

# **Harrow Baptist Church**

**Trustees Report**

**For the year ended**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

## **Harrow Baptist Church**

### **Trustees Annual Report**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

#### **Trustees:**

Revd R Gardiner	Minister		
Mr J Newby:	Church Secretary		
Mrs P Kember:	Assistant Secretary		
Mr D Etheridge	Treasurer		
Mrs P Hunt	Membership Secretary		
Mrs B Amey	Deacon	Mr A Baker	Deacon
Mr P Chaney	Deacon	Mr R Dean	Deacon
Miss J Heppell	Deacon	Mr R Hughes	Deacon
Mrs M Richards	Deacon	Mrs S Leaper	Deacon
Mrs J Shaw	Deacon	Mrs F Duffy	Deacon

#### **Address:**

College Road  
Harrow  
HA1 1BA

#### **Independent Examiners:**

Summers Morgan  
Sheraton House  
Lower Road  
Chorleywood  
WD3 5LH

#### **Investment Management:**

Rathbone Investment Management  
159 New Bond Street  
London W1S 2UD

#### **Bankers:**

Barclays Bank  
Station Road  
Harrow,  
HA1 1BA

#### **Property Management:**

Ernest Owers & Williams  
33 Parish Lane  
London SE20 7LJ

## **Harrow Baptist Church**

### **Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

Charity registration number 1129832.

#### **Mission of the church**

The principal purpose of Harrow Baptist Church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. Other purposes may include education and charitable work, both in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the world.

The following shows how the church achieved its purposes during 2010:

#### **Ministry**

During 2010, public services were provided on every Sunday, most led by our minister, Revd. Robert Gardiner. Other Sunday morning services were led by visiting ministers including Revd Martin Davies and Revd Shaggy Abdon-Shortley. One was also led by Amanda Allchorn, Head of the Communications Department of the Baptist Union.

Communion was included in the morning worship services held on the first Sunday, and in most of the third Sunday evenings, of each month. Evening programmes were varied and included discussion suppers, the visual arts, music and a series entitled "I believe". One evening service was led by David Baines of "Mercy Ships".

The church ran a Sunday School on Sunday mornings for the youngsters and a crèche for babies. The teachers are volunteers who are trained in the BU Safe to Grow policy and are CRB checked.

The trustees/deacons attended an annual deacons' retreat day in March at The Grail, Pinner, led by Revd Dr Ruth Gouldbourne, Minister of Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

A "Coffee, Cakes and Prayer" group met frequently throughout the year giving special prayer support to the minister and to those in the fellowship with particular needs such as chronic ill health, bereavement and other pastoral concerns.

There was also an opportunity for prayer at 11am in the sanctuary of the church on at least two occasions most weeks.

In February, a first Church Day was organised to begin discussion on the future direction of the church, especially in the light of the minister's retirement in 2012.

#### **Membership**

There were 137 members of the church at the beginning of the year, 138 at the end. There were 6 new members, 2 by transfer and 4 on profession of faith. There were 2 transfers out and 3 deaths.

#### **Mission**

During the year, the church sought to serve the community in many ways. Coffee mornings were held on most Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings providing a meeting place for those in need of a chat and raising a substantial amount of money for several charities including St. Luke's Hospice (Wednesdays). From the other two mornings, approximately £600 was given to each of 'Kids Can Achieve', 'Mines Action Group', 'Shooting Stars' (Children's Hospice) 'Sightsavers International', 'Tanglewood' and 'Harrow Christmas Care'.

The church supports the College Road Playgroup, which uses our premises every weekday morning during term time and is run by fully paid, trained staff. In addition, the church has a very successful Mother and Toddler group for parents and carers (“the Young Ones”), which meets twice a week on Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. The leaders are volunteers, who are trained in the Safe to Grow policy and are CRB checked.

In 2010, the church agreed a Safe to Belong policy for the protection of vulnerable people.

Brownies and Guides meet weekly on Fridays for a variety of activities including games, crafts and badge work. During the year, as part of the Guiding Centenary Year, they have taken part in a district outing and a Division summer camp.

The church is a Fairtrade church and this issue was highlighted during “Fairtrade Fortnight”.

Money was raised for Christian Aid with street collections, a May Fair and an ecumenical lunch at our church. Also in May was the Baptist Assembly in Plymouth when representatives from our church attended and reported back on what is happening in the Baptist world.

The church has its own tennis club and, in June, the church held a barbecue in the grounds concluding with an open air epilogue by the minister. The church also runs a badminton club. One of the highlights of summer was a church picnic at Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

In July 2010, the Beavers group (part of Scouting) closed due to an insufficient number of interested boys. In September 2010, a Rangers group (part of the Guiding movement for girls of 14+) was set up and run by 2 adult volunteer leaders, one already a Guider.

People are also welcome to come to a monthly Music Club and a separate Book Club, both of which provide cultural and social opportunities for a diverse group of people. A new group has emerged, “4 U”, which embraces a mix of ages, nationalities and musical talent. Their choir greatly contributes to Sunday worship and creates the opportunity for friendship and fellowship for some of the younger members of the church.

Outreach to the community and better publicity are important and we are looking at ways of improving the church’s website. A number of guest services were held throughout the year including Mothering Sunday in March and a “Come to Church Sunday” in September. In October, an evening meal was organised based on a group’s visit to Oberammergau.

A Sunday lunch is provided on the second Sunday of each month except in August. This is very popular and creates an opportunity to welcome newcomers and to socialise with regular church attenders. One of the lunches is ably catered for by a youth team and, recently, some ethnic meals have been introduced.

A community lunch for all, but especially for the clients of the Welldon Centre, several of whom are disadvantaged or physically or mentally challenged, is provided every Monday.

In September and October, several people attended a six-part “Solutions” course to discuss the issue of why God allows suffering. Lunchtime refreshments were provided.

The church continued to make its accommodation available to charitable and social causes, at a fair cost to cover expenses. These included Mind, Diabetes UK, NHS, and Blood Donors.

As usual, the church continued to support a number of charities by means of grants. The major recipients were Baptist Home Mission, BMS World Mission, Christian Aid, St Luke’s Hospice and Biblelands-sponsored children. Details are included in the accounts.

The church is forging stronger links with a Korean church group and a Tamil church group, who both use the church building for their worship services.

We are also linked with four central Harrow churches: Our Lady and St Thomas (Roman Catholic), Trinity Church (United Reformed and Methodist), St John's (Church of England) and St Mary's on the Hill (Church of England). We took part in inter-church activities including a Churches Quiet Day at Edgware Abbey, prayers during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and Lent Study groups.

At Christmas time, small gifts are given to people, who are unable to go outdoors unassisted and to friends, who are over 90 years old.

Looking to the future, there are discussions around the challenge of setting up a Street Pastors Group in Harrow.

### **Administration and Management**

The trustees (deacons) met 8 times during the year, and there were 8 formal church members' meetings. Minutes were taken for all meetings and filed.

### **Staffing**

The church employed one full-time minister, Revd. Bob Gardiner, during the year and provided him and his family with accommodation in the church-owned manse.

The church also employed a resident caretaker, a part-time office manager and a part-time cleaner. All other work was completed by volunteers including on the last Saturday of July, the re-decoration of the small hall, repair of kitchen cupboard doors and much needed restorative work on ceiling lights.

### **Health and Safety**

Gas and electricity supplies and equipment were independently checked as required by law. The lift was formally assessed by an independent assessor, and the report sent to Otis, our maintainer. There were no major problems identified. The annual Risk Assessment was completed and documented. All fire extinguisher equipment was checked and maintained as required. There were accident and incident books available, which were used during the year. Each incident was reviewed by the Finance and Fabric Committee on a regular basis, and where appropriate, action taken. The incident papers were filed securely. Insurance against Fire and Third party claims was provided to the advised levels.

### **Development of the Area**

The church continues to be concerned about the future use of the redundant Post Office site neighbouring the church.

There are also complex issues to be resolved concerning the use of the church car park and the College House office block under which it sits.

John Newby  
Trustee / Church Secretary

Doug Etheridge  
Trustee / Treasurer