

Annual General Meeting Report 2022



Eastern
Baptist
Association

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

Welcome to Regional Ministers

Revd Claire Blatchford

Revd Gale Richards

Welcome to New Ministers

Individuals who have either moved
into EBA or taken on a new role
since September 2021



Area 1

Tom Madders	Norwich Central
Neil Winterton	Mundesley
Daniel Robson	Garland Street (Youth and Families)

Area 2

Naomi Spriggs	Springfield Park
Andrew Fitzgerald	Colchester Road
Michelle Eversden Thomas	Earls Colne
Sally Bates	Frinton
Brenda Brundritt	Ashdon
Gustavo Gubiani	Bishop's Stortford
Hazel Hunting	Rushmere

Area 3

Nick Braithwaite	Chaplain, Basildon Hospital
Richard Shorter	Upminster
Paul Wheeler	MIT Rayleigh
Helen Semoh	Chaplain

Vicky Baker

Shoeburyness and Thorpe
Bay (Children and Family)

Sean Fountain

Brentwood

Pholani Ncube

Shotgate

Andrew Marshall

Westcliff

Michael Collins

Chaplain, Megacentre

Jane Guest

Avenue

Martin Wright

Eastwood

Oliver McMullen

Sockets Heath

Peter Lillystone

Benfleet

Area 4

Carolyn Keats

Godmanchester

Mark Burleigh

Chaplain

Bob Adams

Bethel, Swavesey

Jason De Vaux

Zion, Cambridge

(MIT –Minister in Training)

Retirements

Robert Green

Neal Smith



In Memoriam

Mrs Sue Hills– Retired EBA Administrator

Mr Keith Rawlinson Former Secretary Cambridge
Baptist Association

Revd Richard Soar– Retired Minister (EBA
Regional Minister)

Revd Rick Hughes– Retired Minister

Revd Barry Vendy– Retired Minister

Revd Peter Sampson– 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. Registered Charity Number 1089795.

Company Limited by guarantee. Registered in England number 4221429.

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

TRUSTEE REPORT 2021

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

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 Mission Statement of the Eastern Baptist Association is

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

This mission 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 eight 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

Recognising the continuing challenge of the Covid-19 global pandemic the association has offered a variety of ways to engage with activities that include, in person, via a virtual online platform, recorded and over the phone. Below are some specific examples of how some of our eight areas of focus have been achieved in this last year:

The Association has taken time to consider way to address diversity and equality and has been instrumental in developing a mentor programme called ‘Magnify You’. This is a programme working to develop female ministers into potential larger leadership roles in the future. The Trustees attended a racial awareness training session which was both humbling and informative and are looking at ways in which this can be implemented going forward into 2022.

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 and alongside this facilitated Mental Health training days aimed at ministers themselves and how to help members of their churches of all ages. Towards the end of the year they ran three workshops entitled “Rest, Recharge Reconnect”; each with its own theme and focus on ways that promote, rest, recharging and reconnecting with God and others.

Achievements, Performance and Developments

In terms of staffing, 2021 started as 2020 ended. In May Revd Nick Lear moved on to another post which led to a round of interviews and appointments. In November Revd Claire Blatchford and Revd Gale Richards began working for the association as Regional Ministers. Claire in a full-time post and Gale part time. This has meant a move around of areas of responsibility and our member churches being split across 4 areas. As the year comes to a close, this new model is just starting to feel normal.

Revd Barry Walton continued as Treasurer, Mrs Julie Eady continues as Finance officer, Mrs Hayley Beckett as Association Secretary and Mrs Diane Forsyth as Safeguarding Lead. In September there were also changes in our Trustee board.

Mrs Jeniya Gwendu stepped down as Moderator due to geographical relocation, two trustees completed their terms of service, one of whom was re-elected and one retired, one vacancy was filled by election. Laura Evans a co-opted member resigned and two alternative co-options were made, Charlotte Dove (April) and Sandra Crawford (Sept) but due to personal circumstances Charlotte Dove resigned at the end of 2021.

The Association trustee board continued to meet for most of 2021 using a virtual platform, managing an in-person meeting in November. With the appointment of two new Regional Ministers and to comply with our governing document, going forward into 2022 the Trustees took the decision that only the Regional Minister Team Leader (RMTL) would be a Trustee of the association with all other Regional Ministers being invited to attend council to report on items that fall within their areas of responsibility as necessary.

The trustee board finished 2021 as below.

Revd Fiona Heddle – Moderator

Revd Barry Walton - Treasurer

Revd Andrew Openshaw - Finance and Administration,

Revd John Goddard - Ministry,

Mr Andrew Wade - Communication,

Mrs Vicky Baker - Children and Families

Revd Sean Fountain – Healthy Churches

Revd Alan Brand – Justice Transformation

Revd Sandra Crawford as a co-opted member.

Revd's Beth Powney (RMTL) as an ex-officio member of council.

The membership of the Association at the end of 2021 was 171 churches. This includes the closure of Grace Fellowship, Little Stukeley in June.

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 were £407,783 (2020: £344,513) including governance. £140,319 (2020: £108,728) 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. In November 2021 this increased to 3.5 Regional Ministers. Provision includes amounts to maintain the property portfolio to a good standard of repair. The Regional Ministry 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 and also covering part of the General Fund shortfall. The year-end amount owed by four churches was £34,291 (2020: £43,791).

The Ministers Training fund and Lay Ministry Training fund support Bursary applications. In 2021 four Bursary grants were awarded worth £1,432.

Total funds at the year-end including unrestricted, restricted and designated funds were £2,099,897 (2020: £2,234,359). EBA drew on reserves in 2021 to the extent of £134,462 (2020: £80). Total cash held at the year-end is £669,269 (2020: £801,520) for all funds.

Going forward we project a General fund budget for 2022 with a deficit of £99,000, which is to say £1,904 every week. We consider this necessary and appropriate to support the work of the Association and in funding particular three and half Regional Ministers. We project and support similar annual deficits 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 2023.

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 £1,498 (2020: £1,567) per month. The supporting rent allowance is now at market rate.

A deposit of £48,000 has been put down for a new build property at Firethorn Court, Ely to accommodate the new part time RM. Cash reserves will support this purchase however it is likely that the Melville Drive property tenancy will cease in 2022 and this property will be sold to offset the Ely purchase. Through 2021 the rental property, Melville Drive, continued to be let to generate income to support ministry and governance costs. 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.

Governance

At the start of 2021 the Charity Risk Assessment was reviewed, and a section added that is solely focused on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Trustees have also reviewed and adopted the Reserves Policy and Risk Assessments particularly those that relate to Covid-19.

Ministerial Support

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the ministers' conference was held over two days in hybrid form, one day meeting in small groups of 6 with zoom content from our speakers, Revd Dr Kate Coleman and Revd Cham Kaur-Mann. This content focussed on leadership, the following day we met in High Lodge Forest Park for a day filled with social activities and a BBQ. The Regional Ministers have made it a priority to keep in contact with ministers from across the association via phone call, zoom calls and where possible in person. The regional team also provided a number of pre-recorded services on our YouTube channel for churches to use during their weekly broadcasts plus extra resources at Easter 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 and a weekly thought for the week. We also have a presence on Facebook as both a page and a community group which facilitates churches sharing events with other churches.

Church Support

The settlement of ministers and churches changed its process during 2021 to give ministers more opportunity to send their profiles to the churches that they feel best fit. The way in which we support both ministers and churches during this transition time has adapted to fit the new model. 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 2021 the committee met with 13 candidates, four of whom were recommended onto training at college, two were commended as regionally recognised ministers, five were affirmed as a Nationally Recognised ministers, one went forward to the national residential selection conference, and one was deferred for two years.

The Home Mission grants committee considered applications from 11 churches, eight special ministries and one chaplaincy partnership. 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 eight Churches, eight special ministries and one chaplaincy partnership 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.

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.

Approved at Trustee Meeting 19.03.2022

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	£	2021	£	£	2020	£
FIXED ASSETS							
Tangible fixed assets	7			1,122,250			1,090,150
Investments	8			380,204			380,204
				-----			-----
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS				1,502,454			1,470,354
CURRENT ASSETS							
Debtors	9		34,291			43,791	
Cash at bank and in hand			669,269			801,520	
			-----			-----	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS			703,560			845,311	
LIABILITIES							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10		3,218			2,536	
			-----			-----	
NET CURRENT ASSETS				700,342			842,775
				-----			-----
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES				2,202,796			2,313,129
Provisions for liabilities and charges	16			63,400			78,770
				-----			-----
NET ASSETS				2,139,396			2,234,359
				-----			-----
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY							
Unrestricted Income Funds				1,738,442			1,727,844
Designated Income Funds	11			272,895			358,611
Restricted Income Funds	12			128,059			147,904
				-----			-----
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS				2,139,396			2,234,359
				-----			-----

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 2021. 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 2021 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.

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Barry Walton
Trustee

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


DRAFT

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Designated Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Designated Funds £	2020 Restricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
INCOME									
Grants and donations	2	124,382	-	107,004	231,386	156,643	3,663	141,496	301,802
Investment income	3	41,934	-	-	41,934	42,430	201	-	42,631
TOTAL INCOME		166,316	-	107,004	273,320	199,073	3,864	141,496	344,433
EXPENDITURE									
Charitable activities	4	208,174	7,260	152,849	368,283	202,384	18,500	123,629	344,513
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		208,174	7,260	152,849	368,283	202,384	18,500	123,629	344,513
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS BEFORE TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(41,858)	(7,260)	(45,845)	(94,963)	(3,311)	(14,636)	17,867	(80)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	11-12	52,456	(78,456)	26,000	-	189,333	(180,000)	(9,333)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR BEFORE GAINS/LOSSES		10,598	(85,716)	(19,845)	(94,963)	186,022	(194,636)	8,534	(80)
Gain/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,598	(85,716)	(19,845)	(94,963)	186,022	(194,636)	8,534	(80)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS									
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1ST JANUARY 2021		1,727,844	358,611	147,904	2,234,359	1,541,822	553,247	139,370	2,234,439
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021		1,738,442	272,895	128,059	2,139,396	1,727,844	358,611	147,904	2,234,359

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 21 form part of these financial statements.

**Eastern Baptist Association
Annual General Meeting 6.45pm 20 September 2021
Held via Zoom (virtual platform) due to Covid-19 Restrictions**

Welcome

Jeniya Gwendu opened the meeting with a welcome and made everyone aware that the trustee annual report had been circulated by email and was available on the EBA website.

Signing of minutes from 2020

The Minutes from September 2020 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 2020

Barry presented the accounts and introduced the accounts for 2020. He highlighted that the year was different to normal because of the Covid pandemic. This left us with a year end deficit of just £80. This is in contrast to a deficit of £22,000 the year before. Most of our income in 2020 was down on 2019 figures but due to the reduction in expenditure due to the pandemic all of our expenses were down. The balance sheet shows the total assets of EBA as nearly £2,000,000 most of this is property used to house our Regional Ministers in fact the cash to use for the association work is in the region £250,000.

Jeniya expressed thanks to Barry and Julie our finance team.

Results of Election for EBA Trustees (Jeniya)

Jeniya expressed thanks to all who have served the EBA in the role of Trustee this year we offer thanks to Melanie Pike who stepped down as Children, youth and families lead due to a move out of the EBA and Laura Evans who took on this role in the interim but who has also moved out of an EBA church. Also, to Peter Thomas who has served a full 3 terms as an EBA trustee, his last role being Finance and Admin lead.

This year we have three roles to fill and over the last two weeks churches have been voting for the following.

Vicky Baker – Children, Youth and Families Group

Andrew Openshaw – Finance and Admin Group

Andrew Wade- re-election Communication Group.

The election closed at 12pm today and all trustees were elected to the council.

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

Mike Flynn became a NAM at Gorleston

Tudor Parsons became a NAM at Haddenham

Nick Mitchell settled at Foulsham

David Humphries settled at Carleton Rode

Cate Allen Minister in Training in Chaplaincy

In the central sector

Cath Brown became a NAM at Bures

Shane Hughes Minister in Training at Holly Lodge

Steve Langford settled at St Andrew's Street

Kate Young became a NAM at Orchard

Chris Farmer settled at Histon

John Pulford Minister in Training at Colchester

Gavin Walter settled at Garland Street

Chris Tanton Minister in Training at Cherry Hinton

Julian Gotobed Tutor at Westcott House

Catrin Horrex Minister in Training at Barnwell

Sandra Crawford

Tony Crawford

In the Southern Sector

Adrian Ward settled at South Woodham Evangelical Church

Erica Bowler became a NAM at Love Purfleet

Anthony Egbunike Minister in Training at Wood Lane
Anthony Minter Chaplain at Queens Hospital
Bill Eugster settled at West Leigh

We also like to take this opportunity to mark the service of those ministers who have retired within the last year, Alison Horncastle, Ron Day and Robert Green. 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 Linda Tuner– Retired Minister

Revd Ron Rivers– Retired Minister

Revd Arthur (John) Tugwell– Retired Minister

Revd Grace Hovard – Retired Minister

Revd Wilf Stanbury – Retired Minister

We give thanks for their lives of service.

Election of Moderator

(Fiona Heddle put into a waiting room)

The moderator of EBA is appointed by a majority vote at the AGM following a nomination from Council. Council prayerfully considered the upcoming vacancy and unanimously agreed on Fiona Heddle as the right person to be brought to you this evening. Circulated with the AGM notification was a short bio about Fiona and the whole of council warmly commend her to you.

Please can I have a show of hands from those present to elect Fiona Heddle as the EBA moderator for the next 3 years. Unanimously voted in as Moderator

Any against?

Fiona

Fiona thanked Jeniya for her willingness, wisdom and care that she has given to the association and wished her well going forward.

Fiona also thanked Roger and Gillian Armstrong who have served the association as Home Mission grant secretaries for the last 6 years and are stepping down.

Fiona also reminded everyone of the induction of Gale Richards and Claire Blatchford 2 new Regional Ministers on Sunday 14th November at Upminster Baptist Church

Beth reminded everyone about our week of prayer this week and the Gathering on Saturday.

Close of AGM.



Looking Forward



Safeguarding Training Level 2

8 October Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay
15 October Dereham
5 November Oxlow Lane
5 November Norwich Central

Level 2 and 3

1 October Godmanchester (Fully Booked)
22 October Harlow
19 November Whitehouse (Fully Booked)
14 January Swavesey
28 January South Woodham
25 February Kingswood

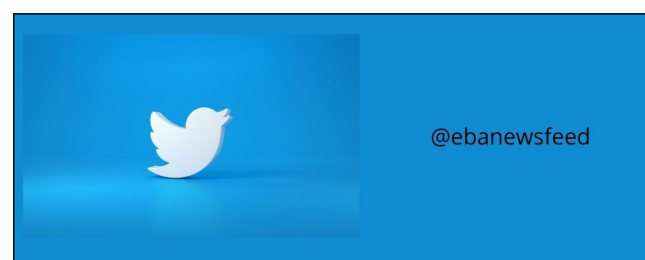
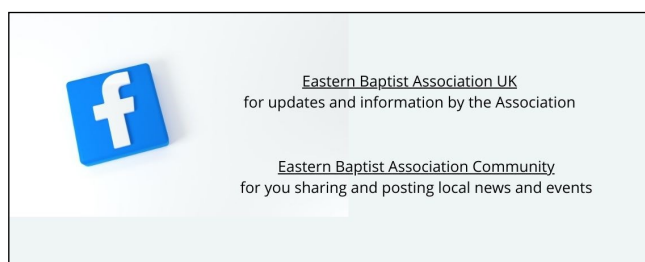


Please pray that we
would **listen** well to
God and to one
another so that
together we
might discern
the mind of **Christ**.

Following the discussions at BU Council in March regarding the request made to make a change to the MR rules for ministers and the subsequent letter to all ministers from Lynn Green in regard to those discussions, the EBA are keen to promote good conversations

We encourage churches to keep the channels of communication open with one another, listening to each other and to God. As Regional Ministers we are very happy to come to help to facilitate conversation within leadership teams and churches, so please get in touch if we can be of assistance.

Find us on Social Media



Regional Team

Revd Beth Powney - Team Leader and Area 1

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Revd Claire Blatchford– Area 3

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Revd Gale Richards– Area 4

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07496 824462

Hayley Beckett, Association Secretary

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Diane Forsyth, Association Safeguarding Lead

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07735 860804

Fiona Heddle, Association Moderator

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Association Treasurer

treasurer@easternbaptist.org.uk

AGM Agenda

Welcome
Signing of minutes from 2021
Reception of Annual Report
Presentation of Financial Report for 2021
Results of Election for EBA Trustees
Vote on Special Resolution (as notified to members and detailed below)
Welcome to New Ministers
In Memoriam
Welcome to New Churches
Election of Treasurer
Close of AGM.

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT a general meeting of the Company members will be held on 24 September 2022 1.45pm at Bluntisham Baptist Church, High Street, Bluntisham, Cambs, PE28 3LD, to consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution: -

That the existing Articles of Association of the Company be amended as follows:

1. The following wording be inserted as a new Article 10.3:

“A general meeting may be held entirely through telephone, video conferencing or other communications equipment, via a mixture of such communications equipment or with some people physically present at the general meeting whilst others are present via communications equipment.”

2. Article 12.5 be deleted and replaced with the following wording:

“A resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands (which can include via electronic means) unless ten representatives shall ask for a ballot of the representatives present at the meeting (such ballot can include voting via electronic means).”

3. The following wording be inserted at the end of Article 13.2:

“(both of which can include voting via electronic means)”

4. Article 21.3 be deleted and replaced with the following wording:

“At the discretion of the Moderator a meeting of Council may be held entirely through telephone, video conferencing or other communications equipment or with some people physically present at the meeting of the Council whilst others are present via communications equipment. If all of the Council members participating in the meeting of the Council are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting of the Council is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.”