

# Annual General Meeting Report 2020



Eastern  
Baptist  
Association

Growing healthy churches in relationship for God's Mission  
in the East of England

## Welcome to New Ministers

Individuals who have either moved  
into EBA or taken on a new role  
since June 2019



### Northern Sector

Ian Forsyth	Gunton
Sally Sago	King Street, Thetford
Charlie Radburn	Emmanuel, Chatteris

### Central Sector

Bill Miller	Cambourne
Jen Hughes	West Mersea
Kate Gaze	Hardwick
Sally Bates	Frinton
Rob Foster	Whitehouse, Ipswich
Gustavo Gubiano	Bishop's Stortford

### Southern Sector

Jo Hellenbrand	Eastwood
Pholani Ncube	MIT Shotgate
Tom Madders	Billericay
Jeff Jacobson	West Leigh
Andrew Marshall	MIT Westcliff

(MIT –Minister in Training)

## Retirements

These ministers have retired from an EBA church  
since June 2019

### Northern Sector

David Bird	Attleborough
Linda Turner	Martham

### Central Sector

Sandie Hicks	Oasis, Brightlingsea
Jim Haley	Bildeston
Norman Tharby	Whitehouse, Ipswich

### Southern Sector

David Horncastle	Wood Lane, Dagenham
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## In Memoriam

Rev'd Philip Gathercole– Retired Minister  
Rev'd David Harper– Retired Minister  
Rev'd Dick Coleman– Retired Minister

We give thanks for the lives and ministries of these  
faithful servants who have served us faithfully over the  
years.



## TRUSTEE REPORT 2019

Eastern Baptist Association

Member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Registered charity no. 1089795

Company limited by guarantee registered in England no. 4221429

Registered office: 46 Churchill Road, Thetford, IP24 2JZ

[www.easternbaptist.org.uk](http://www.easternbaptist.org.uk)

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Trustees believe that advancement of the Christian faith, particularly as expressed through the Baptist movement, is of public benefit as it encourages social cohesion, provides an ethical framework for life and works itself out in the sacrificial giving of funds, time and effort by church members and attenders for the good of their own community and beyond.

As part of their work and witness, the Baptist Churches in membership with Eastern Baptist Association deliver a wide variety of activities which benefit the general public. These activities include: -

- promoting the study of religious teachings, practices and scriptures
- support of religious office holders e.g. ministers, deacons and elders of member churches;
- promoting prayer, praise and provision of training events;
- pastoral support to ministers and church congregations;
- contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children and young people and the provision of training to comply with the legal requirements regarding safeguarding.

The Vision Statement of the Eastern Baptist Association is

#### **“Growing healthy churches in relationship for God’s mission in the East of England”**

This vision statement is actively facilitated and fulfilled through seven areas of focus, we realise that each year we do not expect to fully succeed in implementing all seven areas but rather focus on two or three areas each year. The seven areas of our strategy are:

- Growing Godly leaders;
- Stewarding shared resources;
- Enabling relevant training;
- Encouraging healthy churches;
- Exploring fruitful partnerships;
- Sharing inspirational ideas;
- Offering apostolic leadership.

Below are some specific examples of how some of these have been achieved in this last year

The Association put high priority of making the Excellence in Safeguarding training developed by the Baptist Union of Great Britain available for as many people as possible, we have a team of trained trainers at both Level Two and Level Three and see a high level of uptake for these courses. Over the course of 2019 we trained 636 individuals at Level Two and 208 individuals at Level Three with very positive feedback. These courses will continue into 2020 with the addition of an update of material which is due in early 2020.

The Regional team spend a considerable amount of time visiting and walking alongside both ministers and Churches, supporting them through a variety of contexts and situations. They regularly visit each church within their geographical areas and will also attend minister’s gatherings, church meetings and leaders’ meetings.

The Association overseas the programme for developing Newly Accredited Ministers within their geographical boundaries and the Regional team have sought to make the reflection days, which occur three times a year, relevant and useful for any new or long-standing minister. This year has seen days on learning styles and conflict management.

### **Achievements, Performance and Developments**

With the appointment of Graeme Ross in 2018, The year 2019 became a relatively stable year for the Regional team. Revd Beth Powney continued as Team Leader based in the northern part of the Association, Revd Graeme Ross commenced in the central part of the association and Revd Nick Lear

continued in the southern part of our Association. Nick Lear was granted a sabbatical at the end of 2019 which is for a period of 3 months and will return in February 2020. Revd Barry Walton continued as Treasurer, Mrs Julie Eady continues as Finance officer, and Mrs Hayley Beckett as Association Secretary.

Due to personal health reasons Revd Linda Turner resigned as Moderator of the Trustee board in April 2019, as this was mid term Mr Andrew Wade took on the role of interim Moderator until the AGM in September. In September the trustees brought the name of Mrs Jeniya Gwendu to the members and she was duly elected to the position of Moderator. During this year the Trustee board carried out a review of it's make up and role responsibilities, the review took into account the role of trustees and the vision statement of the Association. Some of the existing roles of the board changed and others were added and going forward areas of responsibility were defined for each group. The year also saw the resignation of Revd Jim Mullin due to relocation and the end of term for Mr Andrew Dalwood. With the review in mind new trustees were sought and at the AGM Revd John Goddard, Revd Alan Brand and Revd Sean Fountain were elected as trustees and the council appointed Revd Fiona Heddle as a co-option. Going into the next year the Trustee board is made up of;

Mrs Jeniya Gwendu – Moderator

Revd Barry Walton - Treasurer

Revd Peter Thomas - Finance and Administration,

Revd John Goddard - Ministry,

Mr Andrew Wade - Communication,

Mrs Melanie Pike - Children and Families

Revd Sean Fountain – Healthy Churches

Revd Alan Brand – Justice Transformation

Miss Liz Moulton and Revd Fiona Heddle as co-opted members.

Revds Beth Powney, Nick Lear and Graeme Ross as ex-officio members of council.

The membership of the Association at the end of 2019 was 174 churches. This included new members Countess Free Church in Ely and Epping Green Chapel and the closure of Prickwillow Baptist Church.

### Finance

The EBA have continued to provide three Regional Ministers for the Association despite the continued backdrop of falling income from the main income source. Resources expended on charitable activities was £467,397 including governance. £100,460 was awarded in Home Mission grants.

### Principal Funding Sources

The charity's main source of income are the payments from the Baptist Union for both Operational Funding and Mission Payments which are calculated according to a funding formula which is applied to the total amount received by the BU for Home Mission from churches. Further income is received from investments, rental income and preaching fees. *Under a national agreement, EBA is not allowed to raise funds specifically for our own purposes.*

### Principal Expenditure

The majority of expenditure is directly related to the provision of three Regional Ministers which Council consider the minimum needed to service the needs of all the EBA churches over such a vast area. This includes amounts to maintain the property portfolio to a good standard of repair. The RM team is supported by a Company Secretary for governance issues, and a Finance Officer.

Loans to churches have now been discontinued and the Loan Fund has been re-designated for supporting churches with Pension Liabilities if required. The year-end amount owed by churches was £57,191.

There were seven awards made under the Minister's Training Fund, totalling £2,650 and a further two awards made under the Lay-Ministry Training Fund, totalling £750.

Total funds at the year-end including unrestricted, restricted and designated funds were £2,002,581. EBA drew on reserves in 2019 to the extent of £20,202. Total cash held at the year end is £790,131 for all funds.

Going forward we project a General fund budget for 2020 with a deficit of £42,741 which is to say £821 every week. We consider this necessary and appropriate to support the work of the Association and in funding particular three full time Regional Ministers. We project and support similar annual deficits rising to £59,000 in subsequent years, but recognise that this use of reserves to cover ongoing shortfalls has the following implications. Reserves spent in this way cannot then be used to fund other activities and projects now or in the future. In the long term it can take many years to rebuild reserves, again reducing future possibilities and unless the funding structure for Associations is significantly revised, or other income streams can be developed, at that level of expenditure reserves available for ongoing deficits and not required for other purposes will be exhausted in less than five years.

### Fund Raising

The Charity does not actively fundraise but does receive from time to time unsolicited gifts and donations from the general public. The Trustees do not employ professional or outside agencies to fundraise on its behalf and as such does not consider it necessary to be part of a voluntary scheme or standard.

### Property matters

The Company Secretary and the Treasurer together with the Finance and Administration Task Group oversee the property portfolio for the EBA. The Thetford house continues as the RM manse for the northern sector. The Wickford property is the RM manse for the southern sector. In addition, under the terms of the Finance Arrangement for Associations with the BU, a property is owned in Bury St Edmunds, by the BU, and was used as the RM manse for the Central sector. At the BU's request, in 2019 EBA Council agreed to purchase for ourselves a manse for the RM serving the Central sector, at a cost of £498,000, which has been used since March 2019. Following the purchase of the manse by the EBA in Earls Colne, the BU have sold the Bury St Edmunds manse and are giving the EBA a supporting manse allowance of £625 per month. The supporting rent allowance will increase in 2021 to a market rate.

Through 2019 the rental property in Wickford continued to be let to generate income to support ministry and governance costs. However EBA Council are prepared to consider selling that property at some time in the future. Moving forward, all properties continue to be reviewed annually to maintain the five year plan for routine maintenance and planned refurbishment of the three EBA properties.

The EBA received funds from the closure of two churches totalling £111,087. In support of the Baptist family £50,000 from the EBA Pension reserve fund was given to the Baptist Union Pension Family solution fund, and £8,333 to the Methodist East Anglia pension fund due to an ecumenical partnership.

The Baptist college Spurgeons College was awarded a gift of £5,000 for their general fund and £5,000 for their benevolent fund to support their on going work.

### Governance

During the year the Trustees and received training for their role as Trustees and continue to regularly review policies and procedures to keep up to date with developments and updates. In 2019 the Trustee board approved an updated safeguarding policy and reviewed the Data protection policy which is due for approval in early 2020.

### Ministerial Support

The Ministers' Conference held in February at High Leigh Conference Centre was attended by just over 100 ministers both retired and active and some spouses. The speaker at the conference was Dr Myra Blyth. The Association arranged training days that included conflict management, how do people learn in church and mentor training.

During the year a group of Youth ministers who work within churches of the Association met twice for mutual support. This group plans to meet twice a year going forward and a date has already been booked

for April 2020

### Administration and Communication

The Association uses a variety methods of electronic communication methods including a weekly prayer focus sent out by email, a MailChimp monthly bulletin, a weekly thought for the week and quarterly newssheets and we find that all of these serve their purpose. We also have a presence on Facebook as a page and a community group which facilitates churches sharing events with other churches.

### Church Support

The settlement of ministers and churches continues to be facilitated by the association through the National Settlement Team of the Baptist Union. More locally the recognition of people displaying skills and calling to take on the role of Minister is tested through our own recognition committee. During 2019 the committee met with 15 candidates seven of which were recommended onto training at college, two were commended as regionally recognised ministers, and two were recommended onto Residential selection conference.

The Home Mission grants committee considered applications from 16 churches, five special ministries and two chaplaincy partnerships. Each application is considered on its own merit and if successful grants are awarded for a three year period measured by an active mission action plan. The grants committee submitted its recommendations to the trustees and awarded grants to 13 Churches, five special ministries and one chaplaincy partnerships and these recommendations were agreed. Currently year on year demand for grants outstrips available funds so careful consideration is having to be given to each application.

The Association recognises that churches look outside of their local area and often to other parts of the world to support organisations and individuals working with people or groups in other countries.

### Ecumenical

The regional staff continue to relate to ecumenical structures in the region within the counties where they are based. Further Ecumenical work is supported by Denominational officers in the counties. This work is particularly important where Baptists are partners.

### Risk Assessment

An annual risk assessment continues to take place in the areas required by the Charities Commission. This is completed at the beginning of each year.

### Serious Incidents

There are no serious incidents that the Regional Ministers/Council are aware of that require reporting.



## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

## Notes

All the above results derived from continuing activities. There were no recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movement in funds are disclosed in notes 1 and 12 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 11 to 21 form part of these financial statements.


ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019					
BALANCE SHEET					
Notes		2019		2018	
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	7		1,097,550		606,950
Investments	8		380,204		146,304
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS			1,477,754		753,254
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	58,415		108,980	
Cash at bank and in hand		790,131		1,257,648	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		848,546		1,366,628	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	8,790		8,190	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			839,756 2,217,510		
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					11,692
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16		83,071		88,908
NET ASSETS			2,234,439		2,022,784
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Income Funds					1,369,302
Designated Income Funds			553,247		522,829
Restricted Income Funds	12		139,370		130,653
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			2,234,439		2,022,784

The trustees consider that the charitable company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of Section 477(1) of the Companies Act 2006. Members have not required the charitable company under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, to obtain an audit for the year ended 31 December 2019. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at 31 December 2019 and of its deficit for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 396 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to the financial statements as far as applicable to the charitable company.

The financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, were approved by the board on 13

on July 2020

and signed on it behalf.

  
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Trustee

**Eastern Baptist Association  
Annual General meeting. 1.45pm 28 September 2019.  
At Billericay Baptist Church**

**Welcome**

Andrew Wade, Deputy Moderator opened the AGM and welcomed everybody to the meeting. He made everyone aware that the trustee annual report was in the papers circulated on arrival.

**Signing of minutes from 2018**

The minutes from July 2018 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

**Reception of Annual Report**

The annual report was agreed and submitted to the charity commission by the Trustees. It was presented to the meeting for information.

**Presentation of Financial Report for 2018.**

Barry Walton, Treasurer of the association presented the annual accounts. The presentation included a look at the national picture as well as a local one, he highlighted that EBA are spending in the region of £45,000 more than they receive with the gap being filled with money from our reserves. He highlighted the importance of Home Mission giving by each church as a part of the Baptist Family.

**New Trustees appointed by ballot**

Member churches had been asked to vote electronically for new EBA council members who are the trustees of the Association. Thank you to all the churches who took the time to complete the ballot we are pleased to announce that Revd Alan Brand, Revd Sean Fountain and Revd John Goddard have been appointed to the trustee board for a period of three years. Revd Fiona Heddle has also been co-opted onto council by the trustees. In July EBA council also renewed and accepted an updated safeguarding policy which has led us to appoint three roles, Revd Nick Lear Safeguarding Lead, Revd Daniel Beckett (one of our safeguarding trainers and experienced Youth Minister) Deputy safeguarding Lead and Mrs Melanie Pike (one of our trainers and EBA trustee) Safeguarding trustee.

**Welcome to New Ministers**

Since the last AGM these people have settled as ministers within the EBA.  
Danni Worley MIT Centenary, March, David Bird Attleborough, Elaine Blundell Trinity Free, Tudor Parsons MIT Haddenham, Lynne Connell Martham, Robert Connell Martham, Jon McGee Perry, Eleanor Kelsey Chaplain HMP Norfolk and Waveney, Ian Shaddick Stoke Green, Andrew Openshaw Homelands, Tim Clarke-Wood St Andrew's Street, Neil Coulson Christ Church, Ipswich, Simon Heard MIT Rowhedge, Terry Tennens Colchester, Cole Maynard Colchester, Jonathan Blake Rayleigh, Carl Palmer Elm Park, Elizabeth Stoner MIT Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay, Karen Smiley MIT Burnham on Crouch, Derek Gibson Chase Cross, Helen Harrigan MIT Laindon, David McDowell Leigh Beck, Duncan Keys Friars

As well as welcoming new ministers we also make note of those ministers who have retired out of full-time ministry over the last year. Barry Cheesman retired from Braintree Baptist Church, John Smith retired from Godmanchester Baptist Church

**Welcome to new Churches**

This year we were prepared to bring you 3 churches to welcome into membership, however there has been a small administrative error and at the meeting we welcomed 2 of the three.  
Countess Free Church— Minister Karl Relton and  
Epping Green Chapel—Minister Paul Walker  
We hope to have the pleasure of welcoming the remaining church soon. This takes our total membership up to 173 with one pending.  
Each church was presented with a membership certificate and prayed for.

**In Memoriam**

It is always a sad moment when we reflect on lives no longer with us. This year, 3 retired ministers were promoted to glory, all who during their ministries had ministered within the EBA and then chose to retire within the Association.  
Revd Peter Chevill— Retired Minister  
Revd Derek Moon— Retired Minister  
Revd Gordon Whittle— Retired Minister  
Revd Ronald Messenger was added to this list who had passed away last week.



## **Introduction to Projects 2019**

This year we have 3 projects, one from each sector. Please pray for each one and if you or your church wish to give financially to the projects please do so direct to the church. Each church presented their project to the meeting the three churches are; Bluntisham Baptist Church, Earls Hall Baptist Church and Great Sampford Baptist Church.

## **Moderator Appointment**

Since the retirement of Linda Turner in February due to health reasons, earlier than anticipated the EBA has been without a Moderator. The council are really pleased to bring to the meeting a nomination of Jeniya Gwendu for the position;

*Council propose that Jeniya Gwendu be appointed Moderator for the Eastern Baptist Association for a period of three years.*

The meeting, by show of hands, voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Jeniya was welcomed into the meeting as the new Moderator, she will serve the Association for 3 years. Jeniya closed the meeting with prayer.

## **Close of AGM.**

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## **AGENDA 2020**

### **Eastern Baptist Association Annual General meeting. 6.45pm 21st September**

**Zoom Gathering:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86786229262>

Meeting ID: 867 8622 9262

Passcode: 408213

Welcome

Signing of minutes from 2019

Reception of Annual Report

Presentation of Financial Report for 2019

Welcome to New Ministers

In Memoriam

Close of AGM.

## Looking Forward

### Safeguarding Training

We are working on being able to provide training online, details will be released soon



## MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

16-18 June 2021

### Equipped to Engage with Science

#### A Day Course for Christian Leaders

Saturday 21st November 2020, online

For lay and ordained church leaders, primarily from Baptist Churches, to enrich their understanding of the science-faith dialogue.

Designed mainly for those who have a reasonable level of theological understanding and pastoral experience, but may have no background in science.

Topics include: science in the church, responding to 'natural' disasters, bioethics, creation care.

Cost: £15 (includes free book)

Details and registration: [faraday.institute/churches](https://faraday.institute/churches)



### MISSION CONSULTANCY FROM RIVERTREE LTD

"You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work: to go and produce fruit, fruit that will last." John 15:16 (NCV)  
"...like a tree planted by a river." Psalm 1:3 (NCV)

As well as being the source of much joy, church life can sometimes be a challenge too. In a rapidly changing society, and in a context of decline within the church, the path to fruitfulness is not always an obvious one. It can often seem that we are as busy as ever, yet with very little to show for our efforts. Even when we see new people coming along to church events it's not always clear how to take them further on the journey of faith.

With a passion to see contextually relevant Christian communities emerging across the UK, Simon Goddard is seeking to accompany those who share his desire to see transformation and multiplication within the church. 'Mission consultancy' is a way for the local congregation to be joined by a travelling companion for a period of time; someone who can ask questions and offer support, helping you to discover the next steps on your church's missional adventure.

Two 'mission consultancy' packages are available:

**Standard** – This costs £100/month (over 2 years) and involves:

- 5 'on-site' sessions per annum (a session is a morning, afternoon or evening);
- a monthly 45mins Skype call with the minister (or nominated leader);
- a monthly online learning community for leadership teams from across the group of churches receiving consultancy, with the purpose of mutual learning and encouragement.

**Bespoke** – Other packages can be discussed and arranged to fit your specific situation.

Contact Simon for details: [info@rivertree.org.uk](mailto:info@rivertree.org.uk) or 07930 148094.

Simon is the founder of RiverTree, which offers consultancy, coaching and training to support to those pursuing fruitfulness in God's mission. Co-author of 'Big Hearted', he serves nationally for Baptists Together and facilitates its Mission Forum. He is also a leader within Fresh Expressions and hosts an online version of the mission-shaped ministry course.

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275 Deansgate,  
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Eastern  
Baptist  
Association

Grants of up to £1,000 per year available

The Eastern Baptist Association are offering grants towards the costs of mission consultancies. You can request more information and an application form from Hayley Beckett, [secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk](mailto:secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk)

[www.easternbaptist.org.uk](http://www.easternbaptist.org.uk)



Eastern Baptist Association UK

Eastern Baptist Association Community

### Regional Team

**Revd Beth Powney** - Team Leader and Northern Sector

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**Revd Graeme Ross** - Central Sector

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**Revd Nick Lear** - Southern Sector

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### Association Secretary

Hayley Beckett,

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07876 220344

### Association Moderator

Jeniya Gwendu

[moderator@easternbaptist.org.uk](mailto:moderator@easternbaptist.org.uk)

### Association Treasurer

Barry Walton,

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