

Annual Report and Accounts 2013

For Edward Road Baptist Church



Charity Registration Number: 1140072

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Charity Status

Edward Road Baptist Church was formerly an “excepted charity” under the Charities Act 1993. The Heart of England Baptist Association takes responsibility as custodian trustee for the church building. The church does not own a manse. The church was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in its own right in January 2011, when its annual income exceeded £100 000.

Managing Trustees

The following are Managing Trustees of the Charity:

Senior Minister	Revd Alexander B Samy
Youth Minister	Revd Steve Blower
Secretary	Mrs Peggy Gouthwaite
Treasurer	Dr Eric Pennington
Elders	Mrs Peggy Gouthwaite Mr Ian Levett Miss Betty Milton

Grenville Dooley served as a trustee until the April 2013 AGM. No-one else served as a Charity Trustee or Custodian Trustee in the financial year in question.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Church means members of the charitable unincorporated association governed by the approved governing document of the Baptist Union of Great Britain which was adopted as its constitution on 5 October 2008.

Recruitment & Appointment of Trustees

The Church Ministers, Elders, Secretary and Treasurer are the managing Trustees of the charity. The Ministers are trustees ex officio and the Senior Minister is the Chair. The Elders, Secretary and Treasurer are chosen from among existing church members who show the reality of their faith by the consistency of their Christian character and by their loyalty to the cause of Christ as set out by the governing documents.

Election is for an initial term of 3 years, which may be renewed. Annual elections are held at the Church Annual General Meeting by ballot. Nominees must secure a vote of at least 66% of those present and eligible to vote.

Organisational Structure

The Church is governed and regulated by its own members. All aspects of the work of the Church are subject to the approval of the Church Members' Meeting which is normally held quarterly. The Ministers of the Church are paid Managing Trustees and with the Elders give leadership to the Church. The Elders (including additional Ministers), Secretary and Treasurer assist the Senior Minister in this role and together prepare the business for the Church Meeting.

Changes in 2013

One elder and trustee, Dr Steve Howard, resigned and left the church and another, Mr Grenville Dooley, resigned and asked to be moved to the associate members list.

Due to the declining numbers of eligible members to serve as church officers, the constitution was changed during the year to allow close family members to be elected as elders/trustees.

Peggy Gouthwaite was elected as a church secretary at the April AGM. She continues to also serve as an elder and trustee.

Baptist Union of Great Britain & Heart of England Baptist Association

The Church is part of the wider Baptist family and is therefore a member church of the Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA) and also of the national body, The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB). Both organisations are registered charities. The Church pays an annual subscription to BUGB based on its membership numbers and also makes donations to HEBA (Home Mission Fund) for the Baptist family in the UK (see accounts).

Custodian Trustee

The custodian trustee for the Church is the Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA), which holds the deeds of the Church property:

Edward Road Baptist Church, Balsall Heath,
Birmingham B12 9LY

No property valuation has been undertaken on the Church in recent years, and the value shown in the accounts is the insured value.

Relationships Between the Charities and Related Parties

The Church is an active member of the “Churches Together in Balsall Heath” ecumenical partnership.

For over 20 years the Church has maintained strong links with the Jericho Centre and the Jericho Foundation - two Christian charities initially established in the 1980 by the Church to offer support in Balsall Heath. Most of the Jericho Centre activities continue to run within the church premises and a number of church members sit on its board. This link provides valuable support to sustain the charity’s work in these times of financial difficulty.

Objectives and Activities

Objects of the Charity

The principal purpose of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination.

Statement of Faith

As a Member of the Baptist Union the Church subscribes to the Union’s Declaration of Principle:



“That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.

That Christian baptism is the immersion in water into the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who ‘died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried, and rose again on the third day’.

That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.”

As a member of the Evangelical Alliance, the church has adopted the Evangelical Alliance Basis of Faith. This can be found at:

<http://www.eauk.org/about/basis-of-faith.cfm>



Charity’s Aims

The Mission Statement of the church is:

“Making Disciples”

This Mission Statement helps shape the main aims of the church. This is manifested in the discipling and nurturing of believers as well as the proclamation and evangelisation of unbelievers in our community. The church also recognises its Christian obligations to lift up the oppressed, alleviate suffering and to improve quality of life. These obligations also help shape the community outreach aspects of the church’s aims.

The Activities as set out in the constitution:

- Regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- Baptism, as defined in the Union's Declaration of Principle;
- The Communion of the Lord's Supper which shall normally be observed at least once a month;
- Evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- The teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- Nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- Education and training for Christian and community service;
- Giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- Supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- Encouraging relationships with and supporting Baptists and other Christians.

Verse For The Year

Each year, the leadership of the church seeks God's face to guide in the choice of the verse for the year on which to set the year's direction. The verse chosen helps shape not only the All-Age Bible School series, but helps set the emphasis in the church's teaching and ministry. This year, as a church we sought to invest in equipping members of the congregation to enable them to serve within the life of the church and elsewhere in ways that may help them live out their Christian faith.

*God gave gifts to the church
"to prepare God's People for
works of service so that the
Body of Christ may be built up"*
Ephesians 4:12

Five Year Goals 2011 - 2015

The church agreed goals in the following areas:

1. Prayer & Spirituality - To develop an effective prayer ministry through which to discern the will of God and underpin the life and ministry of the church.
2. Worship - To teach and uphold clear biblical principles to encourage the church, under the power of God's Holy Spirit, to live lives of submission to God that reflect Christ. To provide opportunities in which each individual may experience God more fully and grow in their relationship with Him.
3. Discipleship - Create appropriate nurture structures to meet the needs of all those affiliated to the church, believers and seekers alike, to effectively disciple them and bring them closer to Christ. To create opportunities for such discipleship to take place formally, informally and personally.
4. Fellowship - To increase fellowship activities, such as meals, church events, away days, DIY days and so on. To ensure that such activities are planned to develop a deeper sense of community.
5. Mission - Maintain and develop our wider commitment to global missionary work and other expressions of "the body of Christ" so that we retain a good perspective of our place within the Universal Church and its ministry. To encourage a church-wide sense of responsibility for local mission aimed at corporately fulfilling the Great Commission through activities that proclaim Christ's saving gospel as well as practically demonstrate His love in the community.
6. Stewardship – To seek God's will each year concerning the main activities on which to focus. To effectively explain, promote and resource such activities that support the ministry team leaders in accomplishing these objectives. To review regularly the ministry of the Church to ensure that it does not stray from the Church's Mission Statement.
7. Fabric - To maintain and re-develop the Church buildings and equipment, as good stewards, to ensure that they are fit to fulfil the church's Mission Statement.

Details of Significant Activities

- Leadership
 - The election of a Church Secretary
 - Review of Safeguarding Policy
- Public Worship and Discipleship
 - Over a hundred worship services
 - Baptism classes and four baptisms
 - Two Alpha Courses
 - Open air services
 - Weekly prayer & discipleship meetings
 - Men's breakfast
 - The formation of a new House Group
 - Two weddings and a marriage renewal
 - Funerals
 - New Pew Bible
 - New Churches Together Covenant
- Local Mission and Social action
 - Parent and toddler group
 - ESOL classes for ladies
 - Tae Kwon Do Classes
 - Men's Drop In
 - Night Shelter
 - Community Christmas toys
 - Equip to Serve - Training courses in food & hygiene, child protection
- Youth Work
 - Numerous community youth clubs
 - Youth training programmes
 - Youth Leadership Training & Mentoring
 - Trips & Youth Residential Weekends
 - Dance groups
 - New house group
- Children's Work
 - Sunday Schools
 - Sunday School volunteer training
 - Children's holiday club
- Church Fellowship activities
 - Bring & share meals, BBQs & picnics
 - Church spring clean
- Fabric repairs and maintenance,

Charity's Strategies

The Church continues to believe that sacrificial investment in the wider congregation as well as the local un-churched community is the best strategy for achieving the objectives of the Church.

Senior Pastor's Report

This year has been an exciting year of great development and growth, empowerment and equipping, which was greatly inspired by our Verse For The Year from Ephesians 4:12 which states, God gave gifts to the church "to prepare God's People for works of service so that the Body of Christ may be built up".

The spiritual growth of new believers, most dramatically demonstrated through baptism, was a vivid testimony of this growth. We held two baptismal services this year, one on Easter Sunday, in which Alex Diyalanthonige and Calah Riley-Lamb were baptised and another in the autumn when Bryan Crawford and Christy Samuel did likewise in following in Christ's footsteps.

This represents a dramatic increase in the number of baptisms. Moreover, that four people in a relatively small congregation would choose to make professions that are so radically countercultural¹ is doubtless a demonstration of the relevance of God for all generations and in all contexts. While all baptisms are significant, to some extent, these baptisms were socially significant because those being baptised came from some of the most deprived of urban settings; three of the men in their forties and fifties, the other a youth. These groups are statistically the least represented groups within the church in Britain today, which can only be explained through the tangible work of God. At their baptisms, the testimonies they gave were stories of divine transformation and hope. This was most dramatically expressed in Christy's testimony, as he told us how his last visit to the church as a youth was to steal the lead off the church roof, in order to finance his substance abuse and lust for money. Now, having served multiple prison sentences and survived numerous drug overdoses his life has been dramatically transformed beyond recognition. Perhaps this is the most dramatic

¹ The professions state (i) "I believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit", (ii) "I confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour" (iii) "I commit to turn from sin, renounce evil and intend to follow Christ" and "And I commit to live within the fellowship of the church and will you serve Jesus Christ in the world"

proof of the relevance of the words of scripture in which Christ, the great physician, did not come for the healthy but for the sick (Matthew 9:12) and that through His body, the church, He continues to lead the lost, lift up the downtrodden and heal the broken.

While Edward Road remains active, vibrant and relevant in our community, it was with great sadness that we saw another church in Balsall Heath close its doors for the last time as well as the amalgamation of two other congregations into one, as a result of dwindling numbers. Sadly, this has been part of a disheartening trend - over the past decade, we have seen the number of churches in Balsall Heath drop from eight to four. Nevertheless, as Churches together we embarked on an ambitious project to rethink our ecumenical work together. This resulted in the drawing up of a new Covenant which all the member churches signed. This process included an exploration of our theological distinctiveness in a series of studies led by Edward Road.

Few things bring about a sense of jubilant celebration like weddings and new born babies. This year we celebrated the birth of Rosa Blower – the daughter of two of our supported missionaries, Kate and Dave Blower. We also celebrated the wedding of Christy and Fay Samuels, which was a truly uplifting event. Likewise we celebrated the remarkable reaffirmation of wedding vows of John and Lovetta Campbell on their fiftieth, “Golden” wedding anniversary – an outstanding testimony of a family blessed by the grace of God with humility, devotion and love! Coincidentally, we also hosted another community wedding this year – with the exception of a community wedding two years ago, these were the first weddings held at Edward Road for almost a decade.

For much of this year we benefited from the invaluable contribution of Nikki Kelly, our Children & Families worker. Sadly, her time with us came to an end in July, when she and her husband John emigrated to Canada. Nevertheless, Nikki left behind a Sunday school team that is healthy and well managed. She also left the church with resources that have enabled us to replicate many of the programs that she initiated during her time with us. We wish both Nikki and John every blessing

during their time away and eagerly look forward to their return in 2015.

This year we benefited greatly from the election of a new Church Secretary, Peggy Gouthwaite, who also serves as a Church Elder, after a very long period with a vacancy in that post. Peggy has brought a level of professionalism to the church that has long been lacking. Peggy has also begun archiving many of the church records electronically, allowing these records to be accessed remotely with far greater ease.

A number of policies and procedures have been drafted by Pastor Steve, Carol and the Admin Team. Perhaps the most significant has been the new Safeguarding Policy & procedures. This was followed by a program of safeguarding training that has ensured better working practices.

It has been a great encouragement to see Luke Boulton develop in his ministry under the guidance of Pastor Steve, completing a CYM Certificate of Youth Work. Following in his footsteps, we now have three more of our young people engage in the CYM course – Gary Boulton, doing the youth course at the Feast in Birmingham and Courtnee Courier and Helen Samy doing the children’s course at Bristol Baptist College.

As we look back at this past year, we thank God for the direction in which He has taken us – for the verse that has helped us to remember our need to be constantly “rooted in Christ” and for His abundant blessing. We pray that as we find our direction, hope and strength in Him we may continue to bear fruit for His glory in years to come.

Pastor - A. Samy

Ministry Coordinator’s Reports

Church activities are organised and run through five ministries. Each Ministry is coordinated by a Ministry Coordinator who is independently responsible, under the oversight of one a responsible elder, to fulfil the Church’s aims within a set budget allocated for the year. The work of the church is therefore reported here through individual reports prepared by the Ministry Coordinators.

Families' Ministry

In the families ministry, 2013 has been a year of change, progress and establishing solid foundations for the future. Though resources always seem stretched, YHWH-yireh (God-provider) continues to supply more than enough. The blessings we enjoyed as Nikki Kelley ministered among us for the first half of the year have helped to establish good foundations for the development of the families ministry. Since then, various measures have been taken to ensure that this good work can continue without a dedicated families worker.

For example, in combining the families and youth work ministries within one role, it became necessary to link the young-adults age group more intentionally with the discipleship ministry. This will mean they can continue to receive appropriate support; helping to integrate young people into wider church life as they make the transition to adulthood.

Measures have also been taken to equip more leaders for the increase of ministry we continue to be blessed with. In the previous annual report it was written; "The year ahead will focus on team support and development with training opportunities." It's therefore really good to be able to report that numerous training programs have been utilised to equip the saints for works of service. This has included safeguarding training, children's work training, youthwork training, supervision training and so on. It is hoped that this program will not only be the result of our vision for 2013, but become established as part of the ministry's ongoing commitment to all the team members and those whom they serve in sharing the Good news of Jesus Christ.

In addition to training, there have been various developments in terms of providing more structural support, enabling the ministry to run effectively. This has included the development of policies and processes which have already had a noticeable impact through helping teams and volunteers to approach their tasks with greater confidence and a sense of support.

The sports ministry at ERBC has steadily become more and more a feature of the local community's provision. ERBC's resident Taekwondo master, Samson, appeared flying through the air onto the front cover of the local paper promoting local assets! The reputation of this club has meant demand is now exceeding capacity, but such challenges are well managed by a core team of exceptionally gifted and committed volunteers.



Dance continues to deliver a program exploring self-esteem, teamwork, spirituality and health related issues. It's thrilling to be able to say that this ministry is now in the gifted hands of Luke Boulton, who has been developing an exciting action plan for the future. Table tennis continues to quietly develop and grow as an interest in the church and wider community so we hope this may result in a dedicated club over the next 12 months.

Though fewer volunteers are now available in the 11-15s community youth club, we continue to see growth in terms of regular attendees as well as their sense of esteem and value. The club moved towards a youth-led model in which the senior team work hard to support the young people in developing sessions and projects for the community.

Some of the most significant work in terms of team development has happened in the Junior Church team, which has more than doubled this year. This makes the return to four groups instead of three a real possibility for 2014. Praise YHWH-yireh for his provision!

Bible study continues in a midweek youth discipleship group, which has really found its feet in 2013. A committed group of 8 or so young people come together to pray, study God's word and encourage one another each week.

Toddlers and parents also get a chance to hear Bible stories at Sparklers which continues to serve the community in this fun midweek session full of music, games, toys and a good chat over a cuppa! The Sunday Sparklers program has also allowed some of the regular Sparklers mums and children to attend a mothers and toddlers group that meets while church meets, allowing the two groups to mingle and to build friendships. Children's care also continues to be provided weekly during term time at ESOL, about which more can be read under the 'Mission' ministry heading.



When term-time activities cease for children the holiday programs begin! Whether it's Bridge, Hulabaloo or the Light Party, children have enjoyed a real variety of fun and festive provision, all seasoned with good news.

Of course, it hasn't just been the children who kept busy during holidays; young people (11-18s) have been attending church sleepovers with various Biblical themes. A group camped at a 10,000-strong gathering of young Christians at Soul Survivor. Of course, the ever popular Youth Transformed week at the beginning of the Summer Holidays proved to be inspiring; moving; transforming.

Another one of our youth, Calah, made a firm faith commitment and was baptised this year. We look forward to 2014 and all it brings. May the provision of our God, YHWH-yireh, be gratefully received, and well invested.

Rev. Steve Blower

Discipleship Ministry

At Edward Road Baptist Church we are called by God to make disciples. This year has been shaped by a verse of scripture given to us by God from Ephesians 4:12 which states, God gave gifts to the church "to prepare God's People for works of service so that the Body of Christ may be built up". This verse has challenged us to explore how to disciple our congregation by equipping them for ministry both within the church and further afield.

As a direct result of this challenge – a great deal was done in the evening services to equip and empower our congregation. This included a series of training courses that covered Child Protection, Health & Safety, Risk Assessment and Food and Hygiene training. A large number of our congregation, as well as some of our non-Christian friends that attend some of our midweek activities, engaged with these training courses and were better equipped to serve within the church and beyond as a result.

Apart from these specific courses, the remainder of our preaching and teaching has remained faithfully biblical. That said, we have continued to explore the use of a broad variety of styles of delivery. With over 12 preachers preaching in our morning and evening services, we have had expository preaching and teaching, inspirational preaching by visiting speakers, a number of whom shared their mission experiences, and training, we have also incorporated inductive learning techniques through our All Age Bible School and have always attempted to engage our congregation in the learning experience.

This year, two, four weeks, All-Age Bible Schools were held - one in spring for and the other in autumn. In spring we concluded our study through biblical foundations of our church statement of faith; while in the autumn, we explored the challenge of living out our Christian faith practically in our day-to-day life in the work place and in the home.

In addition to the teaching we provided, a large number of the youth in our congregation engaged with scripture through residential weekends away, through the Youth Transformed week away and through a well-attended trip to a Christian event in Shepton Mallet run by Soul Survivor.

With awareness that much of our growth comes from our own personal devotion, we have continued to give out UCB "The Word for Today" notes to aid in private bible-study time. The uptake has continued to be quite good and we pray that the material is being used well in people's homes.

In addition, we also ran an Alpha course and Baptism Classes twice in one year. These were very well attended and resulted in Calah and Alex being baptised on Easter Sunday and Christy and Bryan being baptised in September, as well as four others committing to be baptised on Easter Sunday 2014. As a follow up to baptism classes a new house group on Mondays was started, that meets at the home of Ian and Karen Levett. This group has attracted a rather large crowd who have shown real growth through this time of fellowship, bible-study and accountability.

The Tuesday morning prayer and Bible study group, continued faithfully. The monthly men's Bible Study Breakfast on Sunday mornings has also continued steadily with faithful attendance. However, the two of the house groups that met on Thursday nights have now stopped meeting for the moment through dwindling numbers.



Likewise, the worship has been suitably varied, meeting the needs of the diverse congregation. A number of Open Air services have taken the church outside the walls of the building to worship publicly and to declare God's awesome sovereignty over all His creation. The Good Friday March of Witness, along with other Churches

together united services and pulpit exchanges, have practically testified to our commitment to God's universal church, wherever His word is preached and His people worship in spirit and truth.

The addition of Judith Bebb to the worship band has made a great difference, encouraging the congregation to participate in Spirit filled times of open congregational praise. The choir has faithfully persevered, occasionally unaccompanied, despite the loss of a couple of their singers. For these visible acts of worship as well as the many other unmentioned, private acts of worship, we continue to give God the glory.

Through a generous bequest from John Mallard, our former pastor, we purchased a hundred new pew bibles this year.

In 2014, as we look at what it means for us to declare "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain" our prayer is that we may learn to more fully surrender to God, to who alone is worthy of all honour and glory forever.

Pastor - A. Samy

Mission Ministry

With the reorganisation of the existing ministry teams in 2012, Local Mission and Global Mission now sit under this Ministry.

Global Mission - The scope of Global Mission is broad and consists of all mission which is not initiated by ERBC, and can be local, national as well as international as the title suggests. Organisations we support include BMS World Mission, WEC, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Birmingham City Mission (BCM), the Gideons, the Leprosy Mission, Compassion and Agape, for whom our own members David and Kate Blower work.

Thelma Balfour serves as our link with the Gideons by distributing and collecting back the tubes which several of our members use to save coins.

Through BMS World Mission we continue to support Simon and Solange Wood and their children in their work in Guinea. Additionally we support the work of Hikmat and Krista Kashouh at Hadath Baptist Church and the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon.



The Church has maintained its strong links with BCM this year and has been involved in distributing gifts of food from our harvest thanksgiving and toys at Christmas to needy families in the area.

We continue to encourage any member of the fellowship who has an interest in any mission, either one of the existing ventures we support or a new one to ERBC, to contact one of the Elders to see how we can support or raise awareness for the cause.

Local Mission - Existing regular activities which have continued throughout 2013 include:

Sparklers continued to meet the needs of mothers and young children in the community, building bridges, reducing prejudices and teaching about the Christians faith.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for local women continued to develop; delivering better than ever service to the community with its growing number of volunteers.

Sadly the book table that was faithfully manned on the steps of the Church every Friday when weather permitted is no longer running. We thank Mr Lewin and John Dolan for their service over the years - many of our neighbours stopped and chatted with them while others took note of ERBC's visible presence in the community.

The men's drop-in club is held most Wednesday mornings in the Church Hall. Over the year we have built relationships with a number of men from

the community, and Fazayl has steadfastly organised the food rota.. Friendship and trust has been built up between the volunteers and the men attending the club, some of whom have felt sidelined by society in the past.

The popular film nights held over the winter months in previous years were not run during 2013; the last one being December of 2012. However, if there is sufficient interest in re-launching the film nights towards the end of 2014 then this will be considered.



Existing Annual Activities - Once again the Church held its open air service and community barbeque, and despite the terrible weather (for the second year running) large numbers of our neighbours joined us for food and fellowship under our gazebos.

Due to new layouts, the routes for the annual half marathon did not pass down Edward Road this year and so we did not have the opportunity to host outdoor services for this event, which had gone down well in the past. Whilst the Skyride route did pass by the Church this year, the terrible weather meant an outdoor service was not feasible.

ERBC were not involved in this year's Balsall Heath Carnival. Whilst members from the Church have for many years made a significant contribution to the organisation and running of the carnival it was decided to focus our time and resources this year on the Calthorpe Park fun day instead. The fun day provided the opportunity to become involved in a new event much closer to the Church and the community we already work with. The day was a success and it will be interesting to see how ERBC can become further involved in any future days.

On Halloween the Church again held a Light Party for children from Church families and the neighbourhood. Light Parties are a positive alternative to the usual Halloween parties and ERBC ran our first one last year which was organised by Nikki Kelly. Thanks go to Pastor Steve and Suzie Gouthwaite for organising 2013's party, along with all the other volunteer's hard work the event was a resounding success and we hope to turn this into a new ERBC tradition.

As a Church we held our second children's holiday 'Bridge' club based on material produced by Birmingham City Mission. The club was again a big success, attracting a number of children from the local community. Many thanks to all the organisers and volunteers who put in so much time and effort into the week and the hours of planning beforehand. Pastor Steve and Suzie Gouthwaite have agreed to organise this coming year's event. They would appreciate our support, and any volunteers who are willing to get involved. For the third year in a row we also held our carol service on the steps of the Church again, this time on Christmas Eve.

Jericho - It is noteworthy that a significant amount of the outreach work carried out by the church among the youth takes place in partnership with the Jericho Centre. It could be said that the Jericho Centre dovetails with what we as a church are trying to achieve in our community and as such needs our continuing support to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of local young people, fills gaps where the Church is not currently involved and remains focused on trying to do what God wants to do in Balsall Heath.

There is no defined team for this Ministry; people can be involved in as many or as few of the activities that ERBC undertakes throughout the year. If you would like to become involved in any of the activities mentioned above, or have a good idea for an activity that we haven't tried before, then please get in touch with either Ali Grubb or Pastor Samy.

A. Grubb

Stewardship Ministry

In 2013 repairs to leaded windows continued.

Mills Electrical did a number of minor alterations including moving several lights lower so that maintenance could be done safely. The hall smoke alarms were changed for battery free alarms for the same reason. The failure of the alarm test switch was investigated and no solution was found so they did not charge for this work and simply advised us to press the button on any smoke alarm button to test the whole system. They installed a frost guard tube heater in the vestry toilet.

APEC architects designed handrails for the front steps and the Listed Building Advisory Committee approved them. Jericho installed the handrails.

British Gas refunded £1252.26 incorrectly billed electricity after a long complaint. Pastor Samy got an advantageous new rate for the electricity.

Gary Turner did minor repairs to the toilets. He will install a wash hand basin in the kitchen.

The main boiler for the church sanctuary failed terminally and an application was made to the Listed Building Advisory Committee for replacement with two new boilers in the vestry corridor. The application and quotes are ongoing.

The vestry roof started to leak and a quote for repair is awaited.

Thelma continued to care for many practical matters including towels and tablecloths. Some repairs and renewals of cloths were made.

Thank you to the many people who helped with all the work.

S. Pennington

Administration Ministry Report

As a Church we continue to see God at work in all aspects of our Church life. We see our older members continue their steadfast walk with the Lord and continue being the real prayer warriors of the Church. We see our young people growing in spirit and maturity and we look forward to the fruit which they will produce in future years. Our 30 pluses continue juggling family, work and life whilst being real ambassadors for God. Nevertheless, Edward Road remains a very busy Church, actively involved in a growing assortment of church outreach community activities.

Below is some factual information of interest:

Current Membership	=	75
Baptisms	=	4
Infants Presented	=	0
New Members	=	3
Average Sunday morning Attendance	=	80
Deaths	=	0
Members resigned	=	2
Members moved to associate list	=	1

Despite having three paid staff, with an ever growing number of activities, we are heavily reliant on volunteers. The work done at Edward Road could not be done if members of our fellowship did not volunteer their time, expertise, skills and good will. We thank God for each and every one who has helped. We also thank God for all those from outside the fellowship who support the ministries of this church – especially those from our partner churches in Balsall Heath Churches Together.

Over the year we have been truly blessed by the preachers some from our own fellowship and also visiting preachers who came and ministered God's word to us as well as the worship leaders who brought us into God's presence week by week.

Admin Team

Treasurer's Report

Financial review

The Church has two principal sources of income, namely

a) Weekly, monthly and annual offerings given by members of the congregation, friends of the Church and visitors. With the addition of Gift Aid, this funds the vast majority of the day to day running costs of the Church, including the stipend, National Insurance and pension costs of a full time Baptist Minister, a three quarter time Youth Pastor and a half time Children and families worker

b) Rent from hire of the church buildings and associated rooms. The Christ Apostolic Church continues to rent the church building on Sunday afternoons. Other occasional rental of the Church hall or rooms takes place from time to time. Overall this is a small percentage of the Church's income.

Reserves Policy

The Church received slightly more than it spent in 2013 (by about £480). This small surplus was returned to reserves. The Church currently holds £72663 in its savings accounts. A total of £793 interest was earned on the 2 savings accounts. The Trustees, in line with Baptist Union guidance, feel it is prudent to keep a minimum reserve of 6 months running costs (at present approximately £50000) in the savings account. The reserves currently are therefore satisfactory.

Plans for Future Periods

The principal focus this year has been on ministry, human resources and outreach, so mainly routine maintenance of the church building has been carried out. It is anticipated that this situation will not change in 2014, and that with prudent management, income will closely match expenditure. Although we anticipated that we might need to do so at the start of 2013, we did not need to draw on our reserves through the year.

One major item of future expenditure remains outside of, and additional to, our budget for 2014. The boiler to the main Church building failed at the end of 2013, Replacement, and re-siting in order to prevent a repeat future failing requires Listed Buildings permissions. This will be a significant expense, some of which ultimately may have to come from reserves as a heating system is necessary in order for the main Church building to be used. The congregation is currently meeting in the Church Hall which has a separate heating boiler.

Our Baptist Minister Rev. Alex Samy is a paid Trustee and is called to lead the Church in preaching and worship, pastoral care, mission and all other aspects of Church life.

The Reverend Stephen Blower, is also an accredited Baptist Minister. He works as a three quarter time Youth Pastor. He is also a paid Trustee of the Church.

Our Children and families worker is Nikki Kelly left at the end of July 2013.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- i) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- ii) Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- iii) State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- iv) Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that financial statements comply with charity law. The trustees are also responsible for safe guarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP revised 2005).

Income from donations and other voluntary income are recognised on a received basis. The charity has not given any financial consideration for voluntary help received during the year, and is not able to quantify such assistance.

Grants, gifts and donations were made to various organisations in the furtherance of the charity's objectives. Monies received for specific causes are held as restricted funds pending remittance of monies to the appropriate beneficiary. The principal beneficiaries are listed in the statement off accounts.

The Church pays pension contributions for its Minister to the Baptist ministers' Pension Trust Ltd, a final salary defined benefit scheme, which is not contracted out of the State pension scheme. The scheme is a multiple employer scheme and it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities of the scheme which are attributable to the Church. Ministers pay 8% contribution and the Church as employer pays 10% contribution to this scheme plus 11% deficiency contributions, as determined by the Baptist pension Scheme.

Funds held by the charity are either *Unrestricted General Funds* which can be either used or designated in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees, or *Restricted Funds* which can only be used for their particular restricted purpose within the objectives of the charity.

Tangible Assets

The Church building is a historic Grade 2b listed building with a very long life and as such it is not practical or cost effective to place a value on the property or its land. The latest insured value is shown in the statement of accounts.

The Church does not own a manse or any other tangible assets.

Capital Expenditure Commitments

The Church anticipates capital expenditure in 2014 to re-site and replace the boiler to the main heating system for the Church. The cost of this is not yet known but may be of the order of £10,000. Depending on giving and the availability of grants, some or much of this may be met from Church reserves. It is anticipated that £1000 will be spent on minor refurbishment and £1000 on routine maintenance, and that these amounts will be met from the general income of the Church.

Other future plans are discussed in the Fabric Ministry Team report.

Treasurer – E. Pennington

Independent examiners' report

To the trustees of Edward Road Baptist Church.

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2013, below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Michael Peart

Relevant professional qualification or body: C Eng MIEEE

Address: 44 George Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9RG

Date: 10/2/2014

Name: Mrs B Officer

Relevant professional qualification or body: Retired Nurse

Address: 50 Newport Road, Moseley, Birmingham B12 8QD.

Date: 10/2/2014

Income 2013 Edward Road Baptist Church

Income 2013 Edward Road Baptist Church

	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>	
	<u>unrestricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>restricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>unrestricted</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>restricted</u> <u>funds</u>
Offertory	£65,187		£68,348	
Inland revenue	£15,499		£14,757	
Use of premises	£1,550		£2,840	
gifts and legacies and other income	£600		£0	
pastoral care		£200		£170
flowers				£60
minibus		£1,737	£395	
worship				
local mission		£120		£4,367
Sunday School Child sponsorship		£78		£225
Spring Harvest		£3,665		
Baptist Beirut Seminary		£1,800		
Other Mission and donations		£1,054		£4,844
Fabric - building fund		£4,261		£5,339
Youth including trips and events		£2,921		£3,732
other committed income		£50		£52
	<u>£82,835</u>	<u>£15,886</u>	<u>£86,340</u>	<u>£18,790</u>
 <u>year totals</u>	 <u>£98,721</u>		 <u>£105,130</u>	
 Interest received (see balance sheet)	 £582			
<u>Total income</u>	<u>£99,303</u>		<u>£105,130</u>	

Note: £2287.07 received for building fund in January 2012 reimbursed work done in 2011

Expenditure 2013 Edward Road Baptist Church

Expenditure 2013 Edward Road Baptist Church

	2012		Budget 2013	Extra funds available	2013	
	unrestricted funds	restricted funds			unrestricted funds	restricted funds
Pastors Stipend AS	£14,575		£22,563		£15,232	
Tax and NI A Samy	£4,945				£5,328	
Baptist Ministers Pension Fund AS	£6,864		£5,607		£7,743	
Manse Allowance AS	£6,000		£6,000		£6,000	
Council Tax and Water Rates Manse AS	£1,514		£1,600		£1,515	
TOTAL Pr Samy & on costs	£33,898		£35,770		£35,818	
S Blower stipend	£6,773		£16,922		£12,273	
Tax and NI S Blower	£1,245				£2,959	
Pension fund SBlower	£0		£3,500		£2,906	
Manse allowance S Blower	£3,000		£6,000		£6,000	
Council tax and water rates manse S Blower	£511		£1,200		£1,018	
Total S Blower & on costs	£11,529		£27,622		£25,156	
N Kelly Pay	£9,292		£7,521		£5,289	
Tax and NI N Kelly	£983				£485	
Total N Kelly & on costs	£10,275		£7,521		£5,774	
Subscriptions	£361		£360		£344	
Church Telephone and internet	£330		£300		£357	
Copyright License	£433		£440		£442	
Other finance expenditure	£143		£140		£109	
Ministers and others study Courses and travel	£0				£392	
Total Utility & Other	£1,267		£1,240		£1,645	
Electricity	£1,297		£1,450		£2,200	
Gas	£2,251		£2,200		£2,312	
Water Rates,insurance, fire extinguishers	£3,732		£3,800		£3,745	
Renovation and major projects	£0	£3,533		£5,339		£3,592
minor repairs and maintenance	£948		£1,000		£787	
Total Fabric	£8,228		£8,450	£5,339	£9,044	£3,592
TOTAL FINANCE & FABRIC	£65,197		£80,603	£5,339	£77,436	£3,592
Minibus fuel	£59					£0
Minibus maintenance, tax, insurance	£0	£1,459	£1,300		£-112	
Flowers	£48		£150		£0	£0
Office Supplies	£257		£350		£115	
TOTAL ADMIN	£363		£1,800		£3	
Worship Materials	£51		£200		£934	
Visiting Speakers	£100		£100			
Fellowship	£0	£200				
discipleship	£100		£150		£148	
Spring Harvest	£1,605	£3,665				

Ames Sanitary	£252					
Lucy Francis (church cleaner)	£471					
Other Hospitality and housekeeping	£259		£300		£236	
TOTAL WORSHIP	£2,837		£750		£1,318	
Home Mission	£3,200		£3,000		£3,000	
BMS	£3,200		£3,000		£3,000	
Agape	£1,200	£418	£1,200		£1,200	
Beirut Seminary - Hikmat Kachouh	£1,200	£1,800	£1,200	£2,800	£1,200	£2,800
Other charities and donations	£1,189			£2,044		£4,392
local mission	£1,298	£120	£1,300			£2,308
TOTAL MISSION	£11,287			£4,844	£8,400	£9,500
Sunday School Child Sponsorship	£426	£78	£252		£279	£225
various materials and resources	£586		£700		£625	
Youth ministry	£1,999	£2,971	£1,300	£2,365	£330	£3,732
Trainee youth worker bursary and expenses	£2,570	£50				
Course fees Centre for Youth Ministries and Staffs Uni		£350				
TOTAL FAMILIES	£5,931		£11,952	£2,365	£1,234	£3,957
	£85,615	£14,294	£95,105	£12,549	£88,392	£17,049
YEAR TOTALS	£99,910		£107,654		£105,441	

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of 31 December 2013

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of 31 December 2013

<u>Cash Funds</u>	Dec 31st 2012	Dec 31st 2013
<u>Cash funds at 31 December 2013</u>	£89,617.72	<u>£89,010.58</u>
 <u>Current Account</u>		
Opening balance for year	£23,328.00	£7,139.35
Net income	£98,721.35	£105,129.55
Net Expenditure	£99,910.00	£105,441.08
Transferred to National Savings Account	£0.00	£0.00
Withdrawn from National Savings Account	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Transferred to Santander Savings Account	£25,052.00	£0.00
Withdrawn from Santander Savings Account	£52.00	£0.00
Closing Balance for Year	£7,139.35	£16,827.82
 <u>National Savings Account</u>		
Balance 1 January 2012	£66,289.72	£56,647.59
Transferred to current account	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Transferred from current account to National Savings Account	£0.00	£0.00
Interest 2012	£357.87	£414.38
Balance 1 January 2013	£56,647.59	£47,061.97
 <u>Santander Savings Account (opened March 2012)</u>		
Balance 1 January 2013	£0.00	£25,223.64
Transferred from Current Account	£25,052.00	£0.00
Transferred to current account	£52.00	£0.00
Interest 2012	£223.64	£378.41
Balance 1 January 2014	£25,223.64	£25,602.05
 <u>Total Cash Funds at 31 December 2012</u>	 <u>£89,010.58</u>	 <u>£89,491.84</u>
 <u>Other Monetary assets</u>	 nil	 nil
 <u>Investment assets</u>	 nil	 nil
 <u>Assets retained for Charity's own use</u>	 nil	 nil
 <u>Value of Church premises (Insurance valuation)</u>	 £3,771,931.00	 £3,828,543.00
<u>Value of Pipe Organ (Insurance valuation)</u>	£115,502.00	£117,235.00

Liabilities

The Church has a liability to the shortfall in the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund. This is being met by a monthly Deficiency Contribution which is included within the figure for Pastor Samy's stipend and on-costs and is additional to the pension contributions paid by the Church. In 2013 this was £249.33 monthly

Note: The Church building is held in Trust by Heart of England Baptist Association who hold the deeds to the Church premises.

