

CLARE BAPTIST CHURCH

To follow and worship Jesus and make Him known



Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31st December 2019

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To follow and worship Jesus and make Him known



Minister's Report

Another year rolls by in the life, ministry and mission of Clare Baptist Church and, ever mindful of the need to be fit and active, I'm taking us through an aerobic review as we look up, down, in and out at the past twelve months.

Let's start by looking up, in the traditional sense of facing heavenwards. Our Sunday services, when we gather most often to deliberately spend time in corporate worship, have been wide-ranging in themes, prayers, songs and

activities. What is becoming a regular slot in the service, our “This Time This Week” time of prayerfully supporting each other through any of life’s challenges, provides a valuable way of connecting Sunday to the rest of the week. Whatever we face, we face together in unity with God’s Spirit.

Preaching series on Luke’s Gospel, including an extended time on the Prodigal Son, and Acts from the New Testament have been complemented by weeks studying the Old Testament books (and personalities) of Ruth, Jonah and Daniel. A varied programme that God has used to instruct and inspire us in many ways; one particular highlight for me was using insights from Henri Nouwen’s book “The Return of the Prodigal Son” alongside the famous parable as together we explored its depths.

The church has discovered new worship songs alongside the more traditional tunes, for which I am grateful to our worship team for their dedication to practice and for their willingness to lead us. My prayer is that our sung worship continues to grow in its range, as well as its connecting with those who sing along in eternity.

Now we look down, towards those we call our church family. We have had many people in the church go through times of illness, some finishing the year still facing uncertainty over their health. It has been a time of tiredness for many, for concern about themselves as well as others, and for remembering many names before God for healing, peace and the knowledge of his presence in the hard times.

The deaths of Emmie Sibley and Marion Dyson affected the church in different ways, particularly for Janet who lost both her mum and cousin in a few months. It is a time to be sad as we recognise that their lives have ended here on earth, but also a time to rejoice in all that God accomplished through them and that they have been welcomed into his heavenly kingdom as good and faithful servants. Elaine Allin’s death in the early hours of Christmas Day was long anticipated due to her deteriorating health, and those who knew Elaine through her years of association with the church join with Terry and the family in their grief.

We have also had much to celebrate amongst the church family. Birthdays have been celebrated, significant ages ending in a “0” have been recognised and God has been thanked for his continuing presence throughout our lives, no matter how old or young we may feel. Towards the end of the year, we

congratulated Laura and Jon on the safe arrival of Robert, a brother to Elizabeth. And, while we're talking babies, we also prayed regularly for Jacob, born to Christin and Ed, as he started life in great need, though the year finishes with an improving picture as they settle together into a new home. We also celebrated with Tim and Lorna as they reached a milestone moment with Luke. We thank God for those who are developing such a great sense of fun and belonging as they play with toy cars and dinosaurs on the edge of the church platform during a Sunday service!

Further in the Annual Report you will read about Sunday Club, Lighthouse Gang, the Ladies' Fellowship and the many other groups that we recognise as we turn our gaze inwards. Give thanks to God for the service of the Diaconate, especially for Janet Strellis and Julie Adams as they stepped back from their roles during the year. Also, for Vivien Sargeant as she was voted in as first a Deacon in March and then, with David Sykes, has taken joint responsibility for the Church Secretary's role. Acknowledgement and thanks is given for the amount of work that Colin Barrable does, not just as Treasurer, but in all the areas of church life into which he is drawn.

You won't read about all the others who support the work of the church in so many ways: the PA team, those who serve tea and coffee after the service, those who provide and arrange the flowers, the stewards, Stephen Freestone who produces the weekly notice sheet and keeps the website updated and so many others who keep the good ship "Clare Baptist Church" afloat throughout the year. To all of you, I thank you for your service to God and his community in these varied ways.

Finally, looking out takes us into the community beyond our own, out into the communities that we belong as resident or member. You will read about the work of Allsorts and TGWNN elsewhere in this report, as well as the Friday Clubs and the activities that both the Outreach and Mission Awareness Groups were involved in through the year. Honourable mentions go to the work of the "Open the Book" team as that work has started, and been quickly embraced, in both Clare and Cavendish Primary Schools. Thanks to Nena and the team for bringing the stories of the Bible to life on a regular basis. Also, the Holiday Club in the summer, where we welcomed 20 children to our Polar Explorer base, provides a link between the church and the wider community for both children and their parents.

I must also mention the work that I am enabled to do at Stour Valley Community School: going in most weeks on a Tuesday lunchtime with Haverhill & District Youth for Christ worker Sarah Glasswell to ask our SPACE “Question of the Week” (my highlight being “Would you prefer to have a pet dragon or unicorn?” Dragon being the obviously correct answer in my opinion). Also, welcoming the Year 10 RS class to the church to talk sacraments and being part of a Q&A session with the Year 11 RS class with Rev Mike Bursell (School Governor and non-stipendiary minister in the Hedinghams). That, on top of my governor responsibilities at the Primary School and the work that I have been doing helping to launch the Clare Community Hub, retains a Christian presence in these places and among these communities.

But then every church member brings a Christian presence, whether in the deliberate act of praying for people, visiting them and sharing Jesus or the everyday stuff of life in the workplace, the home and wherever else they find themselves. Our outward focus has been both deliberate and accidental, from the planned event to the off-the-cuff conversation in the Library. We have reached out with unexpected results, such as the family who were pleased to start their Easter Sunday morning accompanied by the sound of our singing at the Country Park’s 7:00am service. Likewise, the brief stop at the Swan to drop off Christmas publicity that developed into a longer conversation that in turn has resulted in a new family attending on Sunday mornings. I’m sure that other instances can be included from others from their everyday experiences.

And that is where I want to finish: in recognising God’s gracious presence in the everyday activities of life. As we say “goodbye” to one year and look forward to the next (albeit almost a third of the way through by the time this reaches publication), we are aware of the big events that will affect us locally, nationally and globally. But we can leave these things to the “big people” to sort out; let’s recognise that God showed through Jesus’ life and ministry that he was constantly interested in individuals and their needs, their day-to-day lives. And let’s look forward to Jesus encountering us again in our daily walk, whichever direction we may be looking

Paul Graham

Secretary's report

This is the first secretaries' report from Vivien and me. As you may know we were appointed to this ex officio office just before Christmas. The church has been without a Church Secretary for some years following Mike stepping down. He will be a hard act to follow, but Vivien and I will try.

Our role

Vivien and I are joint secretaries having been given defined activities to carry out.

Our vision

Both Vivien and I share the same vision of being able to release Paul from a lot of the administrative work that he has accumulated since Mike left his post. Some of that work also fell on the shoulders of Colin. In this way Paul will be able to concentrate on and develop more fully his preaching, teaching and pastoral care ministry.

The Church year

The church continues to be in a healthy state with a greater degree of fellowship being shown to each other.

Since our last Annual Report we have lost a number of folk being called home. We give thanks to each of those persons and the example of their Christian life they demonstrated to each of us. They are now with their Lord, being one of the great multitude dressed in white praising our Father. (See Revelation Ch 7)

Total membership as at 31st December 2019 was 73.

Data Protection

On more mundane matters the church has a Data Protection Policy which can be found on the church notice board.

Safeguarding

We recognise the importance of Safeguarding towards the young and old in our fellowship and those who use our church premises. Our statements for Safeguarding young people and adults at risk are also displayed on the church notice board. Vivien has organised with the Eastern Baptist Association a Safeguarding training event to be held at our church on Saturday 31st October 2020. It is open to all church members free of charge and will involve training

at what is known as Level 2. Vivien will supply more detailed information as the event draws nearer.

In closing Vivien and I want to say that we want to be your servants. Please let us serve you in what capacity you feel appropriate.

David Sykes and Vivien Sargeant

Allsorts

Allsorts continues to be a weekly hive of activity. Carers and little ones, ranging from newly born to four years, arrive at any time from 9.30am, sometimes sooner and drift away by 11.15.

There is a lovely variety of toys and trikes etc to keep the toddlers occupied. (We have a special, slightly “protected” area for the babies). It’s fascinating to watch the interaction between the children as relationships start to develop and they grow in confidence. It’s also very satisfying to see how much the carers enjoy their time together. We sometimes get “old” mums coming back for a quick coffee and chat with their friends! We average about thirteen families each week which means that we see a combination of about thirty children and carers at each session.

We are, as always, so grateful to our helpers who serve coffee, tea, toast and snacks throughout the morning. A huge “thank you” as well, to the carers who are able to help put out the toys and pack them away.

We continue to feel that our Tuesday mornings are a valuable part of the life of Clare and that we have a useful role in the development of our up and coming generation.

Helen Stanbury and Sue Cumber

Craft Group Report 2019

We have continued to meet once a month on Thursday afternoons during 2019 to do a bit of crafting, and have a chat and a cup of tea. Numbers have fluctuated but we have a loyal band who continue to come when they can and have enjoyed trying new crafts.

However, since the loss of dear Marion and Mike's illness, I do not feel able to continue to run the group. I will support anyone who would like to take it on and we have some craft items available to start. For the time being, I will continue to keep the craft stuff and to hold the balance of cash for anyone who would like to take over.

Thank you to all those who have supported us over the years

Sue Cumber

Churches Together

As I look back over the past year my thoughts focus on the underlying purpose of the Churches Together, rather than our business programme, which follows a regular pattern, covered by three meetings per year. A few years ago it was agreed to leave behind our differences, and focus on the things which bind us together. Here lies the important purpose, Fellowship across the Churches. It is encouraging to see our progress. During Lent last year some from Clare Baptist joined a house fellowship in Stoke by Clare, which encouraged us to set up this year house fellowship groups across the Churches. Recently by changing the venues where we all gather, prayer walking now sees all four Clare churches and St Mary's at Cavendish participating.

Leslie Day



Church Maintenance Report

2019 has been a very busy and expensive year, mainly due to the number of items brought to our attention following the Quinquennial and Hard-wire inspections.

These both raised an unexpected number of areas where attention was essential if our Church building was to comply with today's safety requirements. Some of these jobs have been completed but the majority are still outstanding and hopefully will be completed in 2020.

We concentrated on the Hard-wired Inspection as this was the most urgent, with the total failure of the Church Heating System. This, as you will be aware, is now up and running, with some minor tweaking needed, this work is in hand to be completed in February. In addition new Strip lights have been fitted and the Fire exit power failure units have been replaced.

Unfortunately the electrical engineer who did the inspection has had to retire owing to ill health, and was unable to complete all the work needed so this will also be done in 2020.

The majority of the items resulting from the Quinquennial have been left to 2020.

In addition to all this work the gas fire in the lounge was replaced by a ceiling heater and also the Church guttering has been replaced.

Leslie Day

Evangelical Alliance

As a fellowship we continue to have 'Church Membership' of the EA. This organisation is composed of Christians from many different backgrounds with the aim of "together making Jesus known throughout the UK".

They work in many different areas/fields including the political arena where they have earned respect by stating the Christian viewpoint with well researched information.

Do you ever wish your Christian voice could be heard in the running of our country? It is also possible to become a 'Personal Member' of the Alliance for as little as £3 a month. The EA can then count you in the number of Christians they represent on a national scale as they speak on behalf of the church to government and media.

They have a comprehensive website if you would like to know more or if you would like to read one of their bi-monthly magazines I can provide you with a copy. Of course I would be happy to try to answer any questions you might have.

Elvena Dew



Fellowship Matters Report

During the last year our generous contributors to Fellowship Matters kept us informed about the situation at Dunkirk, Men's and Ladies Breakfasts and their speakers, Church Clubs, Churches Together activities, Christian Conferences and Christmas in a Box and Christmas shoeboxes. We have been moved by people's testimonies of God's goodness. We have read obituaries, the reports on activities by young members and book recommendations.

Rita and I hope that the magazine provides interesting reading reflecting our Church life and bearing witness to our concerns for other communities and fellowships. We would particularly like to thank Paul who has produced promptly an article for every issue which is always thought provoking and stimulating.

We have started a new series in which members of the congregation will give us an insight into a day in their jobs. Please feel free to approach Rita with suggestions and articles. The magazine has proved a useful way of advertising events.

We still post copies to past ministers and members who have left the area and we give copies to the Ladies Fellowship and local churches as well as the Bell and the Library.

We hope everyone is picking up a copy for themselves and, if they wish, ones to give to friends and family.

Janet Shaw and Rita Bateman

Home mission 2019

Home Mission is all about helping Baptist churches and individuals to reach their mission potential and bring the love of God to their communities. It is the Baptist family purse, and each year our union has an appeal to raise money for Home Mission.

In the past when this church was at a low ebb and we couldn't afford to pay all the costs of a full-time pastor we benefitted from Home Mission grants to help us support our minister.

One of the ways we raise money for Home Mission is by people having a box in which to put some of their loose change (e.g. 1p, 2p or 5p coins). The amount we raise by this method is beginning to drop as we move toward a cashless society., because paying for shopping by card generates no loose change!

There are a number of ways in which we could maintain or even increase our Home Mission fund giving such as:-

- To increase the value of the coins in our loose change which find their way into our collecting boxes
- Increase the number of people who have a collecting box (I have some spare ones available).
- For individuals to commit to give a fixed sum at the end of the year.
- Perhaps you have other ideas how we could increase our Home Mission giving – please let me know.

John Sargeant

House Groups Report

The House Groups of Clare Baptist Church continue to sustain their members in study, prayer, friendship and cake (or so I'm led to believe...). The church has provided resources for the groups to follow, or they have gone their own way as guided by their leaders or members. Studies offered have been on Moses, the names of God and, in line with a Sunday morning sermon series, the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Our current House Groups meet, usually fortnightly, on the following times and in the following places:

- Monday evening (Stanstead) – Hosts: Dan and Lucy Kidd / Leaders: Jane and John Baillie
- Monday morning (Clare) – Host/Leaders: Janet and Tom Shaw
- Wednesday evening (Clare) – Hosts: Various / Leaders: Janet Strellis and John Sargeant
- Thursday evening (Stoke-by-Clare) – Hosts: Mike and Sue Cumber / Leader: Wilf Stanbury
- Thursday evening (Clare) – Hosts: Peter and Rita Bateman / Leader: Elsa Day

New members are welcome in the groups. Please speak to the relevant leader or host to find out more if you are wanting to join. New groups are also welcome, particularly as we are more spread geographically. Please speak to me if you are interested in hosting and/or leading a new group. The planned ecumenical Lent Groups in 2020 may be a good place to start...

Paul Graham

Ladies Fellowship

Romans ch 12 4 – 5 says “Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body and we all belong to each other.”

Ladies and sometimes men come together, each one is an individual loved by God, each one joining in sharing, listening, laughing, grieving together. During

2019 we listen to old friends who had visited previously as well as welcoming new.

Some brought power point slides: – providing up to date information of their work

some their own piano stool: - Incredible piano playing by the Cane Twins

Some items from the past: - A talk from Glen Millar and the work of Ashdon Museum

We even had a police dog visiting: – Constable Nash, from the Metropolitan Police.

It is always a joy when new members join us to share in our meeting. It is with a great sadness we said “Goodbye, until we met again” to some very loved and faithful members, Aunt Em, Betty Shephard, Effie with her cheese straws and Marion with her cheese scones. The fellowship continually changes as we adjust, but there is always a lot of chatting, laughing, eating biscuits and tea drinking. This year we were able to donate to Eden’s in Sudbury to help towards purchasing property in Gainsborough Street, as well as St. Nicholas Hospice in Bury St. Edmunds. Due to donations received for refreshments after the visit of the Cane twins, we were also able to send a donation to Mary’s Meals, a charity which pays for school meals for African children. I would like to especially thank all those willing to help with the tea rota and transport. Special thanks go to the committee who undertake various tasks to keep everything running smoothly, especially in my absence.

The monthly Bible Study group continued throughout the year, meeting in Marion’s house. Again we welcome new members as we look at various passages from the Bible. This year we all enjoyed learning more about Jesus’ disciples and The Psalms. A time when questions are asked challenging the mind and understanding the love of God.

For as long as I can remember, Madeline has guided me, kept me in check, faithfully recorded, typed, written as Secretary as well as playing for many years. During the year she decided that “it was time for a younger person to take over”. Susan King joined the committee this year, with a view to taking over this role. A big thank you Madeline for all that you have done on the committee and with the meetings. I don’t think there is any job she hasn’t done. Thank you for all your hard work

Vivien Sargeant



Lighthouse gang 2019

2019 was a year of change with some of the older members having left the group at the end of 2018 to head off to university & life outside Clare. 2019 was a year of reaching out; members of lighthouse gang exploring their gifts both in the church and further afield, they asked if they could contribute to Church life in practical ways like operating the PA desk, playing music, serving coffee, welcoming us on the door and helping in Sunday club, a testament to their growth in Christ. Lighthouse gang members attended summer Christian camps and soul survivor which proved to be great fun. Alban graced us with his presence in the pulpit a couple of times in the year, one of which was an evening service led completely by lighthouse gang which is great to see.

In addition to the regular lighthouse gang on a Sunday there is also a fortnightly Housegroup led by Sarah in her home which most members make regularly and then there is also Twilighthouse gang which meets monthly on a Sunday evening in the church.

What is lighthouse gang all about?

- Learning – we study the bible and discuss the implications of things we discuss in our lives today
- Sharing – teenagers face many challenges in their life, being able to share these with their peers in a supportive environment is good
- Support – this is about putting ‘rubber on the road’, faith in action. Making sure that we can face the week ahead either individually or together

Each year, lighthouse gang save up their spare coins with an annual donation to shelter. This year (with a little contribution to raise it to a round number) they raised £40.

There was also a sleepover under canvas at the McGowan's which included making and cooking pizza's in their new pizza oven followed by fun & games and finally toasting marshmallows around the campfire.

It would be great to have additional support in leading (you don't have to lead!!) lighthouse gang, both to keep it fresh and to allow leaders the opportunity to get into church, if you are able to help please let one of us know.

Sarah, Dan, Jane & John

Link to Hope Boxes for Christmas 2019

Thanks to everyone for the very successful outcome from our effort in preparing and sending our boxes to Link to Hope.

Our Church boxes numbered 132 (which is no mean feat) and we had many donations of goods etc and plenty of help on our packing days.

The Church also became an 'Area Receiver' for other Churches and groups to deliver too for a large Collection Point at the end of the campaign.

I would like to thank again all those people who helped in carrying boxes up and down the stairs to get ready for our final 'Link to Hope' van to collect.

I look forward to this year when we start once again packing our boxes.

Gale Marshall



Pastoral Care

Wherever there are people, there are needs. Whether this is the need for friendship, or for help, or for someone to listen, or even the need to be left alone, there are always ways of looking beyond ourselves and connecting outside our individual world.

And it's too much to ask a group to cater for everyone. Clare Baptist Church has a Pastoral Care Group, which, through 2019, seemed to be in more need of care than it could provide, but this is only a small part of the story.

Every person within the church (and indeed every person everywhere) is involved in pastoral care whenever they truly listen to the response to the question "how are you?" How they respond, how far they can respond, what is appropriate in response defines the level of pastoral care that be provided.

In 2019, pastoral care has been demonstrated in shared meals, giving lifts, sitting beside occupied hospital beds, grieving alongside the bereaved, celebrating with the joyful and much more besides. Through friendship, mutual connection through house groups or other activities, this is where the majority of pastoral care has been found. The Pastoral Care Team exists to try to "fill the gaps" and to avoid people "falling through the cracks". Hopefully, in 2019, we have been able to do this.

We finish the year with the sad news of Marion Dyson's death, as we lose one of the "pillars of pastoral care" within the church (and wider community). We pray that we continue with a similar level of commitment to prayer, conversation and care that Marion demonstrated through her life, rooted in and sustained by her commitment to her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Paul Graham

Prayer Chain

2019 saw two big changes to the Prayer Chain at Clare Baptist Church. Firstly, we said a very grateful “thank you” to Wilf Stanbury as he stood down from being the primary point of contact and organiser of the Prayer Chain. He is still a committed prayer and member of the list, but the day-to-day communication and contact has been handed over on a temporary basis to Paul Graham.

The second change coincided with this handover and has embraced more technological means of communication. There are now two Prayer Chain lists: one is a much-reduced version of the old telephone list, the other is a new list of people who are willing to receive the prayer requests via email. Using this communication method has big advantages: as one email is sent to all recipients at the same time, it saves having to pass the message on and that there is less risk of messages getting altered in their passing. Confidentiality and sensitivity remain at the heart of this, alongside the desire to see God work in the lives of those we are praying for.

If anyone would like to join either list, please pick up a leaflet in church. It's good to pray...

Paul Graham

Prayer Ministry

What is Prayer Ministry I hear you ask, well quite simply, it is the Lord's Ministry through prayer, opening the door to the Holy Spirit to bring healing and wholeness. During 2019 we decided as a church to form a Prayer Ministry team, having asked for volunteers we now have around half a dozen in the team.. The team are not perfect Christians and by no means hold any superpower prayer skills, all the Ministry and power is God's but the team are there to walk with people on their journey and support them in prayer.

So far there has been some training and meetings, along with some healing services in the evenings; in 2020 we really want to take this forward making Prayer Ministry a consistent part of Clare Baptist Church, offering prayer during and after services as well as outside of church. We want to be fully open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to open the doors to his movement in our lives and church.

Dan

Pulpit Supply

I wish to say a big thank-you to Paul for his continued high standard of worship leading in the Church, his messages are always thoughtful in their presentation.

Thank-you to Wilf who has so valiantly come to my aid this past year taking many extra services.

Also the 'New Look' 4th Sunday evenings when we have welcomed Dan as a sensitive leader of Healing Services and the Lighthouse Gang taking very different and uplifting services excellently presented.

Elsa Day

Refugee Support

The church has continued to support, the work that is done in Dunkirk with the refugees.

This year 5 trips were made.

On each trip, the cars went loaded with clothing and sleeping bags etc, that had been generously donated by the people in the church, in Clare and from surrounding areas.

Any money that was raised from the selling of unsuitable items, was used to buy rice, lentils and tea bags.

Thank you for the contributions that have been made to this outreach. The help that is given to these people, in desperate need, could not be given without your generosity.

Julie Smith-Adams and Gillian Johnson

Senior & Youth Clubs Report

2019 closes on another year in the life of Senior and Youth Club which has seen major changes to both clubs, one of which will be having a rest during 2020. A large number of Senior Club children finished their stint with the club as they left Primary School. We finished with a talent show, something that this group

have enjoyed doing over the past couple of years. They are certainly a confident bunch, and it has been a pleasure to see them grow together as a group. We wish them well as they move onto the next chapter of life.

Sadly, they haven't made the transition to Youth Club, which has struggled throughout the last year to justify being open. Our numbers have dwindled in the autumn term to two or three a week, meaning that Youth Club will enter a hiatus during the first few months of 2020. Alongside this is an ongoing conversation that Paul is having with the local community about youth provision in the town. We hope that together we can provide activities and opportunities that better serve the needs of young people. It is a shame that our many resources are no longer needed on a Friday evening.

For those who remain in Senior Club, we have a faithful regular group of up to a dozen children, about half of whom are now in the last year of Primary School. We know that 2020 will bring a similar challenge as they move on and what we need to do from September onwards is already in the back of our minds. Please pray for guidance and wisdom; if this is the opportunity to do something different, to continue or to close. Please also pray for the leaders who have been involved in the last year; give thanks for their faithful service, enthusiasm and creativity. A particularly big "thank you" goes to Martin Snowling, who in 2019 stepped down from helping at Friday Club having been involved since he came along as a child. It's going to take some adjusting to having his Friday evenings back...

In finishing, please join us in giving thanks to God for those we have welcomed in; for those we have laughed with, been frustrated with, and painted, cooked and played many, many games with.

Paul Graham

Sunday Club Annual Report 2019

2019 has been a steady year for Sunday Club. We continue to have good attendance from our regulars, although numbers can change wildly week-to-week, with anything from 1 to 10 children. But we generally average 4-6 children each week. Planning can be difficult due to the wide age range in Sunday Club, from four years old right up to eleven. But, the dedicated team of leaders and helpers deal with this admirably and seem to come up with many

and myriad ways to make Sunday Club interesting and enjoyable for our children, whilst teaching them something of the nature of our God at the same time.

Once again, we joined with Lighthouse Gang for our summer programme, becoming the Sunlight Collective and looking at each of the 'I AM' statements in John's gospel and creating a banner each week to depict them. These were displayed at the front of the church for a while – we hope you enjoyed seeing the creativity of our youth and children in the church.

In September, Janet Strellis stood down from the co-ordinators role, and Vicky Graham took on the task. We'd like to thank Janet for her years of service to Sunday Club.

Also this year we had another visit from the donkeys, which was enjoyed by all (adults and children alike!) We had a fantastic Nativity play, written just for us by Sue Webber which the children performed brilliantly (thanks to Susan King and Jacqui Jennings for helping to make this happen so smoothly.)

Thank you to all those who work to make Sunday Club an enjoyable and enriching experience for all involved.

The Group With No Name (TGWNN)

This is the first report for this group, which has been meeting most months on the first Sunday afternoon since 2017. A group for men (and accompanied children) to "release their inner child", as the publicity says, we meet up to engage in various activities. These have included table tennis, pool, air hockey, darts and Scalextrix, accompanied by refreshments and a lot of chat.

Numbers attending have varied and we have occasionally welcomed in those from beyond our immediate church family, but those who come along enjoy the time together. Conversation has been varied and the competition over the table tennis table has sometimes been fierce, but always good natured.

Looking forward to 2020, we're branching out into some more specific areas, including jigsaw puzzles and model kit making. As a space for men to meet and deepen friendship, the prayer is that it would provide a welcome destination to invite friends, colleagues and neighbours, particularly those for whom church is an alien environment.

Paul Graham

Traidcraft Annual Report 2019

It's been another busy year for Traidcraft at Clare Baptist Church. After the financial difficulties experienced towards the end of 2018, Traidcraft itself has spent the year consolidating its new plans and finding a new direction. This has led to occasional stock issues which has been frustrating at times, but on the whole Traidcraft is becoming a stronger company again and finding new ways to be radically different in business.

In Clare, we've had our regular Sunday stall, and have also held a 'Big Brew' event in February, made an appearance at Books and Butties in June and at the Shoebox coffee morning in September. We had a successful Christmas launch in October, alongside taking the stall to Steeple Bumpstead, the church Christmas sale and to the CLASP sale, all in November. We have also supplied tea, coffee, cleaning materials, toilet roll and kitchen roll to the church.

As ever, we have been supported really well by our church, with steady sales throughout the year to support fair trade producers across the globe. We have also been blessed by the abundance of fresh produce from allotments and gardens, kindly donated to us to sell for donations to Traidcraft Exchange.

Just the fact that we buy from Traidcraft supports the company and fair trade producers – but we like to support this need further by donating our 'profit' throughout the year to Traidcraft Exchange. In 2019 this amounted to £704.44, with £139.70 of that coming from produce donations. This is a fantastic amount, and Vicky and Vivien would like to thank all those who have supported us throughout the year. We would also encourage anyone who hasn't tried anything from our stall to come and give us a go – there's a variety of products on offer and just one small purchase, regularly made, can make a difference to someone's life.

Vicky Graham and Vivien Sargeant





Clare Baptist Church

Receipts and payments accounts

To follow
and
worship
Jesus and
make Him
known

For the period:

1st January 2019 to
31st December 2019

LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS C/O Mr D. J. Sykes,
Wayside, Tilbury Road, Ridgewell, CO9 4RL

GOVERNING DOCUMENT Declaration of Trust

STATUS	The church is an excepted charity under section 30(2)(b) of the Charities Act 2011, and a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.
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MINISTER Rev. P. Graham

DEACONS (TRUSTEES)	J. Baillie	G. Johnson
	D. Kidd	C. Trundle
Secretariat	V. Sargeant & D. Sykes	
Treasurer	C. Barrable	

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE Baptist Union Corporation Ltd

BANKERS CAF Bank Ltd, West Malling, Kent.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER M. Snowling, July House, Lower Farm Road, Ringshall, IP14 2JE

TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the Charities Act 2011, the trustees are required to prepare a statement of account for each accounting year.

They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and to ensure that such accounts and records comply with the Charities Act 2011.

They also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the church and to take reasonable steps to detect fraud or other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurances that:

1. The church is operating efficiently and effectively
2. Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition
3. Financial information used within the church or for publication is reliable
4. The church complies with relevant laws and regulations.

TRUSTEE REPORT A Trustee Report is not presented under section 168(2)
of the Charities Act 2011

FINANCIAL COMMENTS ON THE 2019 ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies The accounts have been prepared on the basis of Receipts and Payments, with a Statement of Assets and Liabilities

3. Reserves Policy The deacons recognise that the church needs reserves to maintain its commitments for a given period of time should an unexpected eventuality reduce its income or increase its expenditure.

A reserve, designated "Contingency Fund" and shown separately in the annual accounts is therefore maintained, amounting to sufficient to pay the minister and any other employees for their period of notice and to keep the church and manse properly maintained.

At December 2019, the deacons considered the sum of £24,000 to be sufficient for these purposes.



Clare Baptist Church

Receipts and payments accounts

To follow
and
worship
Jesus and
make Him
known

For the
period:

1st January 2019 to
31st December 2019

Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Receipts				
Offerings	49,874	0	49,874	47,835
GA Tax	12,335	0	12,335	10,928
Mission Fundraising	1,394	0	1,394	1,973
Donations Received	1,899		1,899	3,648
Communion Fund Donations		550	550	0
Lettings	610	0	610	460
Interest	302	0	302	186
Misc.	200	0	200	91
	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	66,614	550	67,164	65,121
Payments				
Stipend/Pension Costs	30,537	0	30,537	28,128
BU Pension Fund shortfall	3,553	0	3,553	3,452
Manse Costs	5,117	0	5,117	3,956
Minister's Expenses	923	0	923	1,008
Youth Worker	0		0	793
Church Resources	400		400	617
Pulpit Supply	428		428	92
Donations etc (see next page)	10,884	259	11,143	11,574
Mission & Outreach	285	21	306	485
Youth etc	335		335	309
Printing & Stationery	770		770	850
Catering	968		968	875
General Misc	1,259		1,259	1,964
Property Maintenance	21,611		21,611	10,718
Cleaning	2,319	0	2,319	2,051
Utilities	3,559	0	3,559	3,575
Phone/Broadband	866	0	866	799
Insurance	1,683	0	1,683	1,595
Traidcraft (nett)	0	121	121	(826)
Total payments	85,498	401	85,899	72,015
Net of receipts/(payments)	(18,884)	149	(18,735)	(6,894)
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
Cash funds last year end	36,656	25,206	61,862	68,756
Cash funds this year end	17,772	25,355	43,127	61,862

Note: No assets or investments have been sold or purchased during the period.

Church Restricted Funds	£	£
Contingency Fund	24,000	24,000
Communion Fund	650	200
Traidcraft	705	826
Other		180
	25,355	25,206
Staff and Trustees		
Minister's Stipend per annum	27,202	25,025
Pension Contributions	3,335	3,103
BU Pension Fund Deficit	3,553	3,452
Cleaner's salary	1,920	1,920

Trustees received only repayment of costs incurred for the church.



Clare Baptist Church

Receipts and payments accounts

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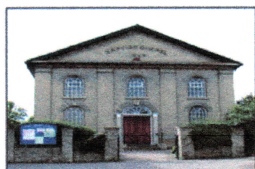
For the
period:

1st January 2019 to

31st December 2019

Donations

	Amount Paid	Collected/ Received	Nett Cost	Paid Last year
Home Mission	3,200		3,200	3,200
Home Mission Boxes etc.	374	225	149	116
World Mission	3,200		3,200	3,200
BMS Birthday Scheme	60	60	0	75
Youth For Christ Haverhill	1,200		1,200	1,650
Retired Baptist Ministers Housing Assn.	240		240	240
Edens Project	200		200	200
Conroy Rendon (House of Joshua)	1,260		1,260	1,250
Family Community Network (No. 72)	200		200	200
EBA Project 2019	400		400	200
Tearfund (Cyclone appeal)	1,150	1,012	138	1,200
Women's Refuge	300		300	300
Home for Good	300		300	200
Breakfast Speakers	61	61	0	801
From Communion Fund	100		100	50
Traidcraft Exchange	101	101	0	601
Donkey Sanctuary	80		80	0
Clare in Bloom	35		35	0
Great Sampford BC	100		100	0
TWAM (Tools with a Mission)	600	559	41	0
REACH Community Projects	100	100	0	0
BMS 'Life's First Cry'				551
Edens Project Garden Party				17
Retirement Gifts				75
Open Doors				361
Link to Hope				366
Total	13,261	2,118	11,143	14,853
See Payments - Unrestricted			10,884	
Restricted			259	
			11,143	
Payments for Other Causes				
For Lighthouse Gang:				
Shelter			53	
REACH			241	
Edens Project			241	
Haverhill YFC			241	
Link to Hope re shoe boxes			489	
St. Nicholas Hospice (for Community Carols)			861	
Christian Aid			15	



Clare Baptist Church

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the
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1st January 2019 to
31st December 2019

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Cash funds				
CAF Bank Current Account	494	0	494	1,315
CAF Bank Deposit Account	16,189	1,355	17,544	21,782
Baptist Union Deposit Account	190	24,000	24,190	37,713
Cash in hand	0	0	0	0
Total cash funds	16,873	25,355	42,228	60,810
Other monetary assets		0	0	0
Traidcraft Stock	899		899	1,052
			0	0
Total cash and monetary assets	17,772	25,355	43,127	61,862
Unrealised assets		Fund	Amount Due £	Last Year £
Gift Aid Repayment Due		Unrestricted	3,624	2,892
			3,624	2,892
Liabilities			£	£
For Traidcraft Exchange		Restricted	704	826
For Home Missions		Restricted		159
			704	985
Assets retained for the church's own use			Insured Value £	Last Year £
Church Building			2,149,745	2,028,061
Manse Building			152,626	146,584
Johannes Organ			15,407	14,673
Electronic Keyboards etc.			7,150	6,807
Mixing Desk & accessories & Piano			14,740	14,038
Laptop computer			3,022	2,878
All other church contents			120,330	114,600
Traidcraft stock			1,654	1,575
Funds held by Church Organisations			£	£
Allsorts			1,318	1,175
Junior Club			288	288
Senior/Youth Clubs			360	551
Craft Group			351	267
Ladies' Fellowship			301	356
			2,618	2,637

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of
approval

C.M. BARRABLE

4/2/2020



Clare Baptist Church
Receipts and payments accounts

**For the
period:**

**1st January 2019 to
31st December 2019**

**To follow
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CLARE BAPTIST CHURCH

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December 2019 set out on pages 3 to 6 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies defined in Note 1.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees of the church are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that the audit requirement under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), does not apply.

It is my responsibility to :

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act.
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners made under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

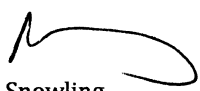
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - (b) to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records, have been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


M. Snowling
July House
Lower Farm Road
Ringshall
IP14 2JE

Date

16/2/20

