

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH CIO
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CHARITY COMMISSION
1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

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

Following the end of Covid lockdowns the Church has returned to most of its usual activities with the addition of internet on the premises and the ability for those at home to continue to join the Sunday worship services by Zoom, although most members of the congregation now attend in person. Following the appointment of Reverend Tim Keightley as our Minister from 1st November 2021 we have agreed the following 9 objectives.

- 1: To embrace the challenge, provocation and inspiration of bible-based preaching that engages us with the contemporary age and equips us to be effective witnesses to and for Christ.
- 2: To see people in our neighbourhood come into a greater awareness of and relationship with the Lord Jesus.
- 3: To feel closer to our young people and their families and draw more of them into greater participation in our life together.
- 4: To be equipped to try new ways of sharing our faith.
- 5: To find ways of inviting community organisations using our premises to come further in to a life with the Lord.
- 6: To become better at loving each other in such a way that we become more comfortable with and understanding of our differing points of view and priorities.
- 7: To become a church that prays more for the world, for ourselves and for the Lord’s guiding.
- 8: To use the land at the front of the building to communicate better who we are and what we offer. To develop a clearer vision and strategy for our community outreach.
- 9: To become, and to be seen to be, an eco-friendly church as a Christian witness to how we honour God’s creation.

Achievements and Performance

Our Church CIO has a membership of 35 people as of 31st March 2023 with 54 adults, 20 secondary school age young people and 49 children and toddlers in regular contact with the Church through its weekly activities.

Toddlers: Toddler Church re-opened in April 2021, with numbers limited to 25 families to adhere to social distancing guidelines. This year we have seen the average number of children attending Toddlers rise from the mid 20's to the mid 30's. The atmosphere continues to be positive and especially warm and welcoming to new families, something that is remarked upon by those joining. Running alongside Toddler Church, in response to the cost-of-living crisis, we started a 'Toy Library'. As children develop, they require different toys and sometimes they 'grow' out of them very quickly (for example a child may use a walker for a month or so) or they may play with them for a short time and then lose interest. A toy library provides a source of toys which can be borrowed and returned. Having put an appeal out over the Christmas period we received a wonderful collection of toys and books to swell our cupboards. We opened in January. We have had a small number attending but they are very regular. The families that attend value an atmosphere that is calmer than a Monday morning, where conversation and support can be offered. They also enjoy the fact that the church coffee morning runs at the same time, feeling part of the church community.

Children and Young People: Our Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association (BB&GA) meets on Friday evenings with the following age groups. Anchors (for those aged 4 to 8), Juniors (for those aged 8 to 11) and Seniors/14 plus (secondary school age). At the end of the 2023 spring term, we had 14 Anchors, 13 Juniors and 15 Seniors/14 plus on the books.

Our Sunday Club meets on Sunday mornings starting with the first part of the Church service before going out into the hall side rooms into our older and younger groups. We have a typical attendance of 9 children and young people. We continue to use the Scripture Union material as a basis for our lessons. This year, in the Old Testament we have looked at King Solomon, Nehemiah and Jeremiah. In the New Testament we looked at key events in the life of Jesus and the heavenly Jesus in Revelation, Stephen, the conversion of Paul and the early missionary journeys.

Senior Citizens: Our Lunch Club for Senior Citizens has a regular attendance of 8 people on Wednesdays and is now preceded by a coffee morning where we offer a "warm space" for the local community as well as an opportunity for conversation and friendship.

House Groups: The two established house groups continue to meet with one group meeting in person on Wednesdays and the other now meeting on Mondays in person (that was meeting on Thursdays on zoom). Each group has around 8 members. A new day time house group has started in person at the church on Friday mornings, meeting every other week.

Progress on our objectives is as follows.

1. Hayley Young, the Baptists Together president challenged us to 'Build a bigger Table' to be more inclusive and all embracing. Sundays have included series on Christian values and the Sermon on the Mount and how Jesus's teachings relate to our contemporary society. We celebrated a baptism.

2. A busy year of community engagement and outreach has included: Steve Legg Comedy Magic evening, Community Quiz and a Family Film Night. We hosted a neighbourhood-led fundraiser for the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. We have seen our coffee morning become established and well attended alongside the Toy Library. We continue to see an increase in demand for use of our premises.
3. We hold all age worship services throughout the year. The regularity of this and our varied programme has certainly helped strengthen relationships with a wider set of people than we usually see on a Sunday. This is enabled and enhanced by the fabulous work we do with children, young people and parents' week-in, week-out and at the annual youth camp we run with Carey Baptist Church which was attended in Norfolk by over 90 people. We hosted a Youth Across Hemel event and featured some of their work in an Open Service.
4. Hayley Young's visit came in the context of our discussions about becoming a more inclusive church and using the Sanctuary material recommended by Baptists Together. We continue to benefit from the testimonies people share with us in our open worship times.
5. The Church makes its hall, kitchen, and side rooms available for local groups to hire when the premises are not in use by the Church. 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.
6. Our awayday and a church night have given us opportunities to listen to others and to learn more about people we thought we knew. We launched our 'Food for Thought' bible study on alternate Fridays.
7. We have held a series of prayer evenings. Some have encouraged people to try a variety of ways of praying. Others have enabled people to share openly their insights and needs. We have been very blessed by the intercessory prayers led for us each Sunday.
8. Flowerpots on the front fence in spring, summer and autumn have brightened up the premises along with Christmas illuminations over the festive period.
9. We recycle what we can and are looking to engage with the eco church initiative jointly with Carey.

Premises: We have had the hall roof re-coated, with financial support from the Central Baptist Association, repaired a brick wall and dealt with routine maintenance issues.

Ecumenical relationships: The Church is a member of Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead and of the Evangelical Alliance and the youth group joins events run by Youth Across Hemel in which one of our Church members is also a Trustee.

Financial Review

Total receipts were £62,163.01 with expenditure of £62,280.92 as detailed in the audited accounts. Donations were made as follows: £1100.63 to the Baptist Missionary Society (Chad Appeal); £403.75 to the local Hospice of Saint Francis; £403.75 to the Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter (DENS).

The balances carried forward are as follows.

Unrestricted funds – £28,647.07.

Designated funds - Nil

Restricted property fund - £147,413.25. This fund can be used towards purchasing a house that can be used as manse accommodation for a new minister.

Restricted legacy fund - £833.26.

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 met on Zoom eight times and in person once during the twelve month period of this Report, with an average level of attendance above 80%. Five Church members' meetings were held in person during the twelve 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, Jennifer Balding, Janet Robinson (from February 2022) and Reverend Timothy Keightley (as Minister from 1st November 2021).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T.D. Keightley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K'.

Approved by the Trustees in February 2024, as a true record of the period April 2022 to March 2023, and signed on their behalf by Reverend Tim Keightley (Chairman).

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS RECEIPTS

April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
<u>Brought Forward</u>				
General Fund	16684.05			
Other Causes				
Evangelism		1397.38		
Property		7000.00		
Church Refurb				
Legacy Den Pierce		384.74		
TOTALS	16684.05	8782.12	0.00	25466.17
<u>Receipts</u>				
Offerings	29333.85			
Amazon Smile	43.97			
Gift Aid Tax Receipt	9777.37			
Hall Lettings	5166.00			
CBA Grant	15679.46			
Gen. Donations	1622.50			
Utilities Refund	0.00			
BMS		1100.63		
Legacy Den Pierce		0.00		
Other Causes		650.00		
Evangelism		688.00		
Property		3500.00		
Church Refurb				
June Gift Day			2185.31	
Misc Receipts	539.86			
TOTALS	62163.01	5938.63	2185.31	70286.95
Income for year	62163.01	5938.63	2185.31	70286.95
Expenses for year	62280.92	10811.19	0.00	73092.11
Surplus/Deficit	-117.91	-4872.56	2185.31	-2805.16
B/Forward	16684.05	8782.12	0.00	25466.17
TOTALS	16566.14	3909.56	2185.31	22661.01
ADJUSTMENT	2185.31		-2185.31	
Carried Forward	18751.45	3909.56	0.00	22661.01

June Gift day to general fund

BALANCE SHEET AT END OF PERIOD

ASSETS

31-Mar-22

31-Mar-23

Funds

£25,466.17 Metro Bank
£28,681.66 BU Deposit Account
£0.00 BU 1Year Fixed
£136,736.66 BU 3 Month Notice
£190,884.49 TOTAL

£22,661.01
£29,480.33
£0.00
£147,413.25
£199,554.59

Property

Church Premises

£400,000.00

Insurance value £794,641.00

TOTAL

£599,554.59

LIABILITIES

Pension deficit @ 21/3/2022

£0.00

TOTAL

£0.00

BALANCE

£599,554.59

Complete &
Accurate Record
M. Lys 28.8.23

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS EXPENSES

April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
<u>Payments</u>				
Ministry	40233.63			
Other Ministry	845.30			
Manse Rent	0.00			
Manse Expenses	0.00			
Manse Maintenance	0.00			
Missions	3000.00			
Repairs & Maintenance	8833.77			
Gas	875.76			
Electricity	2252.04			
Water	224.77			
House Keeping	2662.42			
Insurance	1208.80			
Flowers	123.65			
Stationery/Printing	0.00			
Bank Charges	0.00			
Subs,Fees,Donations.	968.56			
Youth Fund	176.96			
Legacy Den Pierce		317.79		
BMS		1100.63		
Other Causes		650.00		
Evangelism		1742.77		
Property to BU		7000.00		
Church Refurb			0.00	
Gift Day			0.00	
Misc.	875.26			
TOTALS	62280.92	10811.19	0.00	73092.11

Carried Forward

General Fund	18751.45			
Legacy Den Pierce		66.95		
Property		3500.00		
Evangelism		342.61		
Church Refurb			0.00	
TOTALS	18751.45	3909.56	0.00	22661.01

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS SUPPLEMENTARY

April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023

<u>OTHER CAUSES.</u>	RECEIVED	PAYMENTS	GIFT AID
B/Forward			
Harvest (BMS)	906.10	1100.63	194.53
Christmas Day	650.00		157.50
Hospice St Francis		403.75	
DENS		403.75	
TOTALS	1556.10	1908.13	352.03

MINISTRY ACCOUNT.

Tax & NI	5349.32
Salary	23407.46
Pension	6987.50
Expenses	4489.35
TOTALS	40233.63

HOUSE KEEPING

Cleaning	2193.50
Refuse Coll.	468.92
House Hold	0
Catering.	0.00
TOTAL	2,662.42

MANSE EXPENSES

C/Tax	0.00
W/Rates	0.00
B/Maintenance	0.00
Telephone	0.00
Repairs/Maint.	0.00
Gas/Electric	0.00
TOTAL	0.00

MISSION

BMS	1500.00
CBA	1500.00
TOTAL	3000.00

B.U. DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

7 DAY NOTICE A/C	Gen Fund (U)	Ministry (D)	Property (R)	Legacy (R)	Total
B/Forward	25,058.96	2,812.41	0.00	810.29	28,681.66
Interest	775.70	0.00	0.00	22.97	798.67
Deposited	2,812.41		0.00		750.00
TOTAL	28,647.07	2,812.41	0.00	833.26	30,230.33
Withdrawn		-2,812.41			
TOTAL	28,647.07	0.00	0.00	833.26	29,480.33

1 YEAR FIXED A/C

B/Forward	Property (R)
Interest	0.00
TOTAL TRANSFERRED TO 7 DAY NOTICE A/C	0.00
BALANCE	NIL

3 MONTH NOTICE A/C

B/Forward	Property (R)
Interest	136736.66
Deposited	3676.59
TOTAL	7000.00
	147413.25

Independent examiner's 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 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

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*

28.8.23

M Lye

Carey Baptist Church – Hemel Hempstead

Independent examiner's statement

I have examined the Lunch Club pass-through account 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 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

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Carey Baptist Church – Hemel Hempstead

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Signed: *Margaret Lye*

28.8.23

M Lye

Carey Baptist Church – Hemel Hempstead

Independent examiner's statement

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Signed: *Margaret Lye* 25/8/23

M Lye
Carey Baptist Church – Hemel Hempstead

Independent examiner's statement

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25/8/23

M Lye

Carey Baptist Church – Hemel Hempstead