

# Annual General Meeting Report 2021



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 2020



### Northern Sector

Mike Flynn	Gorleston
Tudor Parsons	Haddenham
Nick Mitchell	Foulsham
David Humphries	Carleton Rode
Cate Allen	MIT Chaplaincy

### Central Sector

Cath Brown	Bures
Shane Hughes	MIT Holly Lodge
Steve Langford	St Andrew's Street
Kate Young	Orchard
Chris Farmer	Histon
John Pulford	MIT Colchester
Gavin Walter	Garland Street
Chris Tanton	MIT Cherry Hinton
Julian Gotobed	Westcott House
Catrin Horrex	MIT Barnwell

### Southern Sector

Adrian Ward	South Woodham Ferrers
Erica Bowler	Love Purfleet

Anthony Minter      Chaplain Queens Hospital  
Anthony Egbunike      MIT Wood Lane  
(MIT –Minister in Training)

## Retirements

These ministers have retired from an EBA church  
since June 2020

### Northern Sector

### Central Sector

Ron Day      Histon  
Robert Green      Garland Street

### Southern Sector

Alison Horncastle      Wood Lane, Dagenham



## In Memoriam

Revd Linda Turner– Retired Minister  
Revd Ron Rivers– Retired Minister  
Revd Arthur (John) Tugwell– Retired Minister  
Revd Grace Hovard– Retired Minister



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

Eastern Baptist Association

Member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

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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 eight 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 eight 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.
- Advocating transformational justice

Below are some specific examples of how some of these have been achieved in this last year, Recognising the challenges that 2020 brought to organisations, in some ways ours was no different, most of our work had to be moved to an electronic platform. The items listed below have been undertaken electronically both live, recorded. or over the phone.

In March following government announcements churches were told to close their buildings to help reduce the spread of Coronavirus - while the buildings were closed churches were exploring ways in which they could still host a service of teaching and worship for their congregations the association was able to connect those that had the technical ability to do this with some who didn't to be able to learn from each other.

The Association was able to share stories from individual churches of ways that those churches were supporting

members of their communities is inspire and encourage.

The regional team put high priority in pastorally supporting ministers from churches and made every effort to contact each individual minister to support and encourage them.

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

The staffing levels remained stable in 2020 this follows the return of Nick from sabbatical in February. Revd Beth Powney continued as Team Leader based in the northern part of the Association and Revd Nick Lear continued in the southern part of our region, Revd Graeme Ross continued in the central part of our region. Revd Barry Walton continued as Treasurer Mrs Julie Eady continues as Finance officer, and Mrs Hayley Beckett as Association Secretary. Early in the year the trustees considered the amount of work with regards to safeguarding that the Regional Ministers were carrying and in July the Association successfully appointed a part time safeguarding lead. Mrs Diane Forsyth has proved to be a valuable part of the Association team as well as a support to the churches in areas of safeguarding.

Mrs Jeniya Gwendu has continued as Moderator for 2020. The following are; in April , Miss Liz Moulton completed her term and Revd Andrew Openshaw was co-opted onto the trustee board. In September, Mrs Laura Evans was co-opted onto the trustee board. In December Revd Mel Pike resigned as she moved out of the EBA's geographical area. The trustee board finished 2020 as below.

Mrs Jeniya Gwendu – Moderator

Revd Barry Walton - Treasurer

Revd Peter Thomas - Finance and Administration,

Revd John Goddard - Ministry,

Mr Andrew Wade - Communication,

Vacancy - Children and Families

Revd Sean Fountain – Healthy Churches

Revd Alan Brand – Justice Transformation

Revd Fiona Heddle, Revd Andrew Openshaw and Mrs Laura Evans as co-opted members.

Revd's Beth Powney, Nick Lear Graeme Ross as exofficio members of council.

The Association trustee board continued to meet during 2020 using a virtual platform as allowed by our Articles of Association. The Trustees met for an emergency meeting in March to consider the ways in which the staff were working and put things in place to ensure that staff were working within Covid guidelines in a safe way for themselves and others they may meet. These remained in place for the rest of 2020 and will continue into 2021.

The membership of the Association at the end of 2020 was 172 churches. This includes the transfer of Romford Baptist Church out of the EBA to the LBA.

### **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 £348,784 (£469,440 :2019) including governance. £108,728 (£100,460: 2019) 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.

## **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. We have now additionally employed an EBA Safeguarding Officer for 8-12 hours per week.

Loans to churches have now been discontinued and the Loan Fund has been redesignated for supporting churches with Pension Liabilities if required. The year-end amount owed by four churches was £43,791 (£57,191: 2019).

The Ministers Training fund and Lay Ministry Training fund shared the cost of £2,520 for Mental Health Training by Transpire. This cost was partially offset by income of £1,040. One grant was awarded for £400, however due to Covid this was returned with the intent of using at a later date. The Training fund also supported £430 towards Conflict Training for NAMs and £150 for NAMs speaker fees.

Total funds at the year-end including unrestricted, restricted and designated funds were £2,237,488 (£2,234,439: 2019). EBA drew on reserves in 2020 to the extent of £4,352 (£22,245: 2019). Total cash held at the yearend is £801,520 (£790,131: 2019) for all funds.

Going forward we project a General fund budget for 2021 with a deficit of £46,214 which is about £888 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 over £60,000 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 by the end of 2024.

## **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. Following a change in BU guidelines, EBA is exploring ways to raise funds specifically for our own purposes.

## **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. Following the purchase of the EBA Manse in Earls Colne, the BU are giving the EBA a supporting manse allowance of £1,567 (£625 in 2019) per month. The supporting rent allowance is now at market rate.

Through 2020 the rental property in Wickford continued to be let to generate income to support ministry and governance costs. However, if the income was required for our finances 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 £18,879 from the closure of a Church which was allocated to the Home Mission fund. £500 was received from another Church closure and this money was directed to the General fund.

During the year the Regional Minister Team Leader did some Chaplaincy work for the local hospital and for her time the EBA received £2,221.

## **Governance**

During the year, the Trustees have reviewed the Association Data Protection Policy and accepted an update

following the review. The Charity Risk Assessment has also been removed and updated to be completed at the beginning of 2021.

### **Ministerial Support**

The Ministers' Conference held in February at High Leigh Conference Centre was attended by just under 100 ministers both retired, active and some spouses. The speaker at the conference was Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The Association arranged training days that included Mental Health Awareness, Safeguarding and Using presentation software. The Association also provided opportunities for retreat and listening days. The regional team also provided a number of pre recorded services on our You Tube channel for churches to use during their weekly broadcasts plus extra resources at Easter, Remembrance and Christmas.

### **Administration and Communication**

The Association uses a variety 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 newsheets and we find that all of these serve their purposes. We also have a presence on Facebook with 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 2020 the committee met with 10 candidates seven of which were recommended onto training at college, one was commended as a regionally recognised minister, one was affirmed as a Nationally recognised minister and one was deferred for two years.

The Home Mission grants committee considered applications from 15 churches, seven special ministries and one 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 14 Churches, seven special ministries and one chaplaincy partnerships and these recommendations were agreed. The demand for grants increases year-on-year and outstrips available funds so careful consideration is having to be given to each application.

### **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.

There have been no significant events affecting the Association's financial position since the end of the year. The trustees are aware of the current financial position and are taking steps to discuss and implement ways forward. There are no commitments or guarantees requiring disclosure.

## EASTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	2020			2019		
		Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £
INCOME							
Grants and donations	2	156,643	3,663	141,496	301,802	173,583	418,314
Investment income	3	42,430	201	-	42,631	28,679	28,881
TOTAL INCOME		199,073	3,864	141,496	344,433	202,262	447,195
EXPENDITURE							
Charitable activities	4	202,384	18,500	123,629	344,513	276,068	469,440
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		202,384	18,500	123,629	344,513	276,068	469,440
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(3,311)	(14,636)	17,867	(80)	(73,806)	(22,245)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	11-12	189,333	(180,000)	(9,333)	-	12,426	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR BEFORE GAINS/LOSSES		186,022	(194,636)	8,534	(80)	(61,380)	(22,245)
Gain/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	8	-	-	-	-	233,900	233,900
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		186,022	(194,636)	8,534	(80)	172,520	211,655
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS							
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1ST JANUARY 2020		1,541,822	553,247	139,370	2,234,439	1,369,302	2,022,784
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020		1,727,844	358,611	147,904	2,234,359	1,541,822	2,234,439

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 11 and 12 to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 11 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

## BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	7	1,090,150	1,097,550
Investments	8	380,204	380,204
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>1,470,354</b>	<b>1,477,754</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	9	43,791	58,415
Cash at bank and in hand		801,520	790,131
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>845,311</b>	<b>848,546</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	2,536	8,790
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>842,775</b>	<b>839,756</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,313,129</b>	<b>2,317,510</b>
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16	78,770	83,071
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>2,234,359</b>	<b>2,234,439</b>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Unrestricted Income Funds		1,727,844	1,541,822
Designated Income Funds	11	358,611	553,247
Restricted Income Funds	12	147,904	139,370
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<b>2,234,359</b>	<b>2,234,439</b>

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 2020. 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 2020 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 and signed on it behalf.

**Eastern Baptist Association**  
**Annual General Meeting 6.45pm 21 September 2020**  
**Held via Zoom (virtual platform) due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

**Welcome**

Beth Powney Regional Minister Team leader opened the meeting with a welcome due to technical difficulties for Moderator, Jeniya Gwendu. Beth made everyone aware that the trustee annual report had been circulated by email and was available on the EBA website.

**Signing of minutes from 2019**

The minutes from September 2019 were signed as a true record of the meeting.

**Reception of Annual Report**

Thanks, were offered to the Trustees and Regional Ministers for all they do in the running of the Association and the annual report was presented to the meeting for information.

**Presentation of Financial Report for 2019**

Barry Walton, EBA treasurer, presented the annual accounts. He highlighted that the association still spends in excess of its income which is eating into our reserves. This deficit is not a surprise and was expected in the budget.

Barry finished with a Thank you to all present, that as an Association we give very generously to Home Mission and so far this year our giving has increased from last year with which we are very grateful especially considering the events of this year so far. Please pass this thank you back to your churches

Barry reminded people to respond to the request, from himself, to send him their churches projected giving to Home Mission in 2021.

Beth offered Thanks to Barry and Julie Eady the Association bookkeeper who works very hard for us behind the scenes.

**Welcome to New Ministers**

It is tradition that we take this moment in our AGM to welcome new Ministers to the Association or Ministers who have taken on a new role within the Association within the last year, this year we welcome;

**In the Northern sector**

Ian Forsyth settled at Gunton

Sally Sago moved from being a Minister in training to a NAM at King Street, Thetford

Charlie Radburn settled at Emmanuel, Chatteris

**In the central sector**

Bill Miller settled at Cambourne

Jen Hughes moved from being a Minister in training to a NAM at West Mersea

Kate Gaze became a NAM at Hardwick

Sally Bates became a Regionally Recognised Pastor at Frinton

Robert Foster moved from being a Minister in Training to a NAM at Whitehouse, Ipswich

Gustavo Gubiano became a Minister in Training at Bishop's Stortford

**In the Southern Sector**

Jo Hellenbrand became a Regionally Recognised Minister at Eastwood

Pholani Ncube became a Minister in Training at Shotgate

Tom Madders moved from being a Minister in Training to a NAM at Billericay

Jeff Jacobson settled as Associate Minister at West Leigh

Andrew Marshall became a Minister in Training at Westcliff

Natalie Hughes Minister in Training at Church from Scratch

Helen Harrigan Minister in Training at Laindon

Adrian Ward settled at South Woodham Evangelical Church

We also like to take this opportunity to mark the service of those ministers who have retired within the last year, David Bird, Linda Turner, Sandie Hicks, Jim Haley, Norman Tharby, David Horncastle. We wish you well in your retirement.

We then prayed for these individuals

**In Memoriam**

This item within our AGM is always poignant as we take a moment to reflect on those ministers who were living in the EBA that have passed away over this last year.

Revd Philip Gathercole— Retired Minister

Revd David Harper— Retired Minister

Revd Dick Coleman— Retired Minister

We give thanks for their lives of service.



**Close of AGM.**

Thank you all for joining us this evening, we value your support and prayers over the year.

The meeting closed at 19.05pm

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**AGENDA 2021**

**Eastern Baptist Association  
Annual General meeting.  
6.45pm 20 September**

Welcome

Signing of minutes from 2020

Reception of Annual Report

Presentation of Financial Report for 2020

Results of Election for EBA Trustees

Welcome to New Ministers

In Memoriam

Election of Moderator

Close of AGM.

## Looking Forward



### **Safeguarding Training**

22 September

11 October

10 November

Sessions at 7.30pm and  
8.30pm on each date.

Book with EBA Secretary



Revd Claire Blatchford and Revd Gale Richards

Induction as EBA Regional Minister's

14 November 2021

Upminster Baptist Church

3.00pm



### **Regional Team**

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

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**Revd Graeme Ross** - Central Sector

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### **Association Secretary**

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### **Association Moderator**

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### **Association Treasurer**

Barry Walton,

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



Eastern Baptist Association UK

Eastern Baptist Association Community



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