

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH CIO
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CHARITY COMMISSION
19th December 2019 to 31st March 2021

Introduction

Belmont Road Baptist Church has existed as a charity for over 60 years as an Unincorporated Association of Members (UAM) that was not required to provide an Annual Report to the Charity Commission as it is a small Church charity with income less than £500,000 and therefore had an exemption from having to report to the Charity Commission. In response to UK government legislation requiring small Church charities to register with the Charity Commission, the unincorporated church established a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for itself in December 2019. The unincorporated association of members Church transferred all its assets, debts and liabilities across to the CIO on the 1st July 2020 and Belmont Road Baptist Church CIO became fully functional as of 1st July 2020. The CIO held a number of short Trustee and Church meetings between December 2019 and 1st July 2020 but all substantial decisions and all financial matters were handled by the unincorporated association of members Church until 1st July 2020.

This is the first Annual report by the CIO to the Charity Commission and the audited accounts only cover the period 1st July 2020 (when the assets of the UAM were transferred to the CIO) to 31st March 2021, which is the end of the Church's financial year. Future reports will cover a full 12 month period from 1st April to 31st March.

Aim and Purposes

The Church exists to show "Passion for Jesus and Compassion for others". It does this by being open to all members of the local community joining the activities on the Church premises in Belmont Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9NU. Our vision is to be a people and place in which and through which the Kingdom of God will grow. Our aim is, in partnership, to equip ourselves effectively to enrich the quality of our Christian life together and to build a stronger presence in our community.

Objectives and Activities

During lockdown the Church developed a hybrid form of worship that enables people with an internet connection to join the live worship, and take part in that worship, via Zoom whilst others are on the premises with the numbers on the premises gradually increasing as Covid lockdown restrictions were eased. The Church also makes its hall, kitchen and side rooms available for local groups to hire when the premises are not in use by the Church. The Church created a Prayer Garden and Labyrinth on its grounds during the first Covid lockdown to provide an amenity for all local people to enjoy, especially when public indoor gatherings were very limited. This facility has evolved over the seasons with flower pots on the front fence in summer and autumn and Christmas illuminations over the festive period with the "lights switch on" coordinated with the residents of Belmont Road via their WhatsApp group, which was set up during the first lockdown and of which the Church is an active member. We are working on drafting some more specific objectives for the future.

Achievements and Performance

Our CIO has a membership of 32 people as of 31st March 2021 with 53 adults, 17 secondary school age young people and 22 children in regular contact with the Church through its weekly activities.

Toddlers: We closed Toddler Church due to Covid-19 in March 2020 and chose not to reopen in the autumn of 2020 as keeping toys clean and toddlers' social distanced didn't seem practical, but it was lovely to see some of our 'old' toddlers attending the on-line messy Christingle and visiting the prayer garden. We plan to re-open Toddler Church in April 2021, initially with limited numbers in order to be able to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Children and Young People: Our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association (BB&GA) was able to start meeting face to face in September 2020, after the first national Covid lockdown, but with lots of changes to manage the risk associated with the virus. Anchors (for those aged 4 to 8) moved to Tuesdays, Juniors (for those aged 8 to 11) stayed on Fridays and Seniors merged with the younger 14 plus to meet on Sunday evenings (secondary school age). The various restrictions made everything very challenging but most of the youngsters much preferred face to face activities, even with the restrictions, whilst some stayed away due to family circumstances and/or parental caution. We had to go back on Zoom during the second lockdown in November 2020, which was very disruptive. A couple of our long serving volunteers retired from BB&GA during lockdown and their many years of service is much appreciated. We are able to continue thanks to the ongoing service of our many faithful volunteers.

On March 15th 2020 we had more children in Sunday Club than we had had for a long time which was very encouraging, and then came lock down. Lockdown continued until June 2021. During lockdown we took round or sent Bible Reading notes for the older children and Bible story books and activities to the younger children. At Christmas 2020, as we couldn't meet together at the church premises, the Sunday Club led a Christmas Service including their Christmas play on zoom. We were very grateful to Hazel for her technical expertise to make this possible. The Sunday Club also led a service in March on zoom showing how St. Paul kept going in difficult times. We are continuing to use Scripture Union material. In the Old Testament we have looked at the lives of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and Jacob. In the New Testament we have thought about being accepted through the call of Matthew, the Canaanite woman and the rich young ruler.

Senior Citizens: Due to Covid restrictions our Lunch Club for Senior Citizens was unable to open between March 2020 and March 2021. During this period we have managed to keep in touch by phone with all members on a weekly basis. We are sorry to have lost two valued members, both much loved and sorely missed. We give thanks for the pleasure of having them with us. We are grateful for two new members. Our total membership now is fifteen of which six are staff volunteers with another volunteer helping out when we are low on staff.

House Groups: This has been a year of big changes for the two house groups due to the pandemic. One decided to meet online using zoom but changed the day from Thursday to a Wednesday as this enabled

some members to attend both house groups. This Wednesday group has had a regular attendance of between eight and nine members and has decided to continue to meet on a Wednesday as this gives a choice of day for people wanting to join a house group. The other group continues to meet on Thursdays on zoom with an attendance of between seven and ten members each week.

Prayer and Worship: In August 2020 our Minister Garry Jenkins retired after 17 years of service. We thank Garry for all he has shared with us over the last 17 years. In September 2020 we were able to use our sister church in Hemel Hempstead, Carey Baptist, to hold a farewell service within larger premises to give Garry a good send off.

Whilst we are without a Minister we have appointed the Reverend Tim Keightley to become our Moderator, to work with us throughout the process of appointing a new Minister. He is chairing our meetings, preaching once a month, discussing hopes and dreams, praying with us and getting to know us all a little better whilst putting together a Church profile. This involved devising and sending out questionnaires to all the members and regular attenders. This collated people's thoughts on our strengths and weaknesses, the opportunities we have for mission and the challenges we face. What emerged was a diverse consensus. Next we set about putting this into a profile for a prospective Minister to read. We needed to combine taking an honest look at ourselves with a faithful and hopeful look at our potential. Everyone seemed pleased with the result and thanks were expressed to those who commented on the text, sent in photos and approved the layout. At the same time, we continued to do everything we could to be active and faithful in our worship, discipleship and church life and to not let the pandemic stop us. Many members and attendees of the Church have contributed to our on-zoom services. This year we have also developed a new website. We kept our mid-week life going as well as we could. We zoomed! We risk assessed. We risk assessed some more and then we zoomed! We worshipped and prayed together and our view of what we would like a Minister to partner with us to achieve took shape.

We are very grateful to all those from the Hertfordshire Fellowship of Baptist Preachers, Ken from Aylesbury and Maria from Goldhill Baptist Church who joined us, mostly via Zoom, to preach on the Sundays when Tim was not preaching.

Premises: We started the first lockdown without an internet connection on the church premises and initially started Zoom services using a mobile phone perched on a windowsill creating a Wi-Fi Hotspot for a laptop connected to a projector at the front of church. Thanks to a legacy gift, we have been able to install an internet connection for the church premises. To integrate this with the existing sound and display system we have purchased a new church computer and gradually learned how to improve the Zoom only and then the hybrid Zoom services. The new church computer and internet connection has also improved what is possible on the premises for our other activities.

The Church does not own its own property for a Minister to live in so we have rented a house for Garry and his family to live in for the last 17 years from Carey Baptist Church. The two Churches mutually agreed to bring this manse rental agreement to a conclusion as of the end of March 2021 and many members and friends, led by our fabric Trustee, put a lot of effort into restoring the house to a suitable condition before returning the property to Carey. The accounts show a much higher than normal outlay on manse maintenance due to the need to purchase a replacement boiler etc.

There has been a reduction in hall lettings due to Covid restrictions and a number of groups that used to let the premises have decided to close. We are delighted that the Pilates group on Wednesdays and the Patchwork group on some Tuesdays and Saturdays have both restarted and are using the hall again.

Ecumenical relationships: The Church is a member of Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead and of the Evangelical Alliance.

Financial Review

Total receipts were £40,660 with expenditure of £47,268 as detailed in the audited accounts. Donations were made as follows: £1,225 to the Baptist Missionary Society (Harvest Appeal); £1,312.50 to the local Hospice of Saint Francis; £375 to Burnley Street Pastors.

The balances carried forward are as follows.

Unrestricted funds – £10,149.13

Designated funds for Ministry - £17,641.15. These funds can be used to pay the costs associated with a new Minister.

Restricted property fund - £134,351.93. This fund can be used to purchase a house that can be used as manse accommodation for a new minister.

Restricted legacy fund - £807.94.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all our volunteers who work so hard to make our Church the lively and vibrant community it is.

Structure Governance and Management

The method of appointment for Trustees is set out in our Constitution. Each of the Trustees has been appointed by a vote of the membership at our Annual General Meeting. All those who attend our services are encouraged to become members of the Church. The Trustees are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Church whilst referring various matters to the periodic Church meetings including any non-emergency large items of unbudgeted expenditure.

The Trustees are currently meeting on Zoom and met seven times during the nine month period of this Report, with an average level of attendance above 80%. Three Church members' meetings were held during the nine month period of this Report.

Administrative Information

The Church is situated in Belmont Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9NU, which is the correspondence address. The following members have served as elected Trustees through the reporting period: Gillian Kaye, Michele Gill, Andrew Barton, John Porteous, Eric Moore, Eirwen Marshall, Hazel Barton and Jennifer Balding (from March 2021), Mrs Sandra Shipton (until May 2020), Reverend Garry Jenkins (as minister until September 2020).

T. D. Keightley .

Approved by the Trustees on 10th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by Reverend Tim Keightley (Chairman).

Independent examiners' statement

I have examined the accounts and relevant documents presented to me by the Trustees of Belmont Road Baptist Church (CIO), Hemel Hempstead, together with clarifying explanations and, in my view, the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the said Church for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 144 of the 2011 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011
- (b) or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Margaret Lye 14.5.21

M Lye
Treasurer, Carey Baptist Church

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS RECEIPTS

July 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
<u>Brought Forward</u>				
General Fund	10774.37			
Other Causes				
Evangelism		1556.37		
Property		750.00		
Church Refurb			3066.55	
June Gift Day			570.00	
TOTALS	10774.37	2306.37	3636.55	16717.29 ✓
<u>Receipts</u>				
Offerings	23810.00 ✓			
Gift Donations	5400.00 ✓			
Tax Claim	1651.00 ✓			
Hall Lettings	1066.00 ✓			
Gen. Donations	2651.27			
Bank Chgs Refund	4.50 ✓			
Utilities Refund	257.56 ✓			
Legacy Den Pierce		800.00 ✓		
Other Causes		2330.00 ✓		
Evangelism				
Property		1000.00 ✓		
Church Refurb				
June Gift Day			1395.00	
Misc Receipts	295.00 ✓			
TOTALS	35135.33	4130.00 ✓	1395.00 ✓	40660.33
Income for year	35135.33	4130.00	1395.00	40660.33
Expenses for year	41145.05	3238.04	2885.00	47268.09
Surplus/Deficit	-6009.72	891.96	-1490.00	-6607.76
B/Forward	10774.37	2306.37	3636.55	16717.29
TOTALS	4764.65	3198.33	2146.55	10109.53
ADJUSTMENT	1965.00		-1965.00	
Carried Forward	6729.65	3198.33	181.55	10109.53 ✓

BALANCE SHEET AT END OF PERIOD

ASSETS

2020	2021
Funds	
£19,727.13 Lloyds Bank / Metro	£10,109.53 ✓
£161,671.56 BU Deposit Account	£28,598.22
BU 1Year Fixed	<u>£134,351.93</u>
£181,398.69 TOTAL	£173,059.68
Property	
Church Premises	<u>£400,000.00</u>
	Insurance value £794,641.00
TOTAL	<u>£573,059.68</u>

LIABILITIES

Pension deficit @ 20/3/2021 £34,800.00

TOTAL

£34,800.00

Margaret Hye
14.5.21

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS EXPENSES

July 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
<u>Payments</u>				
Ministry	✓ 7883.43			
Other Ministry	100.00			
Manse Rent	✓ 13500.00			
Manse Expenses	✓ 3097.87			
Manse Maintenance	✓ 7924.04			
Missions	✓ 2250.00			
Repairs & Maintenance	✓ 622.56			
Gas	459.00			
Electricity	564.90			
Water	✓ 39.25			
House Keeping	✓ 1892.09			
Insurance	0.00			
Flowers	0.00			
Stationery/Printing	✓ 91.06			
Bank Charges	✓ 25.30			
Subs, Fees, Donations.	✓ 1898.08			
Legacy Den Pierce		✓ 139.05		
Other Causes		✓ 2330.00		
Evangelism		✓ 18.99		
Property to BU		✓ 750.00		
Church Refurb			2885.00	
Gift Day				
Misc.	✓ 797.47			
TOTALS	41145.05	3238.04	2885.00	47268.09

Carried Forward

General Fund	6729.65			
Legacy Den Pierce		660.95 ✓		
Property		1000.00 ✓		
Evangelism		1537.38 ✓		
Church Refurb			181.55	
TOTALS	6729.65	3198.33	181.55	10109.53

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BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS SUPPLEMENTARY

July 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021

<u>OTHER CAUSES.</u>	RECEIVED	PAYMENTS	GIFT AID
B/Forward			
Harvest (BU)	980.00	1225.00	245.00
Christmas Day	1350.00		
Hospice St Francis (Christmas Day)		1312.50	262.50
Burnley Street Pastors (Christmas Day)		375.00	75.00
TOTALS	2330.00	2912.50	582.50

MINISTRY ACCOUNT.

Tax & NI	876.13
Salary	4268.15
Pension	2739.15
Book All.	
TOTALS	7883.43

HOUSE KEEPING

Cleaning	1387.09
Refuse Coll.	445.00
House Hold	60
Catering.	0.00
TOTAL	1,892.09

MANSE EXPENSES

C/Tax	1,841.00
W/Rates	395.71
B/Maintenance	323.81
Telephone	217.00
Repairs/Maint.	7,924.04
Gas/Electric	320.35
TOTAL	11,021.91

MISSION

BMS	1125.00
CBA	1125.00
TOTAL	2250.00

B.U.DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

	Res Gen Fund	Ministry	Property	Legacy	Total
B/Forward	10,138.88	17,623.33	133,467.06	807.12	162,036.39
Interest June	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest December	10.25	17.82	134.87	0.82	163.76
Deposited			750.00		750.00
TOTAL	10,149.13	17,641.15	134,351.93	807.94	162,950.15
Withdrawn			134,351.93		
	10,149.13	17,641.15	0.00	807.94	28,598.22

B.U. 1 YEAR FIXED ACCOUNT

	Property
Deposited	134,351.93
TOTAL	134,351.93

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14.5.21*