

## Rugby Baptist Church Trustees' Report - 2015-6

In accordance with Charity Law for churches with an income of over £100,000 as the Trustees of Rugby Baptist Church (The Diaconate), we now present this annual report of our recent activities. This report will be forwarded, in due course, to the Charity Commission along with the independently examined accounts of our Church and associated papers.

**The Diaconate.** The Diaconate (Board of Trustees) has met 14 times over the course of the year 2015-16, including an Away Day in the Hope Centre, Rugby in September. At the November ACM Emma Tiller was appointed as the Church Secretary 2015-8, and 2 Deacons were re-elected onto the Diaconate - the Church's leadership team: Mick Daulman and Carey Cowperthwaite. In March 2016, a long search for an Associate Minister came to an end with the appointment of the Revd Peter den Haan to work with us over the course of 2016-9. The Diaconate has reported regularly to the Church Meeting, which usually meets bi-monthly, to discuss, share information and to take decisions together. Over the course of the year the Diaconate has continued to work at delivering specific targets based around five core purposes in church life: Discipleship, Fellowship, Ministry, Worship and Outreach. Our principal activities as a Church, are 1) Worship and prayer. 2) The teaching and sharing of the Christian Faith within an all-age faith community. 3) The pastoral care of individuals, and 4) Service to the local community and the wider world. Among the particular targets we set ourselves this year have been to:

- Continue the search for an Associate Minister to work with us over the course of 2016-9
- Consider the kind of Church Secretary / Administrator we need from 2016
- Explore ways to strengthen our corporate prayer life
- Continue to work at property repairs highlighted in the – generally encouraging - 2015 Quinquennial Property Report
- Oversee the installation of a new speaker system
- Complete a review of our Church's Health and Safety Policy
- Create a new and more attractive Church website
- Key into the exciting RUGBY WORLD CUP 2015 "Fan Zone" programme in the town as part of the REVIVE group of churches
- Find ways of encouraging people on the Church fringe to become more fully part of the Church through a "missional communities" initiative

**Finances.** Plans and costings to increase our paid team ministry team only came to fruition towards the end of this charity year. One positive side-effect of this was the freedom to use unspent income on significant property repairs – notably the Church Porch exterior. 2016 Gift Day donations were given to our sister Dunchurch Baptist Church, who are undertaking a major rebuild of their premises.. We also continued to support financially one of our members, Louise Morley, who was nearing the end of her training as a Children's and Families' Worker, and another, Anthony Barker, during a gap year in Norwich with Youth for Christ. The Church also continues to give generously to needy causes nationally, internationally and locally as the accompanying accounts reveal.

**Ongoing work.** This year has seen further consolidating of several aspects of our work. Our Girls' and Boys' Brigade Companies continue to buck the trend in attracting significant numbers of children and young people to their programmes each month. Louise Morley has continued to develop a growing Toddler group and Holiday Club programme here. Our partnership with other churches in the town – through the REVIVE network of Churches whose Steering Group is convened by our Minister Michael Bochenski - also continues to deepen. Among other things this has seen us playing the lead role once again in delivering an inter-church Winter Shelter for rough sleepers here in the town for a fifth year. It has also meant providing volunteers for interchurch charitable activities such as the Hope Centre and Hope 4U working with homeless and badly housed people, the Rugby Food Bank, Rugby

Christians Against Poverty (debt counselling) and the Rugby Street Pastors. A prayer tent ministry in the town centre continues most weeks.

**All Age Membership.** As at September 2015 (when these figures are compiled each year) our Church community had some 184 members and some 96 Adherents (people who worship with us regularly or occasionally). We continue to run programmes and activities for some 150 children and 33 young people, many from families on the fringe of our Church. Our regular ministry to elderly people includes a weekly luncheon club, a Friday coffee morning, and a popular “Third Tuesday” club. A new crafts group also now meets regularly. 2 people were baptised as believers here over the course of the charity year: Michael Kearney and Richard Smith. This was also a year when several long-standing members of the Church were “promoted to glory” with an unusually high number of Funeral Services being held in the Church. Happily new members and adherents joining us helped us to renew our membership and to continue to look to the future positively and with hope.

**Cluster.** We have maintained a good working relationship within the Baptist families of Dunchurch, Wolston and Rugby and more recently, Daventry. We have met for joint worship with them on three occasions over the year and have also committed to pray for and support several link missionaries together – in Thailand, Albania and the Middle East.

**Church teams.** Part of the Trustees’ main responsibility is that of ensuring that teams are in place to run and deliver our Church’s wide-ranging programme of events and activities. Pastoral Care is overseen by a dedicated team of around 10 people who work alongside the Ministers in offering pastoral care to an extended church community of over 300 people. A team of around 16 leaders delivers a well-supported and varied housegroups programme and meet together several times a year to plan this. Other examples of such teams who help to make our service to both church and community possible, include an encouraging range of musicians, those who attend our Children’s and Youth Forum every two months with oversight over a wide and varied children’s and youth programme here; those who operate our church’s various coffee and food rotas, and a small but effective property and cleaning team. In common with Christian Churches the world over so much good work and service is only possible because of the time, dedication and energy of many such teams of committed people each year.

**The Future.** As 2016-17 unfolds, we are looking forward to the new possibilities for mission and outreach that Peter den Haan’s appointment will make possible, and to working with other churches in the town in a programme called “LOVE RUGBY” celebrating The Servant Queen, Elizabeth II’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. Over the course of 2015-6 we believe, then, that we have demonstrated again our commitment as Trustees to ‘...advance the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination and to advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.’

**Revd Dr Michael I Bochenski (Minister) and Emma Tiller (Church Secretary)  
for and on behalf of the Church’s Trustees’ Board – the Diaconate.**

**for Presentation to the Annual Church Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016**