

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	1 st	April	2020	To	31 st	March	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Abbey Baptist Church
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1176927
Charity's principal address	Abbey Baptist Church
	Checker Walk
	Abingdon
	Postcode OX14 3JB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr Graeme Stonell			
2	Iain Baker			
3	John Lipp	Chair of trustees		
4	Elizabeth Rolfe			
5	Peter Akrill			
6	Clive Bowsher			
7	Stephen Mayo			
8				
9				
10				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by membership

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

In addition to our constitution, we make use of our church handbook to guide our practice in the everyday running of our affairs.

Elders direct the day to day operations of the church. All work conducted by the church is done under their leadership. The elders are also trustees of the charity and are joined by additional trustees. All elders and trustees are selected by the members in accordance with our church handbook.

We are affiliated to two external organisations (The Association of Grace Baptist Churches (South East) and the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches). The nature of these affiliations is mutually supporting and both bodies are non-governing of our church's affairs.

As a long standing, stable church there are few operational risks. By offering services to vulnerable people there are risks associated to appointing volunteers/workers. These are managed through our Safeguarding Policy.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Church are:

- the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Abingdon and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the Church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

This year has seen many changes in order to continue fulfilling our purposes during the pandemic and associated restrictions on meeting. Many of our activities were initially moved full on-line where possible, and support provided to help all of our beneficiaries through the transition. This included our Sunday worship services and our midweek meetings. Most of our seniors meetings and youth work ceased, although some aspects of those works were maintained through online gatherings. As the opportunities for people to meet were very restricted, we commenced some additional prayer opportunities online. Our members also found ways to continue to provide benefit to the wider community through channels such as deepening and enriching contact with neighbours, running and supporting online quizzes, starting an online baking club, arranging online meals and setting up a free book and literature stall outside our chapel building.

As lockdown restrictions eased a little in late 2020 and again in spring 2021, some restricted in-person gatherings recommenced. Online provision continued to be offered for those who needed to stay at home for shielding, self-isolation or preferential reasons.

The trustees are satisfied that these activities are conducted in line with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We are not involved in awarding grants or in investing (except for holding reserves in an interest paying bank account).

All of our work is supported and enabled by volunteers from within our membership. The Trustees thank the members of the church who conduct all of these activities on a voluntary basis.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The continual healthy level of interest in our meetings and activities by a mixture of members, families of members and non-members is regarded as an achievement.

The online provision of our main worship activities has benefited not only our local supporters/beneficiaries, but also a much more geographically dispersed group of beneficiaries.

We commenced employment of a pastor-in-training. This has provided an additional part time employee, who has been a great help in the period of greater pastoral need and greater reliance on IT provision brought on by the pandemic. It has also provided our minister with the opportunity to help train and prepare another for future pastoral ministry.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We seek to maintain reserves of around 3-6 months of operating costs. These are held in order to cushion the effect of any unplanned short term drop in income or increase in expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funding are donations and income from the renting of property. The former have been generously gifted by members and supporters without any explicit fundraising initiatives. A proportion of the pastor in training funding has been provided by grants from the Association of Grace Baptist Churches (South East) and the Particular Baptist fund. We record our thanks to those organisations for their kind support.

Our largest item of expenditure has been for the ministry of the church. This has funded the various activities and provided a salary for the staff who support and prepare every volunteer for their work.

A summary of our examined accounts is provided in Section F.

Section F**Other optional information****Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2021**

Income and Expenditure	Notes	2019/20	2020/21
Income			
Donations to the church		63,873	86,433
Income from properties		10,440	10,440
Bank interest and other income		4,310	19
Gifts for support of second worker		14,096	0
Donations for specific purposes		1,191	800
Grants for pastor in training post		0	10,845
Total income		93,910	108,537
Designated giving paid out	2	1,191	800
Income for Church use		92,719	107,737
Expenditure			
Ministry of the Church	3	49,130	48,787
Gifts made by the Church	2	14,623	14,726
Church maintenance		11,346	11,761
Properties maintenance		12,212	3,205
Total Expenditure		87,311	78,479
Net income (expenditure)		5,408	29,258

Balance Sheet	Notes	2019/20	2020/21
Fixed Assets			
Church buildings and properties	4	860,000	860,000
Current Assets			
Debtors		7,569	3,545
Cash at bank and in hand		25,613	58,081
Total current assets		33,182	61,626
Creditors		565	0
Total Assets less liabilities		892,617	921,626
Represented by			
Unrestricted funds		32,617	61,626
Restricted funds			
Capital funds		860,000	860,000
Funds at end of year		892,617	921,626

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and audit of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a historical cost and accruals basis and in accordance with the Charities Commission SORP. The church is a small entity and therefore no cash flow statement is included and a full audit report is not required

Church properties

Church properties are held for the use of the church or for let to church members where possible. The properties are held in the accounts at market value and are independently revalued every five years.

2. Church Giving

The church made gifts for the support of missionary work and other Christian work during the course of the year as detailed below. These figures include gifts from members for specific missionary work. Special offerings were taken during the year to assist in ministry of compassion in the UK and other parts of the world.

Church gifts	£
Grace Baptist Mission	7,980
Pilgrim Homes	2,520
AGBC(SE) Home Mission	480
Mission work in Poland	1,500
Mission work in Italy	1,525
Other Missions	500
Gifts to members	221
Total Giving	14,726

Designated giving	£
Grace Baptist Mission	600
Other compassion ministry	200
Total	800

3. The Ministry of the Church

Expenditure on ministry	2019/20 (£)	2020/21 (£)
Elders and visiting speakers	38,475	41,657
Outreach and Church Activities	2,176	800
Other	8,479	6,330
Total	49,130	48,787





4. Church Buildings and Properties

	2019/20 (£)	2020/21 (£)
Brought forward	770,000	860,000
Revaluation in the year	90,000	0
Balance carried forward	860,000	860,000

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	 Recoverable Signature  <hr/> John Lipp Chair Signed by: b31bb841-9fbb-45f8-ac8d-216fd1386528	 Recoverable Signature  <hr/> Peter Akrell Trustee Signed by: Peter Akrell Signature
	Full name(s)	John David Lipp
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Trustee
Date	<u>3-Jan-2022</u>	



Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Abbey Baptist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1176927

Set out on pages

6-7

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

Responsibilities and basis
of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's
statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

06/12/2021

Name:

ANDREW WOODS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

Address:

23 BLENHEIM GARDENS
GROVE, WANTAGE, OX12 0NP