

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH CIO
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CHARITY COMMISSION
1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

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

Our 6 objectives are as follows.

- 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 41 people as of 31st March 2025 with 60 adults, 20 secondary school age young people and 70 children and toddlers in regular contact with the Church through its weekly activities. Our Minister, Tim Keightley, retired at the end of 2024, so we are now in a period of Pastoral Vacancy in which we are seeking to call a new Minister.

Toddlers: Toddler Church numbers have stabilised at around 50, since we expanded it to two weekly sessions last year. Running alongside Toddler Church, in response to the cost-of-living crisis, we are continuing to run a fortnightly Toy Library and have added a clothes swap once per half term. Families bring clothes/shoes/equipment that their children have outgrown and take away the next size up. This has been very well received, by those who are struggling financially and those who see the environmental

benefit. Around 8 families attend Toy Library and value its calmer atmosphere (compared with the busyness of Toddler Church) where more in depth 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 school holidays we offer a couple of activity mornings for the older siblings of those attending the toy library. They can also invite their friends, and we had 12 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 2025 spring term, we had 15 Anchors, 13 Juniors and 18 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 112 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 8 children and young people. We continue to use the Scripture Union material as a basis for our lessons, including for the children Elisha, Jonah, Daniel and life of the apostle Peter. Some healings of Jesus, Christmas, Easter and parts of the book of Acts. The older group of young people studied Creation, the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount and the calling of the disciples. The groups combined and were joined by additional children from BB&GA for our Christmas nativity service and Sunday Club anniversary service in July. We also held several messy church style interactive services in the hall with 60 people attending the Good Friday service.

Senior Citizens: Our Lunch Club for Senior Citizens has a regular attendance of 11 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 fortnightly on Friday mornings at church with up to 15 people in attendance. We have started two new house groups: one for our Alpha group and one for our young people.

Progress on our 6 objectives is as follows.

1. In regular Sunday worship we have, with reference to Scripture, engaged with the following contemporary topics: terror incidents such as the stabbings in Southport and Sydney; Israel/Palestine; war, remembrance and future hope; the Nicene Creed and Baptist Principles including the supremacy of Christ as revealed in the Scriptures and the importance of the freedom of religion; the general election and Christians in Parliament; understanding the nature and place of young people in our society; Mothering Sunday – a celebration that was mindful of those for whom this is a day of pain and sadness. In our all age services we have explored: the 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. In our bi-monthly open services people gave testimony about the activity of God in their lives. We celebrated two baptisms.

2. This year John Archer performed his faith inspired magic at the Comedy Night in October. We held our annual Quiz Night in April and our Church Birthday party in June. Each event was attended by local people other than those in our immediate networks and such events provided 'ways in' to a deeper sense of belonging to our community. One of our Trustees is 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, Patchwork and children's birthday parties. It is our

mission to be a welcoming and hospitable resource of people and place in and for the community. As part of this mission, we took the decision to extend and make fit for purpose our toilet facilities for disabled people (we call this Project Able). Our much-loved late member, Martin Legg, donated £20,000 towards this project and we have set out to raise the rest of the money through donations and grants.

3. We hold all age worship services throughout the year. The regularity of this and our varied programme helps 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 on the Isle of Wight by over 100 people. We sign post parents with Toddlers to open 'Messy Church' times held during school holidays. Two members of Toddler Church had their girls dedicated in an all-age service. At Christmas the theme of the all age service was how we use our time and putting God first through the story of Babushka. The theme of the Anniversary service in July was our amazing forgiving God expressed through the life of Peter.

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. We have just run an Alpha course with a group of 8 people and are exploring this group becoming a new house group. We have also set up a house group specifically for our young people in the 16 to 21 age range.

5. We continue to work hard at listening properly to each other and respecting views different to our own, especially in church and deacons' meetings. After an exploration of Christian understandings of and approaches to sexuality the church overwhelmingly adopted the following Inclusivity statement: *We welcome everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, physical and mental ability, neurodiversity, education, class, economic status and political outlook to participation in our life together.*

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. We continue to try to bring variety to our prayer evenings so that people can try different ways of praying to and with God. We are blessed by the depth of thought people put into leading our prayers for others on a Sunday and by the willingness of many to pray openly during worship too.

Premises: We have dealt with routine maintenance issues and are planning to improve our disabled toilet through Project Able.

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 2024 to March 31st 2025.

Total receipts were £108,480.78 with expenditure of £77,252.69 as detailed in the audited accounts. Donations were made as follows: £856.50 to the Baptist Missionary Society (Pastors in Bangladesh); £656.60 to the local Hospice of Saint Francis; £2,196 to the Baptist Missionary Society (general fund) and £2,196 to the Central Baptist Association (home mission fund).

The balances carried forward are as follows.

Unrestricted funds – £60,905.12

Designated funds - £39,108.72 for improved disability access (Project Able).

Restricted property fund - £166,367.58. This fund can be used towards purchasing a house that can be used as manse accommodation for a new minister.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all our many volunteers, approximately 41 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 2 times and in person 8 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 (until 2nd March 2025), Hazel Barton, Jennifer Balding, Janet Robinson, Martin Taylor and Reverend Timothy Keightley (as Minister until 30th December 2024).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Barton', with a stylized, cursive script.

Approved by the Trustees on 14th July 2025, as a true record of the period April 2024 to March 2025 and signed on their behalf by Andrew Barton (Church Secretary).

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 2024 to 31 March 2025.

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 24/6/25

Margaret Lye
Carey Baptist Church – Hemel Hempstead

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS RECEIPTS

April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
<u>Brought Forward</u>				
General Fund	22089.77			
Other Causes				
Evangelism				
Property				
Church Refurb			2683.72	
TOTALS	22089.77	0.00	2683.72	24773.49
<u>Receipts</u>				
Offerings	35409.83			
Gift Aid Tax Receipt	6037.98			
Hall Lettings	7232.50			
CBA Grant	10728.00			
Gen. Donations	1833.25			
Utilities Refund				
BMS		856.50		
Other Causes		527.00		
Evangelism		1106.92		
Property		250.00		
Church Refurb			36348.00	
June Gift Day				
Subs/Fees Refund	33.16			
Misc Receipts	138.63			
TOTALS	61413.35	2740.42	36348.00	100501.77
Income for year	61413.35	2740.42	36348.00	100501.77
Expenses for year	52634.95	3339.74	21278.00	77252.69
Surplus/Deficit	8778.40	-599.32	15070.00	23249.08
B/Forward	22089.77	0.00	2683.72	24773.49
TOTALS	30868.17	-599.32	17753.72	48022.57
ADJUSTMENT	-599.32	599.32		Deficit from General Funds
Carried Forward	30268.85	0.00	17753.72	48022.57
<u>INCOME</u>				
INTEREST RECEIVED BU ACCOUNTS				100501.77
TOTAL INCOME				7979.01
				108480.78

BALANCE SHEET AT END OF PERIOD

ASSETS

31-Mar-24

31-Mar-25

Funds

£24,773.49	Metro Bank	£48,022.57
£30,485.11	BU Deposit Account	£51,991.27
£0.00	BU 1Year Fixed	£0.00
£159,644.73	BU 3 Month Notice	£166,367.58
£214,903.33	TOTAL	£266,381.42

Property

Church Premises **£400,000.00** Insurance value £794,641.00

TOTAL

£666,381.42

LIABILITIES

Pension deficit @ 21/3/2025 **£0.00**

TOTAL

£0.00

BALANCE

£666,381.42

Margaret Hye
9/6/25

BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS EXPENSES

April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	Total
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Ministry	33814.38			
Other Ministry	804.80			
Manse Rent	0.00			
Manse Expenses	0.00			
Manse Maintenance	0.00			
Missions	4392.00			
Repairs & Maintenance	1590.43			
Gas	2165.04			
Electricity	2390.74			
Water	270.31			
House Keeping	3910.29			
Insurance	1365.74			
Flowers	0.00			
Stationery/Printing	0.00			
Bank Charges	0.00			
Subs,Fees,Donations.	1669.95			
BMS		856.50		
Other Causes		527.00		
Evangelism		1706.24		
Property to BU		250.00		
Church Refurb			21278.00	
Gift Day			0.00	
Misc.	261.27			
TOTALS	52634.95	3339.74	21278.00	77252.69

Carried Forward

General Fund	30268.85			
Property		0.00		
Evangelism		0.00		
Church Refurb			17753.72	
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BELMONT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ACCOUNTS SUPPLEMENTARY

April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025

<u>OTHER CAUSES.</u>	RECEIVED	GIFT AID	PAYMENTS
<u>B/Forward</u>			
Harvest (BMS)	710.00	146.50	856.50
Christmas Day	527.00	129.60	
Hospice St Francis			656.60
DENS			
TOTALS	1237.00	276.10	1513.10

MINISTRY ACCOUNT.

Tax & NI	5423.71
Salary	20105.20
Pension	4895.62
Expenses	3389.85
TOTALS	33814.38

HOUSE KEEPING

Cleaning	3315.44
Refuse Coll.	562.88
House Hold	0
Catering.	31.97
TOTAL	3,910.29

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	2196.00
CBA	2196.00
TOTAL	4392.00

B.U. DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

1 MONTH NOTICE A/C	Gen Fund (U)	Church Ref (D)	Property (R)	Legacy (R)	Total
<u>B/Forward</u>	29,623.41	0.00	0.00	861.70	30,485.11
Interest	1,012.86	467.00	0.00	26.30	1,506.16
Deposited		20,000.00	0.00		20,000.00
TOTAL	30,636.27	20,467.00	0.00	888.00	51,991.27
Legacy trfrd to Church Ref		888.00		-888.00	
TOTAL	30,636.27	21,355.00	0.00	0.00	51,991.27

1 YEAR FIXED A/C

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

3 MONTH NOTICE A/C

<u>B/Forward</u>	159644.73
Interest	6472.85
Deposited	250.00
TOTAL	166367.58

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TOTAL	30,636.27	20,467.00	0.00	888.00	51,991.27
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TOTAL	30,636.27	21,355.00	0.00	0.00	51,991.27

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	159644.73
Deposited	6472.85
TOTAL	250.00
	166367.58