

Trustees' Report to the Annual Church Meeting of Rugby Baptist Church, Regent Place, Rugby CV21 2PJ on the Year 2012-13

Following recent changes in Charity Law for churches with an income of over £100,000 it is now necessary for the Trustees of the Church (The Diaconate) to provide an annual report of our activities. This is that report which 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 2012-13, including at an Away Day in January. Over the course of the year we welcomed three new Deacons, Ian Coleman, Pauline Kimber and Chris Speake onto the Church's leadership team. Pauline Kimber was appointed as our new Church Secretary in November 2012 after her predecessor Alan Thomas was called to serve as the Pastor of Lutterworth Pentecostal Church. Another former Church Secretary Jane Robson is now in her final year of study at Regent's Park College, Oxford - with our support - and has recently accepted a call to continue in her placement Church - Kingswood Baptist Church near Watford - as its Pastor. 2012-13 has been the second year in a planned four year experiment – to help our church realise more of its mission potential – by employing two Ministers to work full-time among us all. 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 adopted 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. 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. The need to overhaul and upgrade the kitchen in part of our buildings (the John Lees Hall) and national problems with the BUGB Pension Fund (requiring larger employer contributions for both of our Ministers) has placed additional financial pressure upon our church this year – as the accompanying accounts reveal. Generally speaking, however, the Church here has made the transition to paying for two full-time ministers remarkably well in a relatively short period of time.

Some highlights of the year. Among some of this year's highlights or new initiatives this year have been: 2012 Gift Day donations to the Zoe's Place Children's hospice in Coventry, and to a pre-school education programme in Peru in partnership with BMS world mission. Keying into the More than Gold initiatives as part of the London Olympic Games. Joining in the Rugby Queens' Diamond Jubilee parade in the town. Playing the lead role in delivering an inter-church Winter Shelter for rough sleepers here in the town for the second year. Providing volunteers – in partnership with the REVIVE network of churches - for a number of town wide charitable activities such as the Hope Centre and Hope 4U working with homeless and badly housed people, the new Rugby Food Bank, Rugby Christians against Poverty (debt counselling) and the Rugby Street Pastors. Opening a Healing Centre for listening and prayer in the John Lees Hall this year on one afternoon a week. Setting up a prayer tent in the town centre most weeks. Our Eco Congregation Team continues to be very active and, for example, has introduced us to the Operation Noah climate change initiative and organised an effective Transport Day in the autumn. Three of our members have also travelled overseas on mission trips this year – Joan Adkins to Sierra Leone, Pauline Kimber to Zambia, and Margaret Reeve to Albania. Three of our young people will also be travelling to Delhi, India on a mission trip this coming July and a number of fund-raising events to support them in this have been undertaken. An experiment in starting a new third congregation – REFRESH- was also launched, with the Church Meeting's enthusiastic support, this year. Over the course of the year, too, we have encouraged one of our Deacons Louise Morley

Trustees' Report to the Annual Church Meeting of Rugby Baptist Church on the Year 2011-12 – 24th June 2012

As she continues to explore training as a Children's and Families' worker at the Oxford Centre for Youth Ministry. In January Louise launched a Messy Church programme in our Regent Rooms – a new approach to introducing families to Christian faith and worship. The Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys several local School Assembly visits, the Church Toddler group continue to thrive under her leadership – often assisted by her guide dog Yardley!

All Age Membership. As at 31 August 2012 (the date of the BUGB statistical returns) our Church community had some 176 members and just over 100 Adherents (people who worship with us regularly or occasionally). We also run programmes and activities for – again - over 100 children and young people, the majority from families on the fringe of our Church. Our Brigades and Toddlers have all seen new faces this year. We have also continued to run a Holiday Club programme three times a year and , as already, indicated have this year launched a new Messy Church programme which attracts still more children and families.

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 undertake a joint summer mission trip together to Delhi, India this coming summer.

Church Volunteers. Part of the Trustees' main responsibility is that of ensuring that teams of volunteers 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 Ministers in a wide range of pastoral care responsibilities. A team of at least 12 leaders deliver 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 look at the "40 Days of Relationships" and a Lent Course: This is our Story. Other examples of teams of volunteers, who help to make our service to both church and community possible, include those who plan, cook and deliver cooked lunches to around 50 elderly people most Tuesdays of the year; a small dedicated team who arrange a monthly programme ("Third Tuesday") and annual "Holiday at Home" for older members of our faith community; 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 hundreds of such volunteers each year. It is our privilege to both witness and help to co-ordinate these remarkable levels of commitment week by week throughout the year.

The Future. As 2012-13 unfolds, some immediate priorities spring to mind. To find ways of securing our church finances for the remaining two years of our paid team ministry experiment and beyond; to continue the re-examination of Rugby Baptist Church from the perspective of the five core purposes with our new Diaconate task groups taking the lead here; to refresh our corporate prayer life and, above all, to find ways of winning new people to faith in Christ while continuing to serve our local community well: "The world can be won for Christ by evangelism and made more pleasing to Him by social action" (John Stott). All of this is, of course, part of 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 and Revd Ronnie Hall (Ministers) and Pauline Kimber
(Church Secretary) for and on behalf of the Church's Trustees' Board – the Diaconate.**

Presented to the Annual Church Meeting on 23 June 2013