

TRINITY CHURCH, NORTH FINCHLEY (BAPTIST/UNITED REFORMED CHURCH)

Registered Address

15 Nether Street
London
N12 7NN

Charity Registration Number 1164151

Trustees

The Revd Paul Martin
Miss Lynn Harvey (Secretary)
Mr Ian Anderson (Treasurer)
Miss Catherine Anderson
Mrs Ann Doyle
Mr David James [re-elected 2018]
Mr Ratna Pradhan [re-elected 2018]
Mrs Pamela Sharpe [re-elected 2018]
Mr John Stewart [re-elected 2018]
Mrs Susan Stewart

Property Trustees

URC Thames North Synod Trust
St Paul's United Reformed Church
Newton Road
Bayswater
London W2 5LS

London Baptist Property Board
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
North Finchley (B) Branch
786 High Road N12 9QT

Independent Examiner

Behnaz Rayati ACCA
Expert Accounting & Finance Ltd
71-75 Uxbridge Road
Aurora House
London W5 5SL

Annual Report for 2018

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2018.

Charitable Object

The Charity is governed by an Approved Governing Document which states that the principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist and United Reformed Church denominations to include the celebration of public worship, the teaching of the Christian faith, mission, evangelism, pastoral work, the provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community and the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The Church is a Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership. It occupies premises which are held by the URC Thames North Synod Trust, and are the subject of a Church Sharing Agreement, enabling the premises to be used by the Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution. The members Meeting normally takes place six times each year and has responsibility for the agreeing the overall policy of the church.

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint up to ten Trustees, who are known as elders. In addition to this the minister (who is also appointed by the church members) also serves as a trustee. The trustees are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

The constitution gives the trustees the power to co-opt up to four additional trustees, but they have not enacted this power during the period of this report.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally.

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at 11 am. There is a programme of activities for children during the Sunday services. The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with DBS checks and are trained in safeguarding procedures.

The church sees a major part of its mission as providing facilities for local community groups in its premises through the week. The church has been successful in attracting a wide range of groups into the church premises, offering a wide provision of services and activities to the wider community.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrates that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

Review of the year

Worship and Spiritual

Our weekly services were enhanced by sharing worship once a month with St Margaret's United Reformed Church (URC), and at Special services such as Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas.

We were delighted to welcome fourteen people into membership, ten by Believers Baptism.

Our minister led weekly Bible study groups – one for English speakers and one for Farsi speakers which was translated by members of the group.

A prayer labyrinth was set up in August and open to the public.

Our minister completed his time as Interim Moderator for a local Baptist/URC church on the appointment of their new minister.

Junior Church and Crèche

Our volunteer leaders provided a varied programme for the children and young people.

They participate in the monthly All Age services and at Christmas a video was made of all the children telling the Nativity story.

Parents, children and leaders enjoyed their annual picnic.

Pastoral and Social

The 'Holiday at Home', for those unable to go on holiday, was repeated after its successful launch last year. More people were involved as helpers or participants including our Iranian members. This has helped integrate them into the life of the church as did the shared lunch at Harvest.

Fun and Fellowship our games and chat afternoon operated each Wednesday during August.

We hosted a concert by the URC Life and Mission Choir performing 'Wise Man, Foolish Man.' Members of the choir also entertained us at the Holiday at Home.

The Data Protection Act came into force in May and the Church meeting adopted a Data Protection policy based on Baptist Union guidelines, and appointed a Data Protection Trustee.

We reviewed our Safeguarding policy.

Mission and Evangelism

Trinity Church supported work at home and abroad including

- Tiddlers – a group for babies and cares run by members
- Traidcraft – a stall operated each Sunday and premises users were encouraged to buy during Fair Trade Fortnight and pre-Christmas. We invited a Traidcraft representative to speak at a Sunday service
- Homeless Action in Barnet – received our Harvest gifts
- Together in Barnet – used our premises for their Night Shelter for Homeless
- Pathway – a Christian group that provide assemblies and lunch and after school clubs to local schools – were provided with an office on our premises
- Barnet Refugee Service (BRS) – our Christmas gifts were donated to the children of refugees supported by the BRS.
- Barnet Services User Group (BSUG) – Members of BSUG established a Community Interest Company and opened a not for profit café ‘The Last Cuppa’ on our premises with the aim of providing experience for those trying to get back into work. We encouraged them to use fairly traded goods.
- Anna Wood – our financial support for Anna doing Christian work in Canada ended in December
- Commitment for Life – the URC project to support poor communities abroad especially Central America.

We continued our policy of charging lower hiring rates for bona fide charities.

Ecumenical and Denominational

Trinity Church is a member of Churches Together in Finchley (CTiF). We supported their activities during the year including Prayer meetings, Lent Bible studies and lunches, Walk of Witness and United Good Friday Service and Women’s World Day of Prayer.

Our minister and secretary represent us at the North London Area Group of URC churches.

We continued our link with the Finchley Council of Christians and Jews.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation and from income from hiring the church premises. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

During the year the church expenditure exceeded income by £4,523. This was largely due to income due for the year for the hire of the church premises not being received until after the end of the financial year.

The Trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves at the end of the financial year, together with ongoing income anticipated, to enable the church to function effectively in the coming year.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Lynn Harvey (Secretary)

Ian Anderson (Treasurer)

Paul Martin (Minister)

20 May 2019