

## **West Craven Baptist Church**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1.7.2023 - 31.12 2023**

**Charity Name: West Craven Baptist Church**

**Charity Registration Number 1190946**

#### **Background**

West Craven Baptist Church was formed by the amalgamation of three Baptist Churches, Barnoldswick, Mount Zion Earby and Salterforth. Although registered with the charity commission from August 2020, legal delays in the amalgamation process meant that the West Craven Baptist Church CIO did not come into being until 1st July 2023.

This return therefore pertains to the six month period July - December 2023

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The principal purpose of the church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination (Const 3.1.1)

In fulfilling the purpose, the Church will engage in a range of activities either on its own or with others that will vary from time to time with activities being initiated, expanded or closed as appropriate.

The activities may include but are not restricted to:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- baptism, as defined in the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle;
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month;
- evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- education and training for Christian and community service;
- giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians. (Const 5)

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

#### **Achievements and performance**

##### **Extracts from minister and trustees report to AGM 21.4.2024**

(Please note that this report related to the calendar year 2023)

2023 was a significant year in the life of West Craven Baptist Church. We adjusted to Stephen's retirement and after years of legal processes and waiting, the amalgamation was completed. There is a growing sense that we are 'one church', which is reinforced by the new signage which was installed in April and there has been lots of

encourage us.

#### **Increased community engagement:**

Both the Warm Welcome space (on Mondays at Barlick) and the Community Café (on Wednesdays at Mount Zion) provide opportunities for community engagement and are supported by Lancashire County Council's Warm Space Fund. We are seeing an increase in numbers attending these, which is due in part to the Social Prescribing Team signposting people to us. Our two playgroups are also seeing increased attendance and are providing valuable support to parents and their children.

The success of the playgroup and Community Café at Mount Zion has contributed to the revitalisation of the building, along with one-off events such as Earby's Spring Event (in partnership with Earby Events Group), the Christmas Tree Festival and the recent Pendle Youth and Children's Choir concert. This increase in use and our partnership with Earby Guerilla Gardeners enabled Earby Guerilla Gardeners to apply to Lancashire Environmental Fund for a grant to upgrade the kitchen at Earby (by purchasing a new cooker and extractor hood) and repair the leaky roof.

Following the Community Garden Party at Barnoldswick in March 2023, a small team has developed the vision for the North Street Garden area. The first stage was replacing the uneven paving with a level block paved surface to improve safety. More recently, we have been invited to apply to the Lancashire Environmental Fund for another grant to enable the development of the area into an accessible green space for visitors to our building and the local community. We will have to wait until July 2024 to find out if our bid is successful.

#### **Baptisms and new members**

We were very pleased to welcome two new church members in November.

#### **Worship**

We are encouraged by new people and visitors attending on a Sunday morning, when we continue to offer a varied worship programme each month, with first Sundays providing a choice to either join the Sunday Stroll or attend a conversational style service. Over the summer months, Sunday Stroll reached new contacts and benefitted from three meetings in Salterforth. In addition, our monthly 4Cs communion service, led by the pastoral team, provides an opportunity to worship midweek.

Our Christmas services were a great success with a total of over 60 visitors being welcomed to our Carol and Crib Services.

#### **Pastoral care and safeguarding**

The Pastoral Care group and Safeguarding team have continued to be an important part of the way we support and care for one another, and we are grateful for their willingness to serve in this way. Prayer requests are circulated effectively by the WhatsApp group and through the regular news sheet.

Over the summer months we held a series of conversations about the issues around Human Sexuality. These issues can be difficult to talk about, however we navigated the conversations well, and we are working towards a Statement of Inclusion to describe our current position.

#### **Financial Review:**

Extracts from treasurer and trustees report to AGM 21.4.2024

Audited accounts are available for the three constituent churches and the West Craven Baptist Fellowship for the first six months of the year.



Audited accounts for West Craven Baptist Church CIO were submitted for the six month period July - December 2023

Looking at the WCBC figures and accepting that it took a while to consolidate all the accounts, we would like to draw your attention to the significance of room hire and manse rental income.

The 2024 budget has been based on similar levels of income and expenditure.

In recent months the deacons have been looking at how we authorise expenditure. In an ideal world all expenditure should be agreed at a church meeting. Clearly this is impractical for the day to day running of the church and so the Deacons are suggesting the following:-

1. Deacons and other office holders should be able to authorise expenditure of up to £100.
2. Expenditure of £100 - £300 to be agreed by the treasurer.
3. Expenditure of £300 - £500 to be agreed by the deacons as a whole.
4. Expenditure of over £500 to be agreed by the Church Meeting.

Overall the church 's finances are stable.

We have small reserves and are reliant on the giving of our members in addition to the income generated by room hire and manse rental.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

West Craven Baptist Church is a CIO and its Governing Document is in line with Baptists Together and was prepared by Anthony Collins Solicitors in June 2021

Trustees are selected in line with the constitution:

The Church Members' Meeting shall appoint Charity Trustees, including a Church Secretary (or equivalent) and a Church Treasurer (or equivalent) to be responsible for the governance of the Church and where there is a Minister that person is also a Charity Trustee because of their role and responsibilities. (Const 14 1.1)

The appointment of Charity Trustees shall be undertaken by processes that are public, clear and open so that all Church Members are enabled to consider prayerfully who should be appointed as Charity Trustees. The processes shall ensure that notice is given of any forthcoming election so that Church Members may freely nominate prospective Charity Trustees whose names shall be submitted (after they have indicated a willingness to be appointed) for decision to the Church Members with the intention of ensuring that those appointed have a sufficient level of support from them.(Const 14.6.6)

Nominations for the role of Charity Trustee other than a Minister shall be made to the Church Secretary (or equivalent) not later than three Sundays (or other regular weekly meeting time when the Church gathers together) before the Church Members' Meeting at which the election is to be held. Nominations must be submitted in writing with the supporting signature of two other Church Members and the consent of the candidate. No person may nominate more candidates than there are places vacant. Requests for nominations shall be made at all services on the two Sundays (or other regular weekly meeting time when the Church gathers together) immediately before that Sunday when nominations must cease. (Const 14.7)

Voting shall be by secret ballot at an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting. Church Members shall be asked to vote for those nominated candidates who they believe would serve the Church well as Charity Trustees. Each Member may vote for as many nominees as they believe meet this criteria.

Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Church Members' Meeting to count the votes and shall report the outcome in confidence and in writing to the person chairing the meeting.

The number of candidates, being not more than the number of vacancies receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected provided each candidate shall have received votes from at least 60% of those members voting. (Const 14.8)

### West Craven Baptist Church

11190946

Registered address: Manchester Road, Barnoldswick BB18 5NZ

#### Trustees

Julie Bryan	Minister
Margaret Nutter	Secretary
Michael Nutter	Treasurer
Helen Edmondson	
Julie Lewis	
Melanie Mitchell	
Robin Turner	

#### Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature



Full Name

JULIE BRYAN

Position

MINISTER

Date

30/9/2024

# WEST CRAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

YEAR END 31ST DECEMBER 2023

## INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

INCOME 46782.29

EXPENDITURE 30104.18

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16678.11

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## BALANCE SHEET

OPENING BALANCE 0

SURPLUS FOR 2023 16678.11

CLOSNG BALANCE 

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16678.11

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CHECKED BY: JACKY BROUGHTON  
112A KELBROOK ROAD  
Barnoldswick

16TH FEBRUARY 2024



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