

Looking Forward



I hope like me that as you have read these reports you have been encouraged and also challenged. Through every report we can see Gods hand at work. There is so much to celebrate. Most notably is the fact that can start to see the beginnings of His vision for us all at WBC starting to unfold before our eyes.
The baptisms, our weekly attendance increasing and the deepening of our faith together.

Of course there are areas we still need to pray into, not least our youth work and the need for more helpers. As we take the next steps I pray we continue to trust God and to ask of ourselves is there a way I can serve the vision which is for us all?

As I type these words the world around us is trembling with wars and energy crisis, families are struggling with rising costs the likes of which have not been seen for a long while. I believe now more than ever people need the gospel, which is good news! In a place where all we seem to hear is bad news.

Let us look forward with the sure and certain hope we have in Jesus that we will continue to see Him in all we do.



Wymondham Baptist Church 2021 Annual Report



Preface from our Pastor

Please find enclosed this year's annual reports from various different aspects of the life of WBC. Our prayer is that you not only find these reports informative but also encouraging and challenging as we seek to move forward together as a church. It is amazing as we reflect and look back to see how much God has been at work amongst us, and in doing so, we can go forward with confidence in Him as we step into the next phases of his vision for us all.

We really do believe we are seeing the fruit of our labours and that every day we are becoming an authentic church, with a place for everyone.

Blessings

Paul



Town Team



2021 saw the return of the town's popular Jazz Picnic in July where the Town Team assisted with the set up, stewarding, Covid precautions, taking down and clearing up of the event. It was an event clearly welcomed by folk from far around the town, coming, as it did, in between Covid lockdowns.

Wymondham Town Team is also responsible for the Christmas Lights in the town centre streets (and at North Wymondham Community Centre this year) which are put up (and taken down) by teams of volunteers using WBC as a base. I have a very keen and willing group of people who don't hesitate to go out, often in the cold and wet, fetching and carrying, some up and down ladders, and some indoors, like the ladies from the Women's Institute who dress the trees and help pack everything away afterwards. At



least this year we could come inside the building to warm up – something we couldn't do in 2020!

The main event of the year, however, was the very successful Wynterfest in which WBC, as in previous years, played a major part by recreating Bethlehem and providing refreshments and entertainment – as well as the donkeys! These are all volunteer-led events, supported by local businesses and other organisations but it's fair to say that none of these events would have happened quite so well without the committed involvement of WBC, and its people (and the building!). The Town Team is very grateful for the support.



Doug Hodges

This way we can share Gods love with charities that protect his world and his people.

We are extremely grateful to be back and I believe that the unit will continue to grow. We are so grateful for the space and opportunity Wymondham Baptist Church gives us to make a difference in our community in a positive way.

For prayer:-

Please continue to pray for our unit and it's growth both physically and spiritually. Although not specifically a Christian group it's ethos of helping others and protecting our planet fit well with our Christian values and at least 2 of our Guides have a Christian faith and have previously attended WBC Youth Group and remember their time and the fun they had here exploring their faith.

Ramona and Beth
5th Wymondham Guides

Windmill House



In both October and December 2021, we (Mary, Vic, Christine, Doug, and myself) had the joy and privilege of leading a harvest service and a carol service for the residents at Windmill House – still on Zoom, of course. We sang well-loved hymns and carols and shared familiar readings.

Many of the residents are living with dementia but still remember music and hymns from long ago so singing is not just enjoyable but also beneficial. We know that this simple ministry is very much appreciated by those who can no longer attend services in a church building but have strong Christian roots.

In January 2022, we held our 6th Zoom service since we started in May 2021. Fran Annis, the Wellbeing lead, had gathered together a large number of residents to share in this service. We used some pictures from a video of the marriage at Cana to illustrate

the talk which was based around the account of Jesus changing water into wine. At the end of the services we usually spend some time being introduced to some of the people who were there and having a chat with some who feel able to talk to us on screen.

We are delighted that this year (2022) the residents will have regular monthly services as Wymondham Methodist Church will take responsibility for alternate months. It took a long time for us to set this up but this New Year we were finally able to plan a programme for the whole year. For the time being we will have to continue on Zoom but hope to return to Windmill House and meet in person with the residents and staff when they are allowed to open their doors to us.

Please remember to pray for the staff and residents and their families who have faced so many challenging situations and much sadness in the past two years. Pray that as we meet with them, we may bring some light, joy, and encouragement to those whose lives have been so restricted and give thanks with us for the opportunity we have to share in this ministry.

Jan Hodges

Wymondham Baptist Church

Annual Reports

Verse of the Year 2021:

Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes' – Isaiah 54:2



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Café Church



The last café church service was March 2020, just before the team (Grace, Vic W., Owen and Victor F.) made the decision to put the series on hold following the Covid-19 outbreak. The idea of café church is to encourage the congregation to talk, play games and get to know each other in a comfortable relaxed café environment, eating a free breakfast whilst hearing a biblical message. The team decided this is something that is impossible to do safely when social distancing is imposed, and they felt that offering a virtual version would be too much of a compromise.

The café church team have continued to monitor the situation and you'll be pleased to know they have recently made the decision that it's time to start these bi-monthly family friendly services again. Things may need to be slightly adjusted to accommodate our 'new normal', but the team believes they can offer something that is as fun and friendly as before. The services will pick up from where they left off with Grace kicking off the series on 8th May with a café Church that will be based on the film 'A New Hope' (Star Wars episode iv, which seems quite apt given everything that has happened over the last few years.

The dates for Café church in 2022 will be 8th May, 26th June, 25th September and 13th November.

Grace Burke

Girl Guides

We are delighted to say we have finally returned to face to face meetings again. Certainly an answer to prayer after nearly 2 years!

We started with just 4 Guides for a planning and pizza meeting. Despite the small numbers even at this stage the benefits of returning to meetings for these young ladies was evident and they appeared to really enjoy being able to meet again.

Beth has finally (delayed due to Covid) completed her Girl Guide leadership qualification. This was celebrated alongside Chinese New Year and we had noodles with chopsticks and learned about the culture and significance of the Chinese New Year. Our county commissioner attended to give Beth her qualification badge and fully engaged with the activities and is looking forward to sharing our games with her Brownie group.

We have had 2 new Guides and following a positive evening with our commissioner she feels our unit would be ideal for her Brownies to transition to Guides and is anticipating around 7 new Guides who may be keen to join us.

Last week we celebrated World thinking day on Tuesday 22/02/2022 and learned just how many Guides's there are across the world and learned a little of the challenges they face from the effects of climate change to period poverty.

We decided to hold a challenge and each Girl was given £1 to invest in something to grow funds for various charities related to our Guides across the world. Each Guide will list their spending and income and have until after Easter to raise as much as they can in the most interesting way.



initial funds, we organised a Pop-up restaurant in September. The Church at WBC was transformed into a restaurant and guests were served a 3-course meal with some of our young people acting superbly and very professionally as waiters. Thanks to our generous diners, we raised £380 which was shared between Wyndham Baptist Church and Eco Church. Thanks to everyone involved but especially to Alison and Victor Fromm for all their support.

Sharing news:

We try to share any updates and prayer requests we receive in as many ways as we can: on the Mission and Outreach noticeboard, on the weekly notice sheet, via the monthly Prayer Focus and Church magazine and on the church website. The latest updates from the Falconer Home, TWAM, Alan and Megan in Nepal and Rachel in Paris are truly inspiring so I would encourage you to have a read.

The fellowship at WBC has given generously and faithfully of their time, energy, resources and in prayer to many of the outreach opportunities mentioned above and in using our talents and gifts, we have been able to share God's love and hope to those around us.

Nicki Waterworth

The Falconer Trust

The Falconer Children's Home and Orphanage in Zambia faces many challenges. There are currently just over 50 children being cared for, ranging from toddlers to mid-teens.

On a practical level, the challenges include the ongoing work of replacing the roof of the main house. This is taking much longer than anticipated, partly due to delays in obtaining the necessary materials, such as the steel roof trusses and the corrugated iron sheets. A new building has been constructed to house the new generator, and it is hoped that the generator will be fully operational very soon. Other projects which are current include building a toilet block, and installing a pump in the river for obtaining running water.



We have heard reports of two members of staff having had Covid, but as both are away from the Home at the moment for various reasons, we continue to pray that everyone at the Home remains Covid-free.

The work of the Trust here in Norfolk has its own challenges. The sending of parcels is becoming increasingly expensive, and also increasingly difficult due to customs difficulties in Zambia. We would value your prayers for how best to meet these challenges, and for wisdom regarding how to be wise stewards of our resources.

Please pray for Neil as he continues the day-to-day work, for the trustees, and for our volunteers Brian and Margaret. Brian is currently recovering from a hip operation.

Neil Starling

Pastor

As I sat and reflected on the past year it was good to see so many positive aspects. It can be hard in the day to day to see how God is working amongst us. I often have to remind myself to stop and reflect, as in the busyness of life we can take for granted the small shifts that have a long-lasting effect.

It is no secret that the last 12 months have been a huge challenge to our normal routines of life. For us as a church our Sunday morning gatherings have been disrupted by various restrictions and regulations because of the Covid 19 pandemic. I believe that we, as a fellowship, have been remarkably adaptable. I have been encouraged by the way we have all responded to the challenges. My own experience of meeting with other church leaders has highlighted just how blessed we are in the way we coped together, with many of my contemporaries reporting huge numbers of people dis-engaging with church. Here at WBC we have seen the opposite, as you will read amongst the reports. We have not stood still!

At the start of last year we saw the launch of our vision as a church. Each member received a pack containing our vision, mission statements, strategy plans and exciting new plans to upgrade our physical buildings. We are excited to see these plans unfold as God moves amongst us and through us.

Also, in January Nicki began a new ministry called 'Bring a Brew'. This was a fantastic gift to the church of keeping people connected in the height of the pandemic.



We also took up a church wide Skills Survey to help inform our forward planning and to see how God has blessed us with different gifting amongst us.

In March we held a quiz evening which was great fun. We also started a youth Alpha course which was led by

Grace and Emma. This was exciting to see our younger members grow in their faith. In April, Gill and I had the privilege of praying with the group as part of the course during the session, seeking the exploration of the Holy Spirit.

Sadly during April we held a Thanksgiving Service for Jean, a lady who had come along to Roots and forged a strong friendship with us as a church.

This past year we joined in online with the BU assembly as part of our worship service. It was good to see how God is moving amongst the wider Baptist family. Emma and I attended an online seminar called the 'Emotional Rollercoaster'. This looked at mental health and wellbeing issues amongst younger people. May also sadly was the month in which David Poyntz died. It was comforting to know that he had made a commitment to Jesus but of course we were sad that he left us. We continue to hold Jane in our prayers.

I finished my degree in Theology, Mission and Evangelism. Over the three year period I had not only learned so much but also deepened my own faith. I was also blessed in forging some new and very strong friendships. I finished by gaining a 2:1 with merit. I was pleased with this given the circumstances of having to complete half of my degree via online learning. I will continue to seek new ways of developing my learning going forward.

I attended the EBA ministers gathering representing us a church.

As the summer came along once again we held a TWAM day. This was well supported and we sent of all kinds of tools to help support this mission. Closer to home we took part in Wymondham in Bloom. Joining in with our local community in improving the look of our town by putting up floral displays and planting. We established a new building steering group to look into the plans we have for new facilities. We also led the church forward in seeking CIO status. We held our summer program based on our verse for the year, Isaiah 54, looking at how we were going to expand our 'tent'. There were some great moments as we gathered together. This culminated in us hosting a fellowship BBQ in the church garden. A great time was had by all as we relaxed together.



During the summer we were encouraged as we were filmed by a group called Fuelcast as part of the Home Mission. The subsequent film is amazing in capturing the story of how God

has blessed us in our outreach with Roots. This is available to view via our website.

As Autumn approached we were pleased as things began to return to some sort of normality. We saw our youth return to their regular fortnightly Friday night slots. It was good to see so many come back. We also started a new ministry called Thrive. This is a youth cafe that we opened on a Tuesday afternoon from 2:30 - 4. This is well attended and we are pleased to see the teens join in. We held a leadership election and were delighted that Victor Fromm was re-elected and continues to support the church as treasurer.

We held a Pop-Up restaurant, and this was a brilliant event and helped to raise funds for our missions. My thanks to Nicki, Tom, Victor and Alison for organising this and for our youngsters helping to serve during the evening.

We launched our new magazine called 'Rooted Life'. This is great opportunity for us to share with others what's going on in the life of our fellowship.

As winter approached we launched our Prayer Course. This was really well attended and the feedback received was very positive. People found the teaching accessible and also challenging. It's good to grow in our faith together. As per previous years we held our shoebox Sunday and sent off a lot of boxes to Samaritans purse.

We also ran Baptism classes and were excited to see 3 people baptised at the beginning of December. There was a real sense of joy and again I am aware that we are really blessed to see continued growth as a church.



As we approached Christmas we were able to host our joint remembrance service with Rosedales. This is an opportunity for people to remember loved ones who have passed and to give thanks.

We saw a return of the Town Team event, Wynterfest. This took place on the first Sunday of December. As a fellowship we decided not to host our normal worship service but instead we opened up as Roots. We saw an enormous amount of people come along and join in. As in previous years we had the donkeys in the carpark, displays up and this year we were joined by Jo who had a craft stall. She raised over £500 which she donated to us as a church.

orders from many of our fellowship. Donations from the sale of these, together with some bunting made by Nicki, raised £246 which was shared between Roots and Church funds.

Whether we have met on Zoom or in person and whether our outreach has been to members of our own fellowship or with friends in other parts of the world, it has been so encouraging and inspiring to hear how God is working through our fellowship and through his faithful disciples.

Rachel Spencer (working for GEM):

Rachel joined us on Zoom on the 2nd May and shared a message about Home as Church as well as updating us on her work and situation in France. In August, during a visit home, we were invited to an 'Open House' at Christine and Chris' house where we could chat with Rachel and find out more about the projects and people that God is placing in her way. We thank God for Rachel's witness in a difficult part of Paris and we continue to pray for her and those around her.

TWAM (Tools With a Mission):



The 4th July saw our first tool collection for a couple of years. Thanks to Christine and an enthusiastic team of volunteers, literally a ton of tools and equipment was collected, completely filling the large van that came to pick them up.

Despite ongoing restrictions, TWAM sent 14 containers full of livelihood-creating tools to Africa in 2021 while in the UK, plans are continuing to open a new centre in the West Midlands.

Operation Christmas Child:

On the 24th October 2021, we held our 'Shoebox Sunday'. Filling our shoeboxes (over 40) was an opportunity to act out in a practical way Jesus' Great Commission and the 2 video clips from our service showed us all just what a lasting effect these gifts can have on children across the world.

BMS (Alan and Megan Barker):

Alan and Megan Barker have had a busy year! Their work in Pokhara, Nepal came to an end and despite restrictions on travel due to Covid and visa worries, they were able to spend some time in the UK before starting a new role with BMS partners in Katmandu. We have enjoyed hearing about their life and work from their regular updates.

On the 16th May 2021, WBC 'zoomed' into the UK Baptist Conference and joined with thousands of other Baptists across the country in a time of worship. It was an exciting time of praise and prayer.

Jane Poyntz has been our BMS rep for many years but stepped down from this role at the end of 2021. We thank Jane for all her work in sharing news from BMS with us as a fellowship. Nicki Waterworth has taken on the role temporarily and we are now looking for a permanent BMS rep.

Eco Church:

With climate change become more and more evident across the world and the UN Climate Change Conference (Cop 26) held in Glasgow in October/November 21, WBC committed to becoming part of Eco Church. This is a UK wide, cross denominational Christian charity with creation care at its heart. It is part of the wider, international charity A Rocha. To raise some

As most of you know, our old gas heaters in the school rooms were deemed unsafe and were condemned and the gas supply capped off. After taking advice, we replaced the heaters with four new wi-fi ceramic electric heaters with thermostatic controls and frost protection. The wi-fi facility means the heaters can all be remotely controlled from an outside source for extra control and convenience. Due to the existing wiring system being on the limit meant that there was extra wiring work to be carried out. All this work is now complete and appropriate certificates issued. The radiators were all fitted in-house.

A small amount of roof repair work was carried out over the church entrance, kindly paid for by others. Various small cosmetic and decorative work will need to be carried out and there are various estimates that have been prepared for work at the manse and the church, awaiting approval from the leadership and the church meetings. I am aware of the church's finances and these various works will need to be carried out on a priority basis. Please let me or any of the leadership know if you see anything that needs attention.

In the church garden, a lot of work has been carried out and is on-going. On behalf of the church I want to thank Brian for his love and attention to the front garden and planters at the entrance of the church. I want to record thanks also to Chris Flaxman for his incredible work in reducing the height and thickness of the hedge along the whole length of the church rear garden and his many trips to the dump for disposal. Finally, I want to thank Shirley and Cathy for using their gifts in the planting, weeding and general care of the garden at the rear of the church. There has also been a rota for grass cutting during the growing season, so thank you to the several grass cutters. It's good to note that we were awarded 'excellent' in the "Wymondham in



Bloom" competition. We have been entrusted with the gift of our church buildings and it is only right that we honour that gift by caring for them so that it is honouring to God and a witness to those who come to, or pass by the church.

To end this report it would rightly be responsible of me to remind anyone who uses our church premises, to make sure we reduce any wastage of energy by ensuring heating, lighting and water usage is used wisely and switched off as soon as it is appropriate. This is for both ecological and, of course, economical reasons. Thank you all for your help in this as we go forward.

We, of course, give thanks to God and must honour Him with all he has entrusted to us.

Vic Wright

Outreach and Mission

As a church, we continue to be linked with several projects both in Wymondham and in the wider world.

Over the last year, the situation with the Covid pandemic has gradually eased and life has slowly started to open up again.

In terms of our connections over 2021, we enjoyed a mixture of in-person and Zoom meetings with our friends in Wymondham and our partners across the world.

At the beginning of the year, we were still in lockdown so we started a weekly get together, 'Bring a Brew,' on Zoom. It was an hour of chat, laughter and prayer and was a great way to help us all stay connected. In the same way, a quiz was organized via Zoom with friends and family from WBC and even included a team from south London! Mary Wright and Shirley Marwood used their creative skills to make beautiful cards in the run up to Easter and took

Our Carol service this year was held outside in our carpark and was well attended, and though other planned events such as a fellowship meal were put on hold I believe we were blessed with a fantastic Christmas period.



Summary.

As you read through the long lists of things we have taken part in as a church I hope you see a fellowship who is very active. However, the most important thing is to ask "have we seen God working amongst us?" After all we are not here to just be busy! I believe we have. We have seen him provide us with growth, both numerically but also with people new to faith. We have seen baptisms, young people active in their walk with Jesus. We have seen us further establish ourselves in the community.

Personally I believe there is even more to come as we have only seen the shoots of God's vision for us take hold.

I look forward with excited expectation.

Paul Smith

Alpha course

This year has seen us start our first ever Alpha course. This started in January and runs every Thursday evening. There are currently 18 people each evening, including those who help as well as our 'guests'. Each evening starts with a two-course meal and then we watch the subject video together. This is then followed by times of open questions and discussions.

It has been exciting to see people wrestle with varying different subjects and to be party to some of the discussions. Though most of those attending this time do have an understanding of Christianity it has been good for us to spend time developing a depth to their faith and also learning from them and each other in order that we might grow and be able to put on future courses with confidence.

Paul Smith

Roots Community Café

As we are all too aware this past year has been very tough because of Covid. Despite a challenging beginning to the year Roots continues to go from strength to strength. We are always amazed at the sheer number of people who come along, many are regulars but even now we keep getting first time visitors. Everyone comments on the 'feel' of the place and love the atmosphere that we have. We have always taken this opportunity to share with them the reason is because God is with us.

We are encouraged by the 'Pay it Forward' board that we operate in two ways - by those who use it, - by other people who place money/vouchers on it. We have seen an increase in the use of the board which highlights the fact that the struggle for many is real. The good news is that people feel comfortable enough now to use it. There is a group of men from Wilkinson House who have become our regulars. Vic and the rest of the team have been fantastic at establishing a good relationship with these guys. We would

welcome prayer into how we could encourage them to explore faith, perhaps via an Alpha course for them.

Roots is always looking for new volunteers, we have had a few new faces from outside the church join the team which is encouraging, but we are also mindful not to forget that this is a church ministry and therefore requires people of faith to carry it forward.

This year it was fantastic to see Alan and Rose grow in their faith because of Roots, and we all celebrated together when they were baptised. Vic received his 'Volunteer of the Year' award and we have continued to build on the relationships we have made with those that have been coming along since the start of our journey, sowing the seeds in God's garden.



Thrive has opened on a Tuesday and it has been great to open our doors to our younger members of the community. We have a group of regulars each week who enjoy just having space to do their homework or play games.



It was great to be part of Wynterfest again this year, the drummers were loud, the hot chocolate went down a treat and the donkeys were well feed with carrots. We were also blessed by the presence of Jo and her amazing crafts. Every penny of what she made came to us for the Building Project. The fact that people outside of the church get the Vision and believe in it is amazing, all honour and praise goes to God!

Emma and the Roots Team ☺

Sunday Youth

T4:12 is a small group with 5 regular members with a few visiting guests on occasion. We are currently following the Youth for Christ, Lumen material.

As with all our youth work at the moment we are struggling with volunteers. Grace has understandably taken a step back more recently and so I have taken on all the T4:12 sessions. We managed to come up with a plan so that the older youth had something most weeks. There is currently no T4:12 on the first Sunday of the month and obviously during an all-age service.

Please pray for a way forward and for our teens to develop a strong faith.

Emma Smith

Ignite - This month our younger group have been learning about John the Baptist and his walk of faith. As Christians we can be swayed to believe that if we walk in faith our walk will be easy. Those of us who have been Christians for a while will recognise that's not always true and we don't have to look far in our Bibles to see people who walked in faith didn't always have an easy ride.

Music in Worship

Due to Covid restrictions, the Worship Group has not been able to lead live worship in church during the past year, other than a period of a few weeks last Autumn. We are very keen to be able to return to operating as normal, once restrictions are lifted. In the meantime we rely on video clips for our worship songs.

The Skills Survey which was conducted last year identified a number of people who expressed a wish to be involved in the worship ministry of the church, and with this in mind a few practices were held with them at the end of last year, and the hope is that they will be able to be integrated into the group once we are able to play and sing 'live' once more. With an increase in numbers it may be possible to rota members, so that everyone has the opportunity to worship within the congregation from time to time.



Neil Starling

Buildings, Garden and Maintenance

Firstly, a big thankyou to anyone who has seen a small job to be done and has done it. I will give thanks to others later in this report.

The church manse (the home of Paul, Emma and family) had some tree pollarding work carried out in the garden by a tree surgeon. We have a duty of care for the neighbours of the manse, hence the tree work being carried out. The manse has been showing signs of damp and the leaking guttering has all been replaced. On completion of the work the facias and soffits were found to be rotten and will, therefore need to be replaced in the near future. This will be carried out using plastic boards saving future decoration and rot.

I have put on record once again the loving care and attention that Paul and Emma lavish on their home to keep it to a high standard and I propose that, on acceptance of this report, there is minuted our thanks, as a fellowship, to Paul and Emma.



Over the last year work has been carried out at the church. This has included us having to comply with regulations and best practice so an amount of work has been carried out for fire safety. This has involved new parts to make sure the fire alarm system is working properly and various work including fire proofing to doors, reversing of the foodbank door, post erected and yellow lines painted in the car park. Each week our fire alarm system is tested to make sure it is all okay. Each year the fire extinguishers have to be checked and replaced if necessary. Every year or two, each portable electrical appliance has to be tested for safety and we are fortunate that with Ray and Frazer we are able to carry this out in-house.

At this point I would like to thank Doug and his team for keeping our sound and visual system in good order and up-to-date. The system we have is an aid to the life of the church in so many ways and for different events.

Our thanks to Emma and Roots for the way our kitchen is kept up-to-date with different equipment etc., again enabling us as a church to be able to provide quality facilities. To enable the church office to function better, new lights have been fitted over the desk.

Balance Sheet as at 31.12.2021

	As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
Fixed assets		
None: None	-	-
Total Fixed assets	-	-
Current assets		
Cash: Cash in hand	£95.00	£100.00
HSBC: Roots Community Cafe Bank Account	£3,353.23	£1,928.30
HSBC2 Roots: Roots N o. 2 Account	£5,900.15	£300.15
Lloyds: Current Bank Account	£3,491.19	£6,375.14
Roots Cash: Roots Cash in Hand	£120.00	£100.00
Savings: Savings Bank Account	£11,303.18	£7,615.75
Z05: Accounts Receivable	-	-
Total Current assets	£24,332.06	£16,419.34
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	£24,332.06	£16,419.34
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit) to date	£7,912.72	-
Z01: Starting balances	£16,419.34	£16,419.34
Total Reserves	£24,262.75	£16,419.34

Represented by Funds

	General (Unrestricted)	-£1,730.66	£1,533.72
	Designated	£20,823.38	£13,428.45
	Restricted	£5,170.03	£1,457.17
	Total	£24,262.75	£16,419.34

Represented by:-

Unrestricted	General Fund	-£1,730.66	1,533.72
Designated	Fellowship Fund	£150	£100
	Reserve Fund	£11,300	£11,000
	Roots Community Café	£9,373.38	£2,328.45
Restricted	A Roche - Eco Church	£182.50	
	Alpha	£282.50	
	Building Fund	£4,277.80	£1,058.00
	Paul's Education	£427.23	£399.17
Fund Totals		£24,262.75	£16,419.34

We learned about how John the Baptist baptised Jesus Christ himself. He didn't feel worthy, how often do we question what we have to offer? God works with us where we are with no expectation we should be more than we are. In essence we are enough in God's eyes despite our own self-doubt.

We continue to be challenged by limited numbers for leading our Sunday youth groups but have certainly appreciated Charlotte's support with our younger Sunday group.



Please continue to pray for the children for the challenges they face and being confident in what they have to offer "just as they are"

Technology is also proving a challenge although it does occasionally respond to prayer, it may be that the equipment might need updating in the future.

Our Father we thank you for the blessing of so many children who engage in Wymondham Baptist Church either on Sundays or through other means, Youth Group, Thrive@Roots or Guides. We pray however they find themselves here, they take away the essence of you and your love. We pray for the children of our church and those who support them in the development of their relationship with you our Heavenly Father. We pray for their protection from negative outside influences that make them question their faith and your love for them. In this time when the war in the Ukraine is instilling anxiety and fear, walk closely with them so they know that they can bring their fears to you.
In Jesus name Amen

Ramona Chenery

Friday Night Youth

As a fellowship we host a fortnightly Friday night youth group. This is for school years 4 and up and takes place in the church from 6:30 - 8pm. Emma and I lead the group with support from Jamie Burke. The group is attended by around 25 - 30 youngsters. Each evening they gather together and have about an hour of free time to play various different games such as pool, table tennis, football etc. they also have access to a games console and even host their own dance off competitions! The group is mixed in ages but they all get along so well. After they have played and caught up with each other, they have tuck time and then we gather round for a short Bible study and a message. There are children who come along who attend this church, some who attend other churches and some who have no faith background at all, however all participate in the teaching. We cover various different topics but try and focus on things which are particularly relevant to them.



This year we hosted a Christmas meal for them all. There were games, a ginger bread building competition and a quiz, plus a full Christmas dinner all served by a few adult helpers. It was brilliant time. The group are great fun and though sometimes we worry about the fixtures and fittings in the church they are very respectful and just love coming along.

I ask you to continue to pray for our young people.

Blessings

Paul and Emma

Secretary

Over the past two years I think that we have become quite familiar with looking back and comparing how different things have become.

Looking back over the past year, as a Church, with all that's been going on, we have, I believe much to thank God for. Just over a year ago in January 2021 we received the Leadership's five-year Vision plan and as a Church we committed ourselves to moving forward to implement this vision to become '**An authentic Church with a place for everyone**'.

We started the year with an anticipated budget shortfall of £9000+. and in spite of additional unexpected costs incurred over the year including the mid-term decision to significantly increase our tithing, God has been more than faithful and as you will see from the Finance report, at the end of the year we virtually broke even. We are grateful for the membership's support in giving.

For a large part of the year, we met by Zoom for worship. Thanks go to Paul and the tech team for making this possible and latterly as we have now returned back to physically meeting, making it possible for us to live feed our worship every week by zoom. Our particular thanks to Doug Hodges for making this possible.



As our Churches now return to some sense of normality there seems to be an emerging mixed picture of what's happening across the country. Many churches are reporting that they are struggling to get back to their pre- pandemic levels and physical attendance and engagement is low. In no way are we unique in this, but we, along with some other churches are witnessing a growth and vibrancy in both our Church life and regular Sunday worship attendance, which recently have been showing a 50-60 attendance as opposed to January 2021 levels of between 40-45. This is very encouraging, particularly as also our Church membership has increased from 32 to now 38. It's great to see a number of new faces joining us on Sundays for worship, and expressing an interest in membership and deeper involvement in Church life. The future is built on the foundations of the past which gives us hope as we move forward into 2022 and discover all that is in God's plan for us as a Church and individuals.

One of the other highlights of 2021 was the EBA's (Eastern Baptists Association) request to make a short film about WBC and Roots which celebrated God at work in the local church. This film is to be released nationally by the Baptist Union to encourage other churches. Filming eventually took place in September 2021 under the theme of 'things really happen when we listen to God. It is our understanding that this film is to be made available nationally to other churches, alongside a Bible study programme based on the film which is being prepared. Whilst of course this is all very pleasing, this is a massive endorsement of what God can and will do if we spend time listening to him.

Finally, I just need to mention the change of our charitable status as a Church. As advised by the Baptist Union and supported by the Church membership we are now in the process of changing our charitable status to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which we anticipate will be concluded within the next 3 months.

2021 was my first year as Church Secretary. Over the year I have seen all the many things that people do to serve our Church family, with which we simply couldn't survive and wouldn't be where we are today. I know it hasn't always been easy but a sincere thank you to all, on behalf of the Leadership, for all that you have and are continuing to do.

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31.12.2021

Statement of Financial Activities For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	£40,489.15	£1,616.23	£2,081.40	£44,186.78
Income from charitable activities	-	£13,613.58	£365.00	£13,978.58
Other trading activities	-	£676.16	-	£676.16
Investments	-	-	-	-
Other income	£26,784.50	£6,820.00	£120.00	£33,724.50
Total income	£67,273.65	£22,725.97	£2,566.40	£92,566.02
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	£741.50	£14,032.49	-	£14,773.99
Other expenditure	£67,701.18	£2,205.15	£42.29	£69,948.62
Total expenditure	£68,442.68	£16,237.64	£42.29	£84,722.61
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	-£1,169.03	£6,488.33	£2,524.11	£7,843.41
Transfers:				
Gross transfers between funds - in	£189.65	£1,485.00	£1,358.40	£3,033.05
Gross transfers between funds - out	-£2,285.00	-£578.40	-£169.65	-£3,033.05
Other recognised gains / losses				
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	-£3,264.38	£7,394.93	£3,712.86	£7,843.41
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	£1,533.72	£13,428.45	£1,457.17	£16,419.34
Total funds carried forward	-£1,730.66	£20,823.38	£5,170.03	£24,262.75

Accounts currently with the Independent Examiner

Allocation of funds

Below is a list of some of the ways we have used the money received by the church during 2021.

- Purchasing and installation of new lights in the church.
- New electric heaters in Youth Church as the old gas ones had been condemned. This work included installing a new electrical circuit, as the new heaters kept tripping out the old one.
- Building up our savings account.
- Supported the ministers training.
- Supported work on the initial stages of the vision i.e. development of initial building drawings/plans.
- On-going church maintenance costs e.g. fire extinguisher annual checks, etc.
- Replacing the guttering at the manse and carry out significant work on the trees in the garden.
- Met the CIO costs i.e. the costs for WBC to become its own charity.
- Tithing. As a church we had been giving away about 5% of our income over the previous few years. During 2021 the Leadership Team decided that we ought to do, what as we ask our congregation to do i.e. to consider tithing. We took a tithing proposal to the church and they agreed, that we should tithe. In 2021 this is what we have done as written in Malachi 3 v 10 *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. “Test me in this” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it”.*

Note about 2023 - Home Mission Grant (HMG)

In 2021 we started a Home Mission Fund grant application for 2023 which had to be into the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) by mid-February 2022. We are applying for £5,000 to support the cost of running the church. This will have been the fourth application for a HMG and so there is a chance that we won't receive a grant for 2023. If this is the outcome, it will obviously add an extra financial challenge.

Summary

As I said at the beginning, 2021 has proved to be a really challenging year on so many fronts but God has been there with us every step of the way, even when we couldn't feel him. It is important that we don't just expect God to sort it out, but we must take steps and actions to do the possible and allow God space to do the impossible.

2022 is probably going to be an even more financial challenging year. I pray that we will trust God more and do everything we can to help and support the church to flourish, spread the work/word of God wider and make disciples in Wymondham and the surrounding area.

Victor Fromm

Let's us move forward with God into the future.

Ray Finch

Church Administrator

During 2021 I have continued to learn about the history of Wymondham Baptist Church. This has proved useful and enlightening and has helped me speak to the right people when I have a query or need assistance. For a considerable number of weeks early in 2021, due to lockdown, I worked at home keeping in regular communication with Paul, making sure that all the necessary administrative tasks were carried out.

Working from home enabled me to spend time producing policies with those members of the Leadership Team who are responsible for their implementation, that are required to be in place, as follows:-

Heath and Safety
Internal/External Contractors on Site
Use of portable equipment and trailing leads
Disciplinary
Volunteer
Budget setting and Expenditure and Payment
Reserves
Equality and Diversity
Equal Opportunities
Grievance
Off-site activity
Pastoral Care
Staff Appraisal



All these policies are now in place and are available on our website – I would encourage you to read any of the policies that have a particular relevance to any work you may be engaged in on behalf of WBC.

When we re-opened for worship and indeed when we were open over the Easter period for contemplation, we used 'rsvp.church' for individuals to book a place at the services. The system worked quite well and I was able to prepare a list before the Sunday morning giving names of those who had booked in and also allowed space for those not booked in. During this time we met several new friends, some of whom have continued to worship with us.

With Paul we produced a Skills Survey for all in the fellowship. I analysed the returns for the Leadership Team and the outcomes continue to prove useful to Paul and the Elders.

Early in the year, with Nicki I started to produce a Notice Sheet. Whilst in lockdown this included numerous items of interest, not just notices. After lockdown we decided to produce a magazine and keep the weekly Notice Sheet just for notices. In October we produced our first issue of 'Rooted Life' our bi-monthly magazine. The magazine is not just for church attendees, but for everyone and anyone in the local community who may visit the church, perhaps at Roots or the Bereavement Course that Rosedales hold at the church. Your help with articles is much appreciated.

In the spring of 2021, we decided to enter Wymondham in Bloom and together with Brian and Emma we made a colourful display at the front of the church. We were awarded 'Excellent'.

I supported Victor Fromm in the preparation of the grant application for Home Mission and have also made other successful applications to South Norfolk Council for grant aid, prompted by local councillors who visit Roots.

I have also prepared an inventory, but there is more work to be done so as to ensure that we have a comprehensive list of all equipment held at the church.

I have also supported Ray in the work involved in moving to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation as advised by the Baptist Union. This is still a 'work in progress'.

During the year I have learned a lot about the workings of the website and I try to ensure that it is kept as up to date as possible. I also try to ensure that the notice boards in the church are interesting and up to date.

I continue to generally be present at the church on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings and during this time I am able to liaise with Paul on various things, including the preparation of Leadership Team meeting agendas and Church meeting agendas and minutes. As part of our fire procedures we regularly test the fire alarm and emergency lights, usually on a Monday morning.

Being able to volunteer at WBC as Church Administrator is a great privilege and I am grateful to God that he has given me the ability to do this. I appreciate the support, interest and encouragement that you have given me. If there is any time that you have any ideas or thoughts on better ways of doing things, please let me know, I am aware that we can all continue to learn new things.

Thank you.

Cathy Finch

Treasurer

Overview

2021 was a challenging year for Wymondham Baptist Church on so many fronts including finances and we must thank God for his continued help, support and answers to prayer.

We must also thank all of the regular attendees and members of the church who tithed and gave regularly, which helped us ensure that God's work in Wymondham went from strength to strength. God has been at work in Wymondham throughout 2021 and I believe he has a lot more planned, if we would only listen, believe and step out in faith.

Management of the financial information and reporting

We started 2021 with Vic Wright stepping down as Treasure. I would like to thank Vic (and Mary) for all their hard work and commitment to the task. In January, we set up a Finance Team of Mary Wright, Cathy Finch and Victor Fromm. This team meets every month in week one, so that they can review the previous month's figures and prepare a report for the Deacons Meeting, generally held in week two.

Over 2021 the team had to get used to working together over Zoom and the use of a new software package which produces very useful sets of reports. A big thank you must go to Mary

and Cathy for their ongoing diligence, commitment and un-resting perseverance with inputting, analysis and reporting.

Financial performance

Our 2021 budget predicted our expenditure would be £9,000 more than our income (see table below). If this had materialised it would have used up a considerable portion of our savings.

As a church we took a number of actions to reduce this predicted overspend and also prayed for God to perform a miracle over our finances, which he did.



2021 Summary of accounts:-

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Variance to budget	2020
Income	53,975.00	68,151.73	14,176.73	54,648.74
Expenditure	62,975.00	68,598.05	-5,623.05	57,201.40
Outturn	-9,000.00	-446.32	8,553.68	-2,552.66

Roots Community Café Account

Donations and legacies	1,616.23
Income and charitable activities	13,613.58
Other trading activities	676.16
Other income	6,820.00
Total income and endowments	22,725.97

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities	13,997.49
Other activities	2,205.15
Total expenditure	16,202.64

It should be noted that the out turn shown for Roots Community Café is as a result of an insurance claim from having to close the Café during the pandemic. Thank you to Vic and Mary for working with the insurance company on the claim which resulted in a payment of £6,800.