

Rugby Baptist Church Trustees' Report - 2013-14

In accordance with Charity Law for churches with an income of over £100,000 as the Trustees of Rugby Baptist Church (The Diaconate), we now present this annual report of our recent activities. This report will be forwarded, in due course, to the Charity Commission along with the examined accounts of our Church and associated papers.

The Diaconate. The Diaconate (Trustees) have met 12 times over the course of the year 2013-14. Over the course of the year, Chris Speake was elected to the Diaconate and is now the Church Treasurer. 2 Deacons were re-elected onto the Diaconate (the Church's leadership team): Brian Coleman and Louise Morley. In September 2013 Louise Morley began a three year degree course training to become a qualified Children's and Families Worker with the Church serving as her professional practice placement. In that month our Associate Minister Ronnie Hall also left us for a chaplaincy ministry. The Diaconate has reported regularly to the Church Meeting, which meets bi-monthly, to discuss, share information and to take decisions together. Over the course of the year the Diaconate has consolidated a new Structure for Growth concentrating on five core purposes in church life: Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry, Worship and Outreach. Our principal activities as a Church, are 1) Worship and prayer. 2) The teaching and sharing of the Christian Faith within an all-age faith community. 3) The pastoral care of individuals, and 4) Service to the local community and the wider world. Among the particular targets we set ourselves this year have been:

- Improving the security of our premises - with new locks and keys fitted.
- Replacing chairs no longer considered safe or suitable in our John Lees Hall.
- Seeking to introduce more new worship songs and considering a new shape to our morning worship.
- Overseeing the redecoration of the main church and upgrading its lighting and ventilation systems.
- Developing our mens' work on a more inter church basis.
- Launching a New Year membership drive based around a revised Church Covenant. This has already led, in part, to a number of (younger) new members and two baptismal services.
- Reviewing our organisations and activities and adding a crafts group to the mix here.
- Exploring ways of bridging the gap between Church and the world of work.
- Keying into the RUGBY HOPE 2014 programme including giving a lead to a "1000 hours of kindness" project planned for May 2014 and a "Big Community Lunch" event in early June 2014.

A full list of our Church Activities and Appointments and Church Accounts is attached. These will give an indication of the wide range of activities we undertake as a Church as we seek to fulfill our charitable purposes.

Finances. We have been well guided by our Church Treasurers, Chris Speake and Paul Ridgway as the encouraging end of year figures reveal. Plans and costings to redecorate the church interior and upgrade both the lighting and ventilation systems in the Church have been a significant part of this year's financial discussions. 2013 Gift Day donations have been used to support Louise Morley in training, and generous donations in March 2014 helped us to launch the the Church Interior Refurbishment project successfully. The Church also continues to give generously to needy causes nationally, internationally and locally as the accompanying accounts reveal.

Ongoing work. This year has seen the helpful consolidating of several aspects of our work. A prayer tent ministry in the town centre continues most weeks. Our Eco Congregation Team continue to be very active and, for example, has encouraged many of us to commit – as a church and as individuals - to the Operation Noah climate change initiative. Louise Morley has continued to develop a growing "Messy Church" programme here as well as continuing a much appreciated School Assemblies ministry across the town. The Girls and Boys' Brigade Companies have also seen some growth this year – especially in the younger age groups. Their annual Awards and Display evenings are highlights of the Church year here. Our partnership with other churches in the town – through the

REVIVE network of Churches whose Steering Group is convened by our Minister Michael Bochenski - also continues to deepen. Among other things this has seen us playing the lead role in delivering an inter-church Winter Shelter for rough sleepers here in the town for a third year. It has also meant providing volunteers for interchurch charitable activities such as the Hope Centre and Hope 4U working with homeless and badly housed people, the Rugby Food Bank, Rugby Christians against Poverty (debt counselling) and the Rugby Street Pastors.

All Age Membership. As at 31 August 2013 (when these figures are compiled each year) our Church community had some 177 members and some 92 Adherents (people who worship with us regularly or occasionally). We continue to run programmes and activities for over 100 children and young people, many from families on the fringe of our Church. Our regular ministry to elderly people includes a weekly luncheon club, a Friday coffee morning and a popular “thurd Tuesday” club culminating each year in an imaginative “holiday at home” programme.

Cluster. We have maintained a good working relationship within the Baptist families of Dunchurch, Wolston and Rugby. We have met for joint worship with them on three occasions over the year and have also committed to pray for and support several link missionaries together – in Thailand, Albania and the Middle East. Most significantly in July 2013 three of our younger members travelled to Delhi, India as part of a cluster summer mission project team - overseen by the Baptist Missionary Society.

Church teams. Part of the Trustees’ main responsibility is that of ensuring that teams are in place to run and deliver our Church’s wide-ranging programme of events and activities. Pastoral Care is overseen by a dedicated team of around 10 people who work alongside the Minister in offering pastoral care to an extended church community of over 300 people. A team of around 12 leaders delivers a well supported and varied House groups programme and meet together several times a year to plan this. Among the studies we have undertaken together have been a series on the Parables of Jesus and an inter church Lent Course: Better Together. Other examples of such teams who help to make our service to both church and community possible, include an encouraging range of musicians, those who attend our Youth Forum every two months with oversight over a wide and varied children’s and youth programme here; those who operate our church’s various coffee and food rotas, and a small but effective property and cleaning team. In common with Christian Churches the world over so much good work and service is only possible because of the time, dedication and energy of many such teams of committed people each year.

The Future. As 2014-15 unfolds, two immediate priorities spring to mind. 1) To complete the church refurbishment project well and 2) to agree together on future patterns of paid team ministry as we seek to develop our church’s potential more fully by the year 2020. At the time of writing we are undecided whether this might mean appointing a specialist or specialists in, for example, youth work or administration, developing voluntary lay leadership here still more or, perhaps, appointing an additional accredited Baptist Minister on a full or part-time basis. Over the course of 2013-4 we believe, then, that we have demonstrated again our commitment as Trustees to ‘...advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination and to advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.’

**Revd Dr Michael I Bochenski (Minister) and Pauline Kimber
(Church Secretary) for and on behalf of the Church’s Trustees’ Board – the Diaconate.**

**For presentation to the Annual Church Meeting on 11th November 2014 and to accompany the
Church Accounts for 2013-4.**