

HARRINGAY UNITED CHURCH-BAPTIST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

This is the first time we are presenting a formal written report of the Lord's goodness to the family of God that meet with us here in Harringay United Church-Baptist. We have been giving the account of our stewardship in the past as our website will justify but the chair-person's report has not been in this format. It is good to follow a structured format so that the Church and the public will see what and how we do things. Thanks to Mr Ayeni, the Independent Examiner of the Church Accounts, for his encouraged and guidance in producing this report.

Henceforth and by God's grace, this will be the format the Church Leadership will adopt in fulfilling its statutory obligations in presenting its report to the Church at its Annual General Meetings (AGM). It will also help in releasing the leaders of various departments in the Church to produce and present their reports of last year's performance and vision for the following year. The set visions will therefore be basis for evaluating the Ministers, Church Leadership and individual departments and their performances, the effectiveness of its leaders and their ability to relate with and grow the people in the community they serve.

The main events of the last year have been a lot of blessings to us and the community.

The Leadership Team.

Last year has particularly an eventful year as the Church Trustees have worked very hard in taking up the challenge that face them in converting the 4 bed house into two 2 bed room flats. This has led to increased value of the property and giving the church more than double the amount the Church realises from the building.

Thank you all, may God reward you for what have done by placing the Church on a path of financial prosperity to furtherance the work of God in Harringay and beyond.

There was no training in this financial year as more people were to be appointed Trustees in the new year and then the training will be offered for the new and old Trustees.

Despite the mere fact most of the Trustees have their main day jobs and that they only volunteer to God's work. Therefore, they are sacrificing a lot for which they receive no pay. It is also good to appreciate them and all departmental leaders as Junior Church, Music group. Chair person in charge of buildings and facilities. Thank you so much

Junior Church

Our dedicated teachers continued their hard work throughout the year and the children continue to grow spiritually. The Junior Church performed their annual Camp to the isle of Wight and we thank God that they have grown spiritually. Three of our young people gave their lives to Jesus and two of them have been baptised while the other will be Baptised in January of 2016. The Church continue to support the Elim Church in providing better facilities for the Children.

Four of our Older children did well in their A level examinations and have gained admissions into various universities. We praise and thank God for this as we have not failed to have them in the University each year.

Church Outing

There is not church outing this year but we have meals together every now and then but recreational outing could be considered for next year.

Many members of the Church went to Spring Harvest and the Church has supported them by providing the transport for them.

Missions

The Church continued to provide youth club service to young people of our community every Friday except when the youth worker is not available through holiday of sickness/ We have continued to providing recreational activities like Basketball, Badminton, Table Tennis, free Internet service and help with Homework in English and mathematics.

We give God glory that all of them have done well in their various examinations. One of them was particularly exception by having 3 A stars, 5 As and 1 B in his GCSE examinations.

We spent more than £2,000 this year in supporting indigent students in their various studies. One in secular University and the other in training to be a Baptist Minister. We thank God that we are contributing to the growth of God's kingdom.

Other Mission Activities and Giving

It is the Church policy to give away ten per cent of her income to other Christian and Charitable courses both within and outside UK. And that year we gave about £13.000 away to courses of alleviating suffering in troublesome areas, homeless ness in UK, lifting our people poverty in the third world.

To God be the glory.

Baptist Union/ Wider network

The Church had continued to be part of the London Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain and we support them financially, prayerfully and in human resources by releasing our members and minister to serve the association and other churches that have no minister. We are also part of the Evangelical Alliance.

Building Extension/Repairs

We spent about £95,000 to convert our four-bedroom house to two 2 bed rooms flats which has eased accommodation problem in our community and have increased the church's income by more than double of how much we were earning before conversion.

I give thanks to God and the Building and facilities committee and the Trustees that have worked hard to ensure that the project was successfully carried out

We have taken maintenance of our building seriously and have spent considerable amount in updating our buildings. The church lightings have been changed into LED therefore making things brighter and low consumption.

The Church continues to allow a company to operate a nursery school in the Church and some people in the community are benefiting because of this and it also yields income to the Church.

Investment Policy

A few years ago, the Lord led me with the Treasurer to ask the London Baptist Association (LBA) about our Investments and we discovered that we had investments in some businesses the Leadership considered were incompatible with the Spirit the Church operates under. Consequently, we instructed the LBA to dispose of our investments in such organisations. However, to ensure similar investments are not undertaken in the future, we have, with the help of our Independent Examiners, O A George & Co., drafted and adopted an Investment policy, a copy of which is available for viewing, should anyone be interested to have a read.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Having regard to the scale and nature of its operations, the current system of controls is effective, taking into consideration the following:

1. All volunteers are required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring screening (DBS) – formerly called Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) to ensure protection of children and vulnerable members.
2. The Church *has* its own Health and Safety policy is readily available to all the trustees and volunteers of the charity.
3. The Church's Child Protection Policy was made available to all volunteers working with children and is available to any interested party within the organisation. The policy has been of benefit to the users and ensures protection and safety of both the children and workers.

All the workers, voluntary and paid have had trainings and their DBS checks are up to date.

4. The Disability Discrimination Acts Policy is available to all volunteers on how to relate to disabled members and interested party within the organisation.

Volunteers

During the year all team leaders and trustees of the Church have given their services on a voluntary basis towards achieving the objectives of the Church. The Church is grateful for the sacrificial contribution of time and effort from all its trustees, officers and other volunteers who are not elected officers of the Church. The Pastor was the only formal paid position within the year under review.

Fundraising activities

The Church did not have any fund raising activity during the year. All income derived was from the free will offering and donation from Church members.

Investment performance

Due to the building work done during the year which reduced the normal space available to let and caused utilisation of church funds, there was a 51% reduction in investment income. The Leadership believe that investment income will rise again to its former level as it realises and invests extra funds from rent receivable on the extension done.

Internal and external factors

The existence and operations of the Church are internally derived and are non-dependent on external factors. During the year under review, no grant was received on any Church projects. The trustees are confident the Church will continue to resource its operations and do not envisage reliance on external funding of its programmes.

Reserves policy

The Charities Commission recommend that all Charities should maintain reserves to meet potential liabilities and to cover fluctuations in income. In complying with this recommendation the trustees have set up reserve funds as shown in the accounts.

Other reserves of the organisation are unrestricted. It is the policy of the charity to retain unrestricted funds at a level, which equates to approximately 3 months of its committed expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover the organisation's regular overheads in its various branches, and to meet other committed ministry gifts. The remainder of the reserves is expended on the objectives of the organisation.

Funds in deficit

The trustees confirm there was no fund in deficit at the end of the period under review.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding source remains the general offerings and donations of its members to whom the trustees are very thankful for their generosity. Many of these donors are on the gift aid scheme on whose income the Church is able to recover some tax rebate with the assistance of the Treasurer. Other sources of income are fees derived from donation to specific event or project organised by the Church as well as from the renting out of the Church Flats and hall.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Next year, we want to make more impact in our community -Harringay and to this end we decided to invite men and women in our community who have worked hard and contributed immensely to the development of the community to honour the women of Mothers' day and the men on fathers' day.

We intend to continue the Friday Youth club for non-church goers' youth of our community and the Tea party for the most vulnerable old people who would not

have come out with help.

We are also committed to use every available means and resources to promote the good news of Jesus Christ in Harringay and beyond.

Church members will continue to enjoy personal and spiritual development, gifts discovered and given platform to use their gift to build the body of Christ.

Other Matters

Last year we had a week long evangelistic campaign in commemoration of Billy Graham's 60th year of his campaign in Harringay. The result was remarkable that 7 people came to accept Jesus as their Lord Saviour of which one of them has been baptised and comes to our Church. Praise God.