



**HEATH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
HAMPSTEAD**

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**Report and Accounts
for the year ending 31 December
2016**

Minister: Revd Ewan J King

Deacons: Ms Annie Fang

**Mrs Gaynor Humphreys (Treasurer) also Secretary
January to September**

**Mrs Theresa Thom (from 19 June and Secretary from
25 September)**

Organist: Ms Judith Peak

HEATH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMPSTEAD

Report on activities in 2016

Heath Street Baptist Church was established as a congregation in 1861 and its building dates from 1862. Governance arrangements were revised in a Charity Commission Scheme sealed on 25 October 1937. It is an excepted charity. The congregation maintains membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the London Baptist Association.

Heath Street is a friendly church in the heart of Hampstead. We are a small, diverse worshipping community. All are welcome to attend our services and our small regular congregation is often joined by newcomers and visitors to Hampstead. Weekday activities draw in large numbers of local people and the church has become a local hub especially for music and children's activities.

Our services of worship continue to be held every Sunday morning at 11 a.m and include activities for children. Music is provided at our services at least monthly by instrumentalists and singers of the King Cave Project and usually by our organist, Judith Peak.

This year sadly saw the death of former Minister and long-term member of the church, The Reverend Dr Marie Isaacs (on 9th August): her funeral was held at the church on 2nd September and was attended by a large number of friends and former colleagues. The service was followed by a Reception in the Lower Hall.

Theresa Thom was appointed Deacon in June and Church Secretary in September. Gaynor Humphreys continues as Treasurer.

Church Helper and member John Baker continues to help run Old Time Nursery, our Tuesday morning musical session for small children, and to arrange free weekly lunchtime recitals on Tuesdays. Both activities continue to be well-attended. John is also our Safeguarding Officer and this year produced a draft safeguarding policy.

At the end of June, Wilf Merttens, a new member of the congregation, a story teller with experience of running creative activities for children, was appointed as Children's Worker for an exploratory period, with a brief to run the Sunday School and other outreach activities for children. Wilf has set up a regular Sunday Club and is also running after school storytelling sessions on Tuesdays.

Wilf was baptised at the Church on 18th September and received into membership on 6th November.

Two other new members were received this year: Onome Okunlola (on 3rd July) and Nomsa Ndbele (on 6th November).

Services of Infant Blessing held on 15th May and 6th November were very well attended and much appreciated by families and friends.

There were also many other special services and events, more fully described by our Minister Ewan in his reflections.

This year it was our turn to host the joint service with Christchurch on Good Friday. We also continued the tradition of a "pulpit swap" with the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church.

Church member Tom Brandt and his wife Susan, a regular member of the congregation, moved back to the United States at the end of March.

The Contact Club, a volunteer-run session for lonely and vulnerable people in our community, run jointly with St Mary's Catholic Church, continues to meet on Sunday evenings.

Christmas dinner was an extremely enjoyable event and very-well-attended.

A Mitzvah Day appeal resulted in a large donation of clothes to our store. Regular Sunday night clothes distributions are very popular and much appreciated. Two new helpers have joined the rota: one from Hampstead Parish Church and the other a member of our Community Choir.

The church's work with the homeless and vulnerable attracted donations totalling £7,000 from a local donor.

Our links with local schools developed this year. Heathside held their Harvest Festival and Christmas events in the church and lower hall and New End School held their art exhibition and Christmas Concert.

At Harvest, Heathside collected food and other supplies for the refugee camp in Calais and our Children's Worker Wilf went over the Calais to assist with distribution. New End cleared and removed a large quantity of material from the gallery which was extremely helpful!

We also had two very successful fellowship events in the church after service: a Harvest lunch and a Christmas lunch. Both were well-attended and provided a welcome opportunity for members of the congregation and friends to get better acquainted.

The church buildings continue to occupy a great deal of our time and attention. This year has however seen progress and some improvements to the facilities and overall appearance of the building. In the Sanctuary, the dais has been renovated and now provides a more attractive and slightly larger space for musical performances: additional under floor sockets have also been provided. Downstairs, the Hall floor has also been renovated.

There have been a few problems with electrics this year: immediate issues have been largely resolved but further investigations are planned. The central heating system and lower floor damp proofing equipment have been serviced.

Preliminary access works are also progressing and further sources of funding for the lift project are being vigorously pursued. We are committed to making the church more accessible to those with mobility problems and users of wheelchairs and baby buggies attending services, regular activities and special events. Improved access is an essential component of our mission and community outreach.

Over the Summer, the church surveyor identified a number of problems with the building we let to Heath Street School: many of these have now been rectified.

At the year end, the usual thanks are due to Minister, Deacons, helpers, stewards, congregation and everyone else who has contributed to the life of the Church. This year, special thanks are due to Gaynor Humphreys for her many years of devoted service as Church Secretary and continued work as Treasurer.

Minister's reflections on 2016

Looking back over the course of the year, two events stand out in the life of the worshipping congregation: the death of Marie Isaacs in August and the baptism of Wilf Merttens in September.

Though Marie's death did not come as a surprise, the final illness and passing of someone so central to Heath Street's identity naturally took a heavy toll on the organisational and above all emotional resources of the congregation. The funeral (and in particular the sermon from Joe Mulrooney, which with cheerful faith celebrated Marie's Christian scholarship and ministry) was therefore all the more valuable as an opportunity for the congregation of Heath Street to mourn and to give thanks along with Marie's other friends.

Wilf arrived at the church on a Sunday morning early in 2016, having come to a living Christian faith a few years ago. It was a joy to see Wilf gradually coming to find a spiritual home in the congregation. By the time Wilf had begun his course of baptismal preparation he was already ministering to the children at Heath Street. His baptism was the first in the church for over a decade. The children's relationship with Wilf gave special poignancy to the moment after his baptism, when they set on the surface of the pool the paper boats they had made and decorated during the service, each one containing a small lit candle. It was a privilege to receive both Wilf and Nomsa Ndebele into membership later in the year.

Our no-longer-quite-new kitchen got slightly more use in 2016 than in previous years. Harvest and Christmas lunches were well-attended by the regular congregation (plus a few friends and guests). At the Christmas lunch, we sampled Eritrean cuisine courtesy of Azmara, who had arrived in London as a refugee, but been welcomed into the home of the Rosenthal family, neighbours of the church and Oldtime Nursery attenders. Other neighbours, Hampstead Resident Quaker Maya and Andrew Metheven, held their wedding reception in the lower hall of the church in September. During advent Anna Greagg and Joe Lewis were also married at the church, with their family putting the church into Christmas trim for the occasion. One more way in which the wider community was welcomed into the worshipping life of the church was the blessing of infants: on Pentecost morning that of Sofia Clarkin (who, along with mother Dina, had got to know the church through Oldtime Nursery); later in the year that of Mysie Johnson (daughter of community choir member, Jane). These well-attended, festive services raised the question of the church's capacity to give a lasting meaningful embodiment to the blessing we have prayed for.

Amongst other services, one set that stands out in the present writer's memory was the long series exploring what it might mean for a contemporary Christian congregation to join the historic church in proclaiming its faith in the terms of the Nicene creed. September was also notable for a focus on harvest and all things Franciscan. Since arriving at Heath Street I've often wondered how harvest might best be marked in our urban context, hence the idea of attempting to mark it by spending a month reflecting upon ecological matters in the particular context of Franciscan spirituality. The attempt seemed to me largely unsuccessful.

Other services out of the usual run of our Sunday worship included: a Bach cantata Sunday (of which more below); cellist and leader of the Santiago Quartet Jonny Hennessy-Brown sharing experiences of mental health good and bad in the context of a service reflecting on that theme; a visit from members of Teddington Parish Church for a service reflecting on faith along with Thomas Traherne; a small choir gathering to perform Arvo Pärt's *I am the true vine*; and the Finnish church of London again holding its north London Christmas service at Heath Street.

One service of worship not directly involving the congregation but too significant to omit was the funeral of Maria 'Kira' Mbombo, which took place at Heath Street in June. Hundreds of members of the London Congolese community gathered at the church for the service and for the wake celebrating and mourning a life tragically cut short. A relative of the deceased who had sung at the funeral returned to lead the congregation in worship at a Sunday service in July.

Over the course of the year Heath Street's ministry of proclamation was enlivened by a series of ecumenical visiting preachers. The Anglican priesthood was well represented by Tim Miller, the curate of St. Mary's Primrose Hill, and by Ayla Lepine, an ordinand studying at Cambridge. Barney Palfrey, a lay theologian teaching at Sarum college, led us in worship, and Brother Sam, a Franciscan from Hilfield friary, preached. The Roman Catholic church again made a much valued contribution to our worship in the persons of Fr John Moffatt SJ and our good neighbour Phelim Rowland. Together with the congregation of Christ Church, Hampstead, we marked Good Friday with the annual shared service of worship. Last but not least, Baptist homiletics was again represented by the contributions of Julian Gotobed, who has now been a good friend to the church over the course of some years.

With regard to social action, and in addition to the continuing ministry of the Contact Club, the most notable item of the year was probably the initiation of what I hope might be a relationship with Panzi hospital. Panzi had been brought to my attention by Belgian-Congolese pastors whom Heini and I had befriended in Malta. We were there to attend a conference dedicated to helping Baptist churches assist one another in ministry and mission across national borders. I had spoken about Heath Street's considerable links with the Congo, and my desire to develop a more enduring relationship between our church and a Congolese institution we might support, and they immediately and unanimously recommended Panzi. This was eventually to bear fruit, firstly in a fundraising dance (rather underwhelming in terms of funds raised) and secondly in an Advent performance of the *Messiah* which was remarkable, not only for the intrinsic beauty of the music, and the joyfulness of the atmosphere, but also with regard to audience size and money raised. The Community Choir sang along with other members of the community and professional soloists and Orly Orbach, a local artist and mother of a child at New End primary school, led an afternoon crafts session, with the proceeds going to Panzi hospital. It should also be mentioned that a member of the Hampstead Quaker Meeting made and sold smoothies at Oldtime Nursery to raise money for North London Synagogue's work with asylum seekers.

2016 saw continued proliferation of the 'arts life' of the church. Our weekly series of lunchtime concerts showed a modest but definite rise in attendance. It's good that many of those who do attend do so regularly. Shortly after Easter John Baker organised a Baroque Festival which over a weekend saw wonderful music, excellent food, reasonable-to-good audience sizes, and a genuinely exceptional spirit of convivial and celebratory music-making. All good music brings glory to God, but it was satisfying to have all this explicitly incorporated into our worship through a performance of a cantata (in the liturgical context for which Bach originally meant it).

Through the year there were plenty of the one-off events we have grown accustomed to. These included classical musicians like Alex McCartney, Flora Curzon and Linden Baroque; musicians working within folk traditions like Gui Tavares's *Nossa voz*, and Matthew Crampton's *Human Cargo*; and popular musicians like Lucy Rose, Elisabeth Kristiansen; and lastly musicians who fall into all categories or none: Ana Silvera and the Santiago Quartet.

Other arts things happening in the church over the course of the year included: meet up events, concerts organised by new-to-Heath-Street promoters Golden Voice and Sofar; a (highly successful) ceilidh; the Oxford and Cambridge Singing School; the Sacred Harp London singing weekend's Christian Harmony singing; a Come & Sing choir event organised by Matthew Evan Smith; theatrical rehearsals led by Jan Woolf; a film made by Harry Peirson; a record made by Zac Gvirtzman and a record of Oldtime Nursery.

With regard to the visual arts, shortly before Easter a work in vinyl discs by James Melloy which had been hired by the church for a year, was taken down. Our nascent relationship with New End primary school continued to develop, with an exhibition of children's artwork being hosted as part of Hampstead Summer Festival. Hampstead School of Art also provided work by children taking the form of an Advent Calendar. Swing Dance classes were started in the church, with an excellent uptake. And by no means all building use was arts-based in nature – other building users included the Hampstead Safer Neighbourhood, and various twelve-step groups.

The concluding paragraphs of the Minister's reports of 2015 and 2016 ("If this report... able to muster") are all the more pertinent with regard to this year's ministry.

Financial Report 2016

Receipts and payments for year ended 31 December 2016

GENERAL CHURCH FUND

	2016	2015
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Voluntary offerings, donations, Gift Aid receipts	19,116	18,897
Room hire (Note)	34,404	19,622
Investment income	631	762
TOTAL GENERAL RECEIPTS	54,151	39,281
Note: one-off lettings and regular use of Church space by community-based groups and choirs		
PAYMENTS		
Minister's and church helpers' pay and on-costs	39,312	36,858
Manse running costs	3,017	2,710
Sunday services, direct costs: music, relief ministers, children's activities	4,960	4,502
Running the building: heat, light, cleaning, housekeeping	13,062	18,552
Outreach activities: newsletter, website, weekly recitals	4,124	4,906
Subscriptions, donations, miscellaneous	1,757	1,785
TOTAL GENERAL PAYMENTS	66,232	69,313
Net at 31 December	-12,081	-30,032

PROPERTY FUND

	2016	2015
RECEIPTS		
Rent income	67,000	67,010
Investment income	2,023	2,256
Refund of insurance	1,740	1,668
Refund of VAT on repairs	21,541	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	92,304	70,934
PAYMENTS		
Repairs to Church	16,629	19,703
Costs attributable to new kitchen	0	23,119
Costs attributable to new WC and tea point	2,310	36,541
Costs attributable to fire safety improvements	740	19,883
Lift and access project	5,089	7,761
Repairs to school building	980	0
Manse costs	3,314	10,560
Insurance (Church and school)	6,079	5,828
Legal and professional fees	0	3,909
TOTAL PAYMENTS	35,141	127,306
Net at 31 December	57,163	-56,372

SPECIAL FUNDS & COLLECTIONS 2016

	b/f	Receipts	Payments	Balance
Contact Club Funds held	982	0	0	982
Coffee mornings Raising funds for Camden AgeUK	43	0	0	43
Christian Aid Church collection receipts	29	186	215	0
Hilfield Priory Church collection receipts	0	15	0	15
Waking from Sleep (Dec 2015 event). Ticket and refreshment receipts, raised for Street Child	916	0	916	0
The Messiah (Dec 2016 event). Ticket and refreshment receipts, raised for Panzi Hospital, Democratic Republic of Congo	0	1,752	0	1,752
TOTAL	1,970	1,953	1,131	2,792

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

ASSETS	31 Dec 2016	31 Dec 2015
	£	£
Bank balance at year end	21,454	10,722
Short term deposits		
London Baptist Property Board	39,044	38,873
COIF Charities Deposit Fund income fund	101,500	91,500
COIF Charities Deposit Fund property fund	83,500	58,500
Investments		
COIF Charities Investment Fund income units (James Harvey Memorial Fund)	331	300
COIF Charities Investment Fund income units (property account) Note	47,567	43,171
TOTAL	293,396	243,066

Note There was an increase in capital value of £4,396 on this Fund in the course of the year, as advised by CCLA and this is reflected in the Property account

REPRESENTING BALANCES ON THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS

	£	£
General account	15,146	27,227
Property account	275,127	213,568
James Harvey Memorial Fund	331	300
Special account (special funds and collections)	2,792	1,971
TOTAL	293,396	243,066

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Within the balances above, the following are held as restricted funds

	1 Jan 2016	31 Dec 2016
	£	£
1 Lift Fund (held in Property account)	10,000	10,000
2 Organ Fund (held in General account)	1,710	1,710
3 Contact Club (held in Special account)	982	982
4 Special funds (held in Special account)	988	1,802
TOTAL	13,680	14,494

Note to financial report 2016

Heathside Preparatory School continues to lease from the Church the school premises which we own immediately south of the Church building and part of the lower ground floor of the main building.

£1,710 of the COIF Charities Deposit Fund (Church account) is designated as a Fund for the organ and other activities related to music. We have also designated £10,000 as a Lift Fund, earmarking a donation given to the Church to be used towards the cost of installing a lift from the ground floor to the lower ground hall. Two donations this year amounting to £7,000 from a local resident were very welcome and are intended to support improvements to the lower floor: these began with plans for full renovation of the hall floor to improve appearance and safety.

We hold the Contact Club's funds, identified in the accounts as a special fund. This Club for lonely and vulnerable people in our community is a joint project with the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary, Hampstead. Heath Street Baptist Church holds the Club's funds as a restricted fund, to be used at the direction of the Club's Treasurer.

The manse, a two-storey flat in Denning Road, is held in trust by the London Baptist Property Board and therefore its capital value is not shown in these accounts. We are grateful to Derek Baker for acting as Independent Examiner of the accounts, on a voluntary basis. See his report on the last page of this document.



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of Heath Street Baptist Church

accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016	Charity no (if any)	Excepted charity
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Set out on pages 5-6

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: **Date:** 16/3/2017

Name: Derek John Baker

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Retired Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants

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