

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH CIO
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CHARITY COMMISSION
1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

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 the year we simplified our previous 9 objectives into the following 6 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 use our physical, people and online resources to include [invite] neighbours, friends and [community] organisations in[to] the community of the church and in doing so to model and communicate the love God has for them.
- 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 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.
- 6: To become a church that prays more for the world, for ourselves and for the Lord's guiding

Achievements and Performance

Our Church CIO has a membership of 37 people as of 31st March 2024 with 54 adults, 20 secondary school age young people and 70 children and toddlers in regular contact with the Church through its weekly activities.

Toddlers: Toddler Church numbers have been steadily increasing through the year leading to a limit of 40 toddlers and a booking system being introduced during the year to manage the numbers. The atmosphere continued to be positive and especially warm and welcoming to new families, something that is remarked upon by those joining, but the 40 limit meant that those that tried to book later than others were disappointed so, after the October half term, capacity was increased by the Church agreeing to run two separate Toddler church sessions on Monday morning. Overall toddler numbers are now typically around

50. Running alongside Toddler Church, in response to the cost-of-living crisis, we are continuing to run a 'Toy Library'. 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. Over the summer we offered an activity morning for the older siblings of those attending the toy library. They invited their friends, and we had 6 then 9 children attend.

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 2024 spring term, we had 14 Anchors, 12 Juniors and 15 Seniors/14 plus on the books. Many of the youngsters and staff were able to attend the summer youth camp on the Isle of Wight run jointly with Carey Baptist Church with around 105 campers in all.

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, including Elijah, Jeremiah, Jonah, Daniel, the apostle Peter, some healings of Jesus, Christmas, Easter and parts of the book of Acts. Part way through the year we started to address some different topics for the older group including Youth Alpha, Creation, Exodus, Exile, Incarnation & Resurrection.

Senior Citizens: Our Lunch Club for Senior Citizens has a regular attendance of 8 people on Wednesdays and is 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, one on Monday evenings and the other on Tuesday evenings. Each group has around 8 members. Our daytime "house group" meets some Friday mornings at church with up to 15 people in attendance.

Progress on our objectives is as follows.

1. Sundays have included series on: Putting on the new self; Refugees, immigrants and welcoming the stranger; Responding to crisis and war; The Nicene Creed; Coronation Sunday – community cohesion and being called to serve. All age services on: Wisdom of putting your faith in God, Using your Gifts of the Spirit, God's power to change, Trusting in God's bigger picture, Welcoming Christ into your life. Understanding we belong to God as his children. Open services in which people give testimony about the activity of God in their lives. We celebrated a baptism.

2. A busy year of community engagement and outreach has included: Coronation fun day – publicity design and distribution, planning and hosting. Over 100 people attended for some or all of the day including 30 for the end of day service. Community Quiz and Curry Night – publicity design and distribution: 53 attended. Following discussions with local County Councillor we were awarded £1000 to fund the drawings and costings for the disabled toilet project. Coffee morning launched as part of Warm Wednesday along with a Toy Library (an added service for those attending Toddler Church). Lunch club continued. Flyer for Harry Baker in October designed and distributed at Quiz Night and later 500 flyers. 50 attended the concert. One of our Trustees has become a Governor of our local Primary School. 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 and has regular bookings for Pilates and Patchwork.

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. The most recent of these included an infant dedication for one of the toddlers from Toddler Church. 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 on the Isle of Wight by over 100 people. We sign post parents with Toddlers to open 'Messy Church' times held during school holidays.

4. We continue with our regular home groups and 'Food for thought bible study' held fortnightly on our premises. In these venues we encourage people to identify and to share where God is active in their lives. Faith in Conversation is an informal way of sharing and discussing our preferences for fun, our outlook on life and our understandings and experience of faith over an informal meal in people's homes. We have trialled this during a Church Night. We have just started an Alpha course with a group of 8 people.

5. We have agreed to commit to listen as well as to speak during Church meetings and to make these safer settings so that more of us will feel able to share views and to discern God's leading. Through a series of Church Nights, we have considered material from the Sanctuary project on how people from LGBT communities experience church. This included trying to appreciate alternative ways of viewing Scripture related to the topic. This led to discussion upon and eventual adoption of an inclusivity statement for our church handbook. The command of Christ that we, as God's children, love one another is a consistent theme of Sunday morning worship.

6. We have regular prayer evenings, a prayer chain, open prayer and prayers for the world in Sunday services, and times of participatory prayer during all age worship.

Premises: We have dealt with routine maintenance issues and are considering how best to improve our disabled toilet.

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 – April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024.

Total receipts were £76,191.63 with expenditure of £66,342.89 as detailed in the audited accounts. Donations were made as follows: £868.07 to the Baptist Missionary Society (Genesis Acaye – Ugandan farmers); £426.90 to the local Hospice of Saint Francis; £347.50 to the Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter (DENS), £1,296 to the Baptist Missionary Society (general fund) and £1,296 to the Central Baptist Association (home mission fund).

The balances carried forward are as follows.

Unrestricted funds – £51,713.18

Designated funds - £2,683.72 for improved disability access.

Restricted property fund - £159,644.73. This fund can be used towards purchasing a house that can be used as manse accommodation for a new minister.

Restricted legacy fund - £861.70 for improved disability access.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all our many volunteers, approximately 40 in total, 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 five times and in person four times during the twelve month period of this Report, with an average level of attendance above 80%. Six 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, Eirwen Marshall, Hazel Barton, Jennifer Balding, Janet Robinson, Martin Taylor (from February 2024) and Reverend Timothy Keightley (as Minister from 1st November 2021).

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

T. D. Keightley 9th September 2024

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 2023 to 31 March 2024.

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 6.7.24

Margaret Lye
Carey Baptist Church – Hemel Hempstead

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS RECEIPTS

April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
Brought Forward				
General Fund	18751.45			
Other Causes				
Evangelism		342.61		
Property		3500.00		
Church Refurb				
Legacy Den Pierce		66.95		
TOTALS	18751.45	3909.56	0.00	22661.01
Receipts				
Offerings	33179.43			
Gift Aid Tax Receipt	6610.53			
Hall Lettings	6502.50			
CBA Grant	13505.97			
Gen. Donations	1735.53			
Utilities Refund	0.00			
BMS		868.07		
Legacy Den Pierce		0.00		
Other Causes		619.52		
Evangelism		624.10		
Property		2000.00		
Church Refurb			1000.00	
June Gift Day			1683.72	
Misc Receipts	126.00			
TOTALS	61659.96	4111.69	2683.72	68455.37
Income for year	61659.96	4111.69	2683.72	68455.37
Expenses for year	58279.33	8063.56	0.00	66342.89
Surplus/Deficit	3380.63	-3951.87	2683.72	2112.48
B/Forward	18751.45	3909.56	0.00	22661.01
TOTALS	22132.08	-42.31	2683.72	24773.49
ADJUSTMENT	-42.31	42.31		Deficit from General Funds
Carried Forward	22089.77	0.00	2683.72	24773.49
INCOME				68455.37
INTEREST RECEIVED BU ACCOUNTS				7736.26
TOTAL INCOME				76191.63

BALANCE SHEET AT END OF PERIOD

ASSETS

31-Mar-23	31-Mar-24	
Funds		
£22,661.01 Metro Bank	£24,773.49	
£29,480.33 BU Deposit Account	£30,485.11	
£0.00 BU 1Year Fixed	£0.00	
£147,413.25 BU 3 Month Notice	£159,644.73	
£199,554.59 TOTAL	£214,903.33	
Property		
Church Premises	£400,000.00	Insurance value £794,641.00
TOTAL		£614,903.33
LIABILITIES		
Pension deficit @ 21/3/2024	£0.00	
TOTAL		£0.00
BALANCE		£614,903.33

Margaret Hye
6.7.24

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS EXPENSES

April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
<u>Payments</u>				
Ministry	42238.79 ✓			
Other Ministry	572.83 ✓			
Manse Rent	0.00			
Manse Expenses	0.00			
Manse Maintenance	0.00			
Missions	2592.00 ✓			
Repairs & Maintenance	1683.63 ✓			
Gas	2243.93			
Electricity	2551.22 } ✓			
Water	230.57 }			
House Keeping	3105.39 ✓			
Insurance	1323.47 ✓			
Flowers	0.00			
Stationery/Printing	0.00			
Bank Charges	0.00			
Subs, Fees, Donations.	1555.98 ✓			
Youth Fund	0.00			
Legacy Den Pierce		66.95 ✓		
BMS		868.07 ✓		
Other Causes		619.52 ✓		
Evangelism		1009.02 ✓		
Property to BU		5500.00 ✓		
Church Refurb			0.00	
Gift Day			0.00	
Misc.	181.52 ✓			
TOTALS	58279.33 ✓	8063.56	0.00	66342.89

Carried Forward

General Fund	22089.77			
Property				
Evangelism				
Gift Day Fund 2023			1683.72 ✓	
Church Refurb			1000.00 ✓	
TOTALS	22089.77	0.00	2683.72	24773.49

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)	696.45	868.07 ✓	171.62
Christmas Day	619.52 ✓		154.88
Hospice St Francis		426.90 ✓	
DENS		347.50 ✓	
TOTALS	<u>1315.97</u>	<u>1642.47</u>	<u>326.50</u>

MINISTRY ACCOUNT.

Tax & NI	6251.54 ✓
Salary	25258.65 ✓
Pension	6182.13 ✓
Expenses	4546.47 ✓
TOTALS	<u>42238.79</u> ✓

HOUSE KEEPING

Cleaning	2546.27 ✓
Refuse Coll.	531.12 ✓
House Hold	28 ✓
Catering.	0.00
TOTAL	<u>3,105.39</u> ✓

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	<u>0.00</u>

MISSION

BMS	1296.00
CBA	1296.00
TOTAL	<u>2592.00</u> ✓

B.U. DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

1 MONTH NOTICE A/C	Gen Fund (U)	Ministry (D)	Property (R)	Legacy (R)	Total
B/Forward	28,647.07	0.00	0.00	833.26	29,480.33
Interest	976.34			28.44	1,004.78
Deposited					0.00
TOTAL	<u>29,623.41</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>861.70</u>	<u>30,485.11</u>
Withdrawn					
TOTAL	<u>29,623.41</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>861.70</u>	<u>30,485.11</u>

1 YEAR FIXED A/C

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

3 MONTH NOTICE A/C

B/Forward	Property (R)
Interest	147413.25
Deposited	6731.48
TOTAL	<u>5500.00</u>
	159644.73

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TOTAL	29,623.41	0.00	0.00	861.70	30,485.11

1 YEAR FIXED A/C

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TOTAL TRANSFERRED TO 7 DAY NOTICE A/C	0.00
BALANCE	NIL

3 MONTH NOTICE A/C

B/Forward	Property (R)
Interest	147413.25
Deposited	6731.48
TOTAL	5500.00
	159644.73