

aHARRINGAY UNITED CHURCH-BAPTIST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

Introduction:

I can't write this report without acknowledging the source of life, light and Father of all in the person of God the father. Thanks and praise to god the Son who did for our sins on the Cross and was raised on the third day to give us assurance of salvation through His name and also gratitude to the Holy Spirit who the Father has sent to dwell in us.

How quickly time has passed that I found myself writing another report of the activities the Church has engaged in the year April 2017 to March 2018.

Looking back we have all reasons to give thanks to God for another year.

The Leadership Team.

The new team with the two principal officers the secretary and the treasurer are growing into the job and are getting better and better in their roles and ensuring that all things needed to be done are done with accuracy, timely and effectively. Thank you guys [Lerena and Franck.]

We continue to maintain 5 members in the leadership team as it is manageable, making decision making much easier and things are done much quicker than before. Whenever we need outside help within and outside the Church we do not hesitate to ask for help and it is always coming and handy.

Future Consideration:

Last year we have considered allocating each Trustee to a particular work area of the church for which they will be responsible. We have now allocate various posts to the appropriate people according to their education, interest, experience, interests and gifts.

For the future, we are praying that God will bring younger people into the leadership of the Church.

Appreciation to church workers:

We appreciate all the Trustees who have their main day jobs and they volunteer to do God's work, they are sacrificing a lot for which they receive no pay. We also appreciate them and all departmental leaders as Junior Church, Music group. Chair person in charge of buildings and facilities, kitchen workers and the youth worker. Thank you so much.

We also appreciate the church workers who are heads of departments, Junior Church, Music group, Men's and Women's groups, Buildings and Facilities, Youth Pastor and Prayer group. Without you all there will be no Church and the progress we are making year in year out. God bless you all.

Junior Church

The Sunday school teachers continued the year with their dedication to their duties and have worked hard throughout the year and the children continue to grow spiritually. The Junior Church did not perform their annual Camp to the Isle of Wight because they had alternative plan which they want to try in the future. Despite this, three of our young people gave their lives to the Lord, Jesus and were baptised.

Only one of the children took 'A' level this year and did very well that she was admitted to the first choice of her University. Praise be to the Lord.

Our Crèche have grown and are now toddlers, holding flags and marching round the church with flags in their hands, how wonderful to see these little ones growing so quickly.

Demand for their class is so much that grandmas, mothers, experienced people in working with nursery children and two of the young adults are now working with this class and they are doing very well.

Church Socialisation

After many years of not going out, the Church is planning to go out to sea side next summer and people are looking forward to it and pray that it will go well.

A usual and expected many members of the Church went to Spring Harvest and the Church has supported them by providing the transport for them.

Local Mission Activities

1. Gateway Youth Club

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. We have continued to providing recreational activities like Basketball, Badminton, Table Tennis, free Internet service and help with homework in English and Mathematics.

They participated in a radio show which enabled the children to make radio programme and fetched about £2000 for participating which is a boost to their budget.

Thanks to the youth pastor and the young people.

2. Gateway Tea Party

The Tea party for the elderly who would not have come out except they are helped continues to attract this group of people and they always look forward to coming to the Church. The Church also is happy to continue to give this service to the most vulnerable group in our community.

I say thank you to the Charity Contact the Elderly whom we partner with in providing this service.

The first meeting in March 2018 did not hold because of bad weather hence it was

cancelled. But we are looking forward for the October meeting.

3. Highway Holiness Homeless Project

Our partnership with the Highway of Holiness Church in Seven Sisters which opened its church to homeless people who are not entitled to public funds and facilities continued and we have been generous to them financially for looking after these vulnerable groups.

Even though we can't host this type of initiative, our money helps them.

International Mission Activities

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 again this year we gave over £15.000 away to courses of alleviating suffering in troublesome areas, homelessness in UK, lifting our people poverty in the third world. To God be the glory.

Baptist Association and Union/ Wider Church Network

The Church continues 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

Our Estate agent, Brian Thomas, has continued to manage the 115 Allison Road very well and is giving the Church a good returns.

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.

Dis-used Pipe Organ

The Church made a decision to dispose the disused pipe organ to a Church in Sicily after we received a written permission from the Congregational Trustees and the space is now ready for conversion into prayer/counselling rooms and storage.

An architect will be commissioned next year and we take it from there.

We continue to pray about it that the project will be successful.

Investment Policy

We continue to follow up our investment guided by the policy so that we ensure that we do not put the Church's money at risk and monitor that we do not invest un-ethically.

A copy of this policy 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.

These duties have been taken seriously and risk management course has been organised for the Trustees this year.

As part of these responsibilities, we have changed our old fire system into a modern one that include everywhere in the Church building and Hammond House and the guideline on its maintenance and use are clear and signs are understandable and visible.

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. And I want to say a big thank you to the Building and facilities committee who are committed to look at risks and rectify them to prevent mishaps every time.
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 Act 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 Training have also been provided for awareness of autism to the Sunday school teachers and the trustees, officers and other volunteers who are not elected officers of the Church.

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 and rentals from our buildings.

Investment performance

Now that we have completed the renovation of 115 Allison Road and have given it to Brian Thomas to manage, it has been yielding some results and the Trustees have been putting money aside to build up our investment portfolio that has been depleted.

Our savings account with Barclays Bank was not good at all, hence the Trustees decided to withdraw our money and transfer it London Baptist Property Board [LBPB].

Two reasons made us to take this decision.

1. LBPB pays higher interest than Barclays.
2. Our savings there will make funds available for help other churches that needs loans.

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 which may be uncertain.

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.

Impact in our community

The Church intends to continue to make impact in our community by providing youth club service to our community free of charge.

We also continue to give free accommodation to professional Christian counsellors Mondays to Wednesdays. Free accommodation to Community meetings on Thursdays and Youth club meetings on Fridays.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Next year, God willing, we will endeavour to have a Church outing to places of interest for all ages.

We intend to continue the Friday Youth club for non-church goers' youths 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 pursue our vision and purpose which are:

Vision is to:

See people in Harringay and beyond come to Jesus Christ

Purpose is to:

Worship God and lift Jesus up as Lord and Saviour

Grow believers into Christian maturity and the work of mission.

Witness to unbelievers about Christ

Care for one another and those in need.

As the leadership of the Church, we would continue to ensure that the Church members will continue to enjoy personal and spiritual development, discovering their gifts and giving them platform to use their gifts to build the body of Christ – the Church.



Rev Adedayo O. Ige
Chairperson
14/11/2018