

Rugby Baptist Church Trustees' Report - 2014-15

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 independently examined accounts of our Church and associated papers.

The Diaconate. The Diaconate (Trustees) has met 11 times over the course of the year 2014-15. At the November ACM Chris Speake was confirmed as the Church Treasurer 2014-7, 3 Deacons were elected onto the Diaconate - the Church's leadership team: Mick Daulman, Margaret Kearney and Petra Meeson, and Paul Ridgway was re-elected. The Diaconate has reported regularly to the Church Meeting, which usually meets bi-monthly, to discuss, share information and to take decisions together. Over the course of the year the Diaconate has continued to work at delivering specific targets based around 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:

- Completing a refurbishing of the main Church building including redecorating and introducing a more effective lighting system.
- Consolidating the Church finances with an additional paid team ministry appointment in mind and implementing a good practice reserves policy
- Exploring new Sunday patterns with – for example - Messy Church, a guest worship leader, young people led services and regular Family Services
- Revising our Church Safeguarding Policies in harmony with new good practice guidelines
- Seeking to strengthen links with “fringe” younger families linked to the Church through Parade Services, an Easter event and a June Families Day.
 - Overseeing the installation of a new speaker system
- Twinning all 12 of our church toilets by paying for ones to be built in developing countries
 - Keying into plans for the town's RUGBY WORLD CUP 2015 programme
 - Reviewing our commitment to the town's Christian Aid events
 - Introducing a free loan Christian library on our premises
 - Improving the external noticeboards

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 increase our paid team ministry team have been a significant part of this year's financial discussions. 2014 Gift Day donations were used towards the Church Interior Refurbishment project, and the 2015 donations were given to an effective youth outreach team in the Borough of Rugby: Rugby Youth for Christ. We have also continued to support financially one of our members, Louise Morley, who is training as a Children's and Families Worker and another, Sam Ridgway, during a Christian leadership training year in North London. 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 further consolidating of several aspects of our work. Louise Morley has continued to develop a growing Toddler group programme here as well as continuing a much appreciated School Assemblies ministry across the town. The Girls' and Boys' Brigade

Companies continue to buck the trend in attracting significant numbers of children and young people to their programmes each month. 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 fourth 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. A prayer tent ministry in the town centre continues most weeks. Our Eco Congregation Team has also successfully negotiated the extension of our Church's Eco Congregation status for a further three years.

All Age Membership. As at September 2014 (when these figures are compiled each year) our Church community had some 184 members and some 91 Adherents (people who worship with us regularly or occasionally). We continue to run programmes and activities for some 116 children and 35 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, a crafts group, and a popular "Third Tuesday" club. 7 people were baptised as believers here over the course of the charity year: Simon Clifford, Jacob Coleman, Linda Gentles, Beth Ledingham, Meryl Lovatt, Margaret Kearney and Catrina Rimen.

Cluster. We have maintained a good working relationship within the Baptist families of Dunchurch, Wolston and Rugby and more recently, Daventry. We have met for joint worship with them on four occasions over the year and have also committed to pray for and support several link missionaries together – in Thailand, Albania and the Middle East.

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 16 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 Praise Hymns of the New Testament, the 12 Disciples and the 'I am' sayings of Jesus Christ. 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 2015-16 unfolds, one immediate priority springs to mind. 1) To seek to appoint an additional paid team ministry member to the team here. At the time of writing we are actively considering, appointing an additional accredited Baptist Minister on a part-time basis. Over the course of 2014-5 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.**

Presented to the Annual Church Meeting on 10th November 2015