		40,108.07	74,117.95
Lloyds savings account (opened June 2018)		11,674.43	15,669.63
		<u>52,422.90</u>	<u>93,712.37</u>
Monetary Assets			
Members' Loans		-	- 4,000.00
Net assets		<u>1,212,422.90</u>	<u>1,249,712.37</u>
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund		374.86	
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund		10,440.00	
General Fund		41,608.04	89,712.37
Pension deficit:			£ 67,200.00

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards, and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

Basis of Property Valuations

The church and manse are revalued as per Baptist Union recommended figures every 5 - 7 years when they carry out a review. The last review was conducted on 19th December 2016.

Status of Charity

The charity was converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered charity 1184109, effective as of 1 January 2020.

Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by the Financial Reporting Standard Number 1 and have not prepared a cash flow statement on the basis that this is a small charity.

2 Other Causes (Internal & External Mission)	2020 Raised	2020 Given	2019 Raised	2019 Given
	£	£	£	£
Raised For Missions supported	690.26		3639.36	
BMS World Mission		2340.00		2580.00
BU (Home Mission)		804.00		950.00
Leprosy Mission		782.26		1015.38
Spurgeons		660.50		516.62
Operation Agri		10.00		390.00
Lighthouse		0.00		2020.50
Luis Palau		0.00		0
Rope		660.50		1002.86
Wycombe Youth for Christ		300.00		406.00
Wesley		0.00		0
Books given away		114.50		232.34
Christians Against Poverty		0.00		0
Parenting Course		0.00		0
Love Wycombe		0.00		0
Roald Dahl Childrens Charity		0.00		70.00
Toilet Twinning		0.00		180.00
MNDA South Bucks		0.00		227.00
Philo Trust		0.00		600.00
HG Stroke Club		0.00		56.79
HWS Save Our film		0.00		227.00
Evangelical Alliance		0.00		
Messy Church	0.00	76.52	46.95	237.98
Pop In		460.38		1,233.49
Events		1,185.92		2,168.08
Junior Church		402.52		38.00
Playmates / Toddlers	595.30	57.08	2,245.13	896.01
Schools		152.99		368.21
Youth Club	22.80	0.00	230.10	71
Simply Walk (expd)		49.21		104.19
	<u>1,308.36</u>	<u>8,056.38</u>	<u>6,161.54</u>	<u>15,591.47</u>

3 Other Income	2020	2019
	£	£
Donations/misc		
Pop In (Inc)	815.20	2,599.70
Use of Premises General	472.00	1,226.10
Time 4 God (Inc)	101.95	317.99
Church Property (Inc)	0.00	3,180.00
Transfer from deposit account		
Events	1,136.00	6,524.71
Manse	15,520.80	14,967.00
Interest	19.14	36.23
Member Loan	0.00	
HMRC Refund	15,124.98	9,777.72
Simply Walk (Inc)	464.89	2,072.59
Other Rebates	1,438.45	450.64
Ministry Services (funerals)		
Pastor's Welfare Fund	4,948.86	
Refund of fees	40.00	175.00
	<u>40,082.27</u>	<u>41,327.68</u>

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Church & Manse Upkeep	2020	2019
	£	£
Water charges : manse / church	354.78	331.18
Electric / gas : manse / church	1,971.29	3,084.56
Telephone / broadband	620.68	453.24
Insurance	1,442.93	991.85
Repairs and purchases (general)	4,432.44	13,730.58
Manse Expenses	626.40	952.56
	<u>9,448.52</u>	<u>19,543.97</u>

5 Other Expenses	2020	2019
	£	£
General Administration / Sundries	69,156.77	1,487.96
Fees and subscriptions	2,749.90	2,709.00
Cleaning and catering	1,972.41	3,309.76
Photocopying and printing	841.29	1,226.43
CCLI	821.25	708.13
	<u>75,541.62</u>	<u>9,441.28</u>

6 Non-monetary assets held for the church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by The Charities Custodian Trustee, The Baptist Union Corporation.

These assets are stated at insured values. Last valuation by Baptist Union 19th December 2016.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Church and contents: Church held for church's own use.	980,000	980,000
Manse: 6 Weathercock Gardens, held as investment.	180,000	180,000
	<u>1,160,000</u>	<u>1,160,000</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities (balance sheet) as set out in pages 1 to 6 inclusive for the year ending 31st December 2020 are as approved by the Deacons.

Signed: R. T. Allen (Church Secretary) Date: 15/3/21

Holmer Green Baptist Church Budget 2020

		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	Note	2019	2019	2020	2020
		£	£	£	£
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund					
Receipts					4948.86
Direct Charitable Expenditure					4574
Deficit for the year					374.86
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund					
Receipts					10440
Direct Charitable Expenditure					0
Surplus for the year					10440
General Fund					
Receipts					
Weekly Offerings		56,000	57,444	56,000	47,135
Other donations received		5,000	5,895	5,000	1,030
Other raised income for mission	2	5,000	6,162	5,000	1,308
Other income	3	36,000	41,328	40,000	35,133
Total Income		102,000	110,829	106,000	84,606
Direct Charitable Expenditure					
Cost of services		1,000	844	1,000	411
Ministry		54,000	46,559	54,100	39,253
Church / Manse upkeep	4	15,000	19,544	12,000	9,449
Other causes	2	10,000	15,591	10,600	8,056
Other expenses	5	13,000	9,441	12,000	2,707
Pension Deficit inc. fees				73,200	68,835
Member loan				4,000	4,000
Total Expenditure		93,000	91,979	166,900	132,711
Deficit/Surplus for year		9,000	18,849	-60,900	-48,104
Brought forward		70,863	70,863	93,712	93,712
Total Reserves		79,863	89,712	32,812	45,608
Pension Deficit		-100,600	-67,200	0	0
Total Balance		-20,737	22,512	32,812	45,608

Notes: (2020 Budget)

Other income - Single GA claim in 2019 (received July) - two expected in 2020.

Ministry - includes increased stipend + Asstoc Pastor on Half stipend + 10% pension with half manse allowance

Other expenses - this includes the cost Book-keeping fees/expenses

Contact Information 2020

Pastor :

- Anthony Smith (anthony@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk)

Secretary :

- Roy Allcorn (secretary@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk)

Treasurer :

- Simon Heath (treasurer@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk)

Deacons :

- Val Allcorn
- Chris Hall
- Margaret Hodgson

Elders

Mark Coventry

Co opted (June 2020)

- Claire Spinks-Gillen
- Derek Brown
- Bob Davy

Holmer Green Baptist Church

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees
on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts, as set out on the following 8 pages, under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 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 the course of my examination, no matters, except as disclosed below, have 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.



13/03/2021

Sarah Horn
Chartered Accountant
7 Bunbury Avenue
Great Barton
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2SZ

Date

Holmer Green Baptist Church

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2020 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund			
Receipts	3	4,948.86	
Direct Charitable Expenditure		4,574.00	
Surplus for the year		<u>374.86</u>	<u> </u>
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund			
Receipts		10,440.00	
Direct Charitable Expenditure		-	
Surplus for the year		<u>10,440.00</u>	<u> </u>
General Fund			
Receipts			
Weekly Offerings		47,134.72	57,444.46
Other donations received		1,030.00	5,895.00
Other raised income for mission	2	1,308.36	6,161.54
Other income	3	35,133.41	41,327.68
Total		<u>84,606.49</u>	<u>110,828.68</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure			
Cost of services		411.30	843.80
Ministry		39,253.00	46,558.77
Church / Manse upkeep	4	9,448.52	19,543.97
Other causes	2	8,056.38	15,591.47
Other expenses	5	75,541.62	9,441.28
Total		<u>132,710.82</u>	<u>91,979.29</u>
Deficit/surplus for the year		<u>-48,104.33</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
All Funds Total		<u>-37,289.47</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
Balance brought forward		89,712.37	70,862.98
Deficit/surplus for the year		<u>-37,289.47</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>52,422.90</u>	<u>89,712.37</u>

All the charity's operations are continuing operations and there were no operations discontinued or acquired during the year.

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2020
(Balance sheet)

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed (non-monetary) Assets	6		
Church and Manse			
Church Held for church's own use		980,000.00	980,000.00
Manse Held for investment		180,000.00	180,000.00
		<u>1,160,000.00</u>	<u>1,160,000.00</u>
Monetary Assets			
Lloyds TSB current account		640.40	3,924.79
Lloyds deposit account		40,108.07	74,117.95
Lloyds savings account (opened June 2018)		11,674.43	15,669.63
		<u>52,422.90</u>	<u>93,712.37</u>
Monetary Assets			
Members' Loans		-	- 4,000.00
Net assets		<u>1,212,422.90</u>	<u>1,249,712.37</u>
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund		374.86	
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund		10,440.00	
General Fund		41,608.04	89,712.37
Pension deficit:			£ 67,200.00

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards, and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

Basis of Property Valuations

The church and manse are revalued as per Baptist Union recommended figures every 5 - 7 years when they carry out a review. The last review was conducted on 19th December 2016.

Status of Charity

The charity was converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered charity 1184109, effective as of 1 January 2020.

Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by the Financial Reporting Standard Number 1 and have not prepared a cash flow statement on the basis that this is a small charity.

2 Other Causes (Internal & External Mission)	2020 Raised £	2020 Given £	2019 Raised £	2019 Given £
Raised For Missions supported	690.26		3639.36	
BMS World Mission		2340.00		2580.00
BU (Home Mission)		804.00		950.00
Leprosy Mission		782.26		1015.38
Spurgeons		660.50		516.62
Operation Agri		10.00		390.00
Lighthouse		0.00		2020.50
Luis Palau		0.00		0
Rope		660.50		1002.86
Wycombe Youth for Christ		300.00		406.00
Wesley		0.00		0
Books given away		114.50		232.34
Christians Against Poverty		0.00		0
Parenting Course		0.00		0
Love Wycombe		0.00		0
Roald Dahl Childrens Charity		0.00		70.00
Toilet Twinning		0.00		180.00
MNDA South Bucks		0.00		227.00
Philo Trust		0.00		600.00
HG Stroke Club		0.00		56.79
HWS Save Our film		0.00		227.00
Evangelical Alliance		0.00		
Messy Church	0.00	76.52	46.95	237.98
Pop In		460.38		1,233.49
Events		1,185.92		2,168.08
Junior Church		402.52		38.00
Playmates / Toddlers	595.30	57.08	2,245.13	896.01
Schools		152.99		368.21
Youth Club	22.80	0.00	230.10	71
Simply Walk (expd)		49.21		104.19
	<u>1,308.36</u>	<u>8,056.38</u>	<u>6,161.54</u>	<u>15,591.47</u>

3 Other Income	2020 £	2019 £
Donations/misc		
Pop In (Inc)	815.20	2,599.70
Use of Premises General	472.00	1,226.10
Time 4 God (Inc)	101.95	317.99
Church Property (Inc)	0.00	3,180.00
Transfer from deposit account		
Events	1,136.00	6,524.71
Manse	15,520.80	14,967.00
Interest	19.14	36.23
Member Loan	0.00	
HMRC Refund	15,124.98	9,777.72
Simply Walk (Inc)	464.89	2,072.59
Other Rebates	1,438.45	450.64
Ministry Services (funerals)		
Pastor's Welfare Fund	4,948.86	
Refund of fees	40.00	175.00
	<u>40,082.27</u>	<u>41,327.68</u>

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Church & Manse Upkeep	2020	2019
	£	£
Water charges : manse / church	354.78	331.18
Electric / gas : manse / church	1,971.29	3,084.56
Telephone / broadband	620.68	453.24
Insurance	1,442.93	991.85
Repairs and purchases (general)	4,432.44	13,730.58
Manse Expenses	626.40	952.56
	<u>9,448.52</u>	<u>19,543.97</u>

5 Other Expenses	2020	2019
	£	£
General Administration / Sundries	69,156.77	1,487.96
Fees and subscriptions	2,749.90	2,709.00
Cleaning and catering	1,972.41	3,309.76
Photocopying and printing	841.29	1,226.43
CCLI	821.25	708.13
	<u>75,541.62</u>	<u>9,441.28</u>

6 Non-monetary assets held for the church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by The Charities Custodian Trustee, The Baptist Union Corporation.

These assets are stated at insured values. Last valuation by Baptist Union 19th December 2016.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Church and contents: Church held for church's own use.	980,000	980,000
Manse: 6 Weathercock Gardens, held as investment.	180,000	180,000
	<u>1,160,000</u>	<u>1,160,000</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities (balance sheet) as set out in pages 1 to 6 inclusive for the year ending 31st December 2020 are as approved by the Deacons.

Signed: R. T. Allen (Church Secretary) Date: 15/3/21

Holmer Green Baptist Church Budget 2020

		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	Note	2019	2019	2020	2020
		£	£	£	£
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund					
Receipts					4948.86
Direct Charitable Expenditure					4574
Deficit for the year					374.86
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund					
Receipts					10440
Direct Charitable Expenditure					0
Surplus for the year					10440
General Fund					
Receipts					
Weekly Offerings		56,000	57,444	56,000	47,135
Other donations received		5,000	5,895	5,000	1,030
Other raised income for mission	2	5,000	6,162	5,000	1,308
Other income	3	36,000	41,328	40,000	35,133
Total Income		102,000	110,829	106,000	84,606
Direct Charitable Expenditure					
Cost of services		1,000	844	1,000	411
Ministry		54,000	46,559	54,100	39,253
Church / Manse upkeep	4	15,000	19,544	12,000	9,449
Other causes	2	10,000	15,591	10,600	8,056
Other expenses	5	13,000	9,441	12,000	2,707
Pension Deficit inc. fees				73,200	68,835
Member loan				4,000	4,000
Total Expenditure		93,000	91,979	166,900	132,711
Deficit/Surplus for year		9,000	18,849	-60,900	-48,104
Brought forward		70,863	70,863	93,712	93,712
Total Reserves		79,863	89,712	32,812	45,608
Pension Deficit		-100,600	-67,200	0	0
Total Balance		-20,737	22,512	32,812	45,608

Notes: (2020 Budget)

Other income - Single GA claim in 2019 (received July) - two expected in 2020.

Ministry - includes increased stipend + Asstoc Pastor on Half stipend + 10% pension with half manse allowance

Other expenses - this includes the cost Book-keeping fees/expenses

Contact Information 2020

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- Anthony Smith (anthony@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk)

Secretary :

- Roy Allcorn (secretary@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk)

Treasurer :

- Simon Heath (treasurer@holmergreenbaptist.org.uk)

Deacons :

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Mark Coventry

Co opted (June 2020)

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- Derek Brown
- Bob Davy

Holmer Green Baptist Church

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees
on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts, as set out on the following 8 pages, under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act, and
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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

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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.



13/03/2021

Sarah Horn
Chartered Accountant
7 Bunbury Avenue
Great Barton
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP31 2SZ

Date

Holmer Green Baptist Church

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2020 (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund			
Receipts	3	4,948.86	
Direct Charitable Expenditure		4,574.00	
Surplus for the year		<u>374.86</u>	
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund			
Receipts		10,440.00	
Direct Charitable Expenditure		-	
Surplus for the year		<u>10,440.00</u>	
General Fund			
Receipts			
Weekly Offerings		47,134.72	57,444.46
Other donations received		1,030.00	5,895.00
Other raised income for mission	2	1,308.36	6,161.54
Other income	3	35,133.41	41,327.68
Total		<u>84,606.49</u>	<u>110,828.68</u>
Direct Charitable Expenditure			
Cost of services		411.30	843.80
Ministry		39,253.00	46,558.77
Church / Manse upkeep	4	9,448.52	19,543.97
Other causes	2	8,056.38	15,591.47
Other expenses	5	75,541.62	9,441.28
Total		<u>132,710.82</u>	<u>91,979.29</u>
Deficit/surplus for the year		<u>-48,104.33</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
All Funds Total		<u>-37,289.47</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
Balance brought forward		89,712.37	70,862.98
Deficit/surplus for the year		<u>-37,289.47</u>	<u>18,849.39</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>52,422.90</u>	<u>89,712.37</u>

All the charity's operations are continuing operations and there were no operations discontinued or acquired during the year.

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31 December 2020
(Balance sheet)

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed (non-monetary) Assets	6		
Church and Manse			
Church Held for church's own use		980,000.00	980,000.00
Manse Held for investment		180,000.00	180,000.00
		<u>1,160,000.00</u>	<u>1,160,000.00</u>
Monetary Assets			
Lloyds TSB current account		640.40	3,924.79
Lloyds deposit account		40,108.07	74,117.95
Lloyds savings account (opened June 2018)		11,674.43	15,669.63
		<u>52,422.90</u>	<u>93,712.37</u>
Monetary Assets			
Members' Loans		-	- 4,000.00
Net assets		<u>1,212,422.90</u>	<u>1,249,712.37</u>
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund		374.86	
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund		10,440.00	
General Fund		41,608.04	89,712.37
Pension deficit:			£ 67,200.00

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and applicable accounting standards, and in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) and the Charities Act 1993.

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Cash Flow Statement

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption conferred by the Financial Reporting Standard Number 1 and have not prepared a cash flow statement on the basis that this is a small charity.

2 Other Causes (Internal & External Mission)	2020 Raised	2020 Given	2019 Raised	2019 Given
	£	£	£	£
Raised For Missions supported	690.26		3639.36	
BMS World Mission		2340.00		2580.00
BU (Home Mission)		804.00		950.00
Leprosy Mission		782.26		1015.38
Spurgeons		660.50		516.62
Operation Agri		10.00		390.00
Lighthouse		0.00		2020.50
Luis Palau		0.00		0
Rope		660.50		1002.86
Wycombe Youth for Christ		300.00		406.00
Wesley		0.00		0
Books given away		114.50		232.34
Christians Against Poverty		0.00		0
Parenting Course		0.00		0
Love Wycombe		0.00		0
Roald Dahl Childrens Charity		0.00		70.00
Toilet Twinning		0.00		180.00
MNDA South Bucks		0.00		227.00
Philo Trust		0.00		600.00
HG Stroke Club		0.00		56.79
HWS Save Our film		0.00		227.00
Evangelical Alliance		0.00		
Messy Church	0.00	76.52	46.95	237.98
Pop In		460.38		1,233.49
Events		1,185.92		2,168.08
Junior Church		402.52		38.00
Playmates / Toddlers	595.30	57.08	2,245.13	896.01
Schools		152.99		368.21
Youth Club	22.80	0.00	230.10	71
Simply Walk (expd)		49.21		104.19
	<u>1,308.36</u>	<u>8,056.38</u>	<u>6,161.54</u>	<u>15,591.47</u>

3 Other Income	2020	2019
	£	£
Donations/misc		
Pop In (Inc)	815.20	2,599.70
Use of Premises General	472.00	1,226.10
Time 4 God (Inc)	101.95	317.99
Church Property (Inc)	0.00	3,180.00
Transfer from deposit account		
Events	1,136.00	6,524.71
Manse	15,520.80	14,967.00
Interest	19.14	36.23
Member Loan	0.00	
HMRC Refund	15,124.98	9,777.72
Simply Walk (Inc)	464.89	2,072.59
Other Rebates	1,438.45	450.64
Ministry Services (funerals)		
Pastor's Welfare Fund	4,948.86	
Refund of fees	40.00	175.00
	<u>40,082.27</u>	<u>41,327.68</u>

Holmer Green Baptist Church
Notes to the Financial Statements

4 Church & Manse Upkeep	2020	2019
	£	£
Water charges : manse / church	354.78	331.18
Electric / gas : manse / church	1,971.29	3,084.56
Telephone / broadband	620.68	453.24
Insurance	1,442.93	991.85
Repairs and purchases (general)	4,432.44	13,730.58
Manse Expenses	626.40	952.56
	<u>9,448.52</u>	<u>19,543.97</u>

5 Other Expenses	2020	2019
	£	£
General Administration / Sundries	69,156.77	1,487.96
Fees and subscriptions	2,749.90	2,709.00
Cleaning and catering	1,972.41	3,309.76
Photocopying and printing	841.29	1,226.43
CCLI	821.25	708.13
	<u>75,541.62</u>	<u>9,441.28</u>

6 Non-monetary assets held for the church's own use

The church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title of which is held by The Charities Custodian Trustee, The Baptist Union Corporation.

These assets are stated at insured values. Last valuation by Baptist Union 19th December 2016.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Church and contents: Church held for church's own use.	980,000	980,000
Manse: 6 Weathercock Gardens, held as investment.	180,000	180,000
	<u>1,160,000</u>	<u>1,160,000</u>

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities (balance sheet) as set out in pages 1 to 6 inclusive for the year ending 31st December 2020 are as approved by the Deacons.

Signed: R. T. Allen (Church Secretary) Date: 15/3/21

Holmer Green Baptist Church Budget 2020

		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	Note	2019	2019	2020	2020
		£	£	£	£
Restricted (Pastor's) Fund					
Receipts					4948.86
Direct Charitable Expenditure					4574
Deficit for the year					374.86
Restricted (Gift Day) Fund					
Receipts					10440
Direct Charitable Expenditure					0
Surplus for the year					10440
General Fund					
Receipts					
Weekly Offerings		56,000	57,444	56,000	47,135
Other donations received		5,000	5,895	5,000	1,030
Other raised income for mission	2	5,000	6,162	5,000	1,308
Other income	3	36,000	41,328	40,000	35,133
Total Income		102,000	110,829	106,000	84,606
Direct Charitable Expenditure					
Cost of services		1,000	844	1,000	411
Ministry		54,000	46,559	54,100	39,253
Church / Manse upkeep	4	15,000	19,544	12,000	9,449
Other causes	2	10,000	15,591	10,600	8,056
Other expenses	5	13,000	9,441	12,000	2,707
Pension Deficit inc. fees				73,200	68,835
Member loan				4,000	4,000
Total Expenditure		93,000	91,979	166,900	132,711
Deficit/Surplus for year		9,000	18,849	-60,900	-48,104
Brought forward		70,863	70,863	93,712	93,712
Total Reserves		79,863	89,712	32,812	45,608
Pension Deficit		-100,600	-67,200	0	0
Total Balance		-20,737	22,512	32,812	45,608

Notes: (2020 Budget)

Other income - Single GA claim in 2019 (received July) - two expected in 2020.

Ministry - includes increased stipend + Asstoc Pastor on Half stipend + 10% pension with half manse allowance

Other expenses - this includes the cost Book-keeping fees/expenses

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