



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

PRESENTED AT AGM ON THE 13 MAY 2023

FROM THE MODERATOR

The wind of change blew in during 2022 transforming the look of the Northern Baptist Association. During the year people, whose service brings our gratitude to them and God, moved on and others took their place in the team and Council. Elaine Webster departed early in the year and we were glad to welcome Clare Cockerill as our administrator.

We appreciated during the AGM the many years of faithful service several Council members had gifted to us and we note them here, Jackie Buckle, Jo Thoy, Mike Cross and Ray Richardson. Later John Cooper stood down. Leading up to and during the transition period we saw Caroline Friend, Rachel Holland, Gavin Monument, Jonny Hedgers, Jen Holder, Phil Dixon and Jess Steel join us as Trustees.

This coupled with the new proposed structure for our staff team created a feeling of energy and cultural change throughout our Region. In the autumn this led to the confirmation that Paul Revill would leave the team by the end of the year. A sad but celebratory thanksgiving for what Paul had achieved in his 8 years with us was held in December and appropriate gifts from us all presented to him and Barbara.

Such changes take time to create from the point of decision and the new team will come into effect in 2023. This has been a fruitful year but not without its difficulties and pressures but as an Association we give thanks for the strategic thinking and vision Hayley has brought and challenged us with during 2022. In reaching many of the milestones required for her role and fulfilling them while being Baptists Together President enabled growth in engagement of churches and ministers. Opportunities for training while doing these together created new relationships that will benefit the Association in the years to come.

As we look to the future we need to be aware that Home Mission giving still needs to be one of our priorities as without that some plans may not be possible. We can thank God that in 2022 there was no significant clawback due to a large legacy into the national fund at the end of 2021. We cannot guarantee such in the years going forward so let us make 2023 a year of prayer and generosity to God's outreach in ministry and mission.

At the end of 2022 I gave notice to Council that for personal reasons I would be standing down as Moderator in 2023 but remain a Trustee to the end of my term. So I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, support and the willingness to seek change and let it happen.

Let us all pray for God's future in the Association for love, unity and strength to continue relying on the immensity of His resources, guidance, and Holy Spirit inspiration. Let us be participants in what God is doing rather than lamenting what is not and give God the glory through our Lord Jesus Christ every day.

May you be find blessing where you are every day in the joy of Jesus.



Reverend Tony Ruddle
Moderator of NBA 2022

MINISTRY & MISSION

2022 for the NBA was the main part of the transition that was started the year before; on the back of the listening process that happened in the latter part of 2021 we sought to move the association into an organisation that supported all expressions of churches and ministry that is relevant to the 21st Century.

We started this in January with making the decision to move to a value-based association, which means that in everything we do we seek to be:

- Centred on Mission
- Creative in Approach
- Relational at the Core
- Spirit-Led in Practice
- Committed to Justice
- Seeking Well-being

We seek to be these things in every interaction that individuals and churches have with the NBA, all of this is done to 'Build Together for God's Kingdom.' Because of the values we discerned to hold, the trustees decided it was appropriate to apologise to people who were affected by some of the negativity that was heard about in the listening process, this was well received regionally and nationally.

After presenting the new way of being for the NBA we then sort to seek to build a team that would focus on our priority areas:

- Developing and Investing in Leadership (including CMD, lay leadership)
- Children, Youth and Families
- Mission: Pioneering and Planting
- Communication: with an emphasis on this being a new season

This in light of the financial pressures that the NBA was facing meant that the decision was made to move away from the previous model of two regional ministers to have one regional minister and some facilitator roles, bringing in people with expertise and giftings in our priority areas. The recruitment process happened ready for the new team to start in January 2023.

Over the year we launch a different style of ministers and church leaders gathering in March and we had more attendance than in previous years. We sought to develop the Annual Gathering and AGM, we welcomed Rev Geoff Colmer which was awesome but we recognised more changes needed to be made to this to make it relevant to all people.

We saw a changeover of trustees as people came to the end of their term or where not re-nominated which meant that we could bring new people into the trustee space to aid us in our values. It was wonderful to have Clare join the team in September as our admin support for the association. Over the course of the year we have seen churches grow and develop in their mission.

We inducted 4 ministers into churches:

- Rev Louise Dickerson to Durham City Baptist Church
- Rev Martin Cockerill at New Life Baptist Life
- Rev Micky Munroe at Whitley Lodge Baptist Church
- Rev Gary Patchen at Billingham Baptist Church

2022 saw the main transition and now we look forward to embedding the values of the NBA as we move forward together.

Reverend Hayley Young

Regional Minister: Strategy & Transition & President of Baptist Together 22-23



MINISTERIAL FORMATION

This year has been a year of endings as we saw four of our Newly Accredited Ministers (NAMs) complete their NAMs learning contracts and transfer to the list of Fully Accredited Ministers of the Baptist Union of Great Britain whilst four of our Ministers in Training (MITs) are reaching the end of their initial formation training with Northern Baptist College.

Congratulations therefore to Fully Accredited Ministers, John Cooper, Caroline Friend, Chris Friend and David Etherington, and to MITs Aileen Innes, Barbara Revill, Fiona Preston and Peter Webster. Please pray for those finishing their training at this time and who are currently in the settlement process. We are grateful for the gift that each of these ministers is to our churches, missional communities and association, but most importantly to the Kingdom of God.

Endings but also beginnings - it's been really encouraging, and indeed a privilege, over the past year to meet with a variety of people from across the association who are sensing a call to ministry. Please would you pray for those who are currently exploring how God may be calling them to ministry.

Mid-year for the 1st time we held a retreat day for our association NAMs where we met in the prayer room at Westgate Baptist Church and enjoyed a day of fellowship and ministry (and lunch).

The 2023 retreat will take the shape of a guided walk with Susanna Hinton and 'Feet of Faith', and in another 1st will see the NAMs and MITs spend the day together. We all need support in sustaining ministry and these occasions, in addition to ministers' gatherings and clusters, facilitate collaborative support and the encouragement to walk together in ministry to the benefit of individuals and their ministries, but also to our collective calling as God's church together in the NBA.



Reverend Linda Dondalson
Ministry and Formation Facilitator

HOME MISSION

In 2022 we continued to see the national picture of home mission decline however as an association we raised £100,686 over the year. This funding goes into the common purse which then is divided between the national provision, regional teams and also grants to churches.

We gave £18,750 to churches and missional communities in grants this year. This is while we transitioned over to the new way of giving grants in the NBA. You can see where grants are given on our website and see what types of mission we support.

This year we did a lot of work behind the scenes in regard to our Mission Grants which means that in 2023 we will be able to offer more grants for a wider range of mission and pioneering.

As an association we have worked with Baptist Insurance which has enabled funding of £28,125 to go to local pioneering and mission projects. We also partnered with an individual who gave £15,000 to mission in the North East.

This has meant that the NBA in partnership with others has released over £60,000 for mission in 2022.

CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILIES

As I was re-reading the last report for the AGM I was struck by the hope that children's youth and families (CYF) work would continue to be developed in the region and that CYF would be further drawn into the NBA. We've seen this take place, and I hope that this continues to be the case moving forward.

I represented the NBA at the CYF roundtable in October, gathering with other representatives from across the country to pray and discern the ways God is working in and amongst children, youth and families. Together we thought through how to respond to the challenges of growing mental ill health amongst children and young people and how to better ensure that their voices are heard nationally and regionally. It was great to be able to share what is happening within the NBA and hear encouragement from other regions.

2022 has seen CYF workers continue to meet online, and a real highlight was the Kairos Christian Youth Camp over the bank holiday weekend in August. Young people from the NBA and other denominations gathered in the region for a weekend of fun, worship, activities and discussion. It was great to have Hayley Young as part of the line-up of guest speakers. For more information check out the Kairos website - www.kairoscamp.org.uk or follow Kairos on Facebook/Instagram.

Another exciting development is the creation of the CYF Facilitator role as part of the restructuring of the regional team. This role demonstrates how important CYF work is to the NBA and within our churches. I am excited to serve in this role encouraging supporting and developing CYF work throughout the region.

Dan Holland
Children, Youth and Families Facilitator



BAPTIST TOGETHER COUNCIL

Baptist Union Council met twice in 2022, with representatives from the NBA joining in with the vital task of discerning together across our Baptist movement. In March, council considered a proposal from St. Hild's College to join the Baptist Union; this proposal was refused after two sessions of discerning together. The BU is in the midst of a financial model review being conducted by an independent consulting practice. We were presented a series of recommendations following the first phase of the review process, which were adopted. Additionally, council spent time listening and discerning in response to a request that was made to amend the ministerial recognition rules. At present, ministers who enter into same-sex marriages would lose their accreditation on the grounds of gross misconduct. We heard from four individuals who are impacted by this rule in different ways, and considered the role of the Declaration of Principle in how Baptist churches might hold differing theological positions. At this point, no decisions were made as council continues to listen and discern. Read more about March council [here](#). This topic continued into the September 2022 council meeting, where we heard proposals about how the BU might consult its member churches and colleges around suggested changes to the ministerial recognition rules. The proposals around the shape of this consultation were accepted. We also heard presentations from the BU's Young Adults' Round Table and Project Violet, which you can read more about [here](#). Rachel Holland (NBATrustee)

BMS COUNCIL

It has been my privilege to serve the NBA as your BMS rep. As your rep I have attended two National BMS Council meetings this year, one meeting was in person in Birmingham and the second online. Let me share some of the highlights and needs within BMS. As soon as Russia invaded Ukraine, BMS was able to respond, they had already been working in the south of Ukraine prior to the outbreak of war, and immediately co-operated with the European Baptist Foundation to support the churches supporting those on the move, BMS saw the largest single response to an appeal from the people of God seeing £1.3million raised .

Questions to consider- how does BMS adapt and learn to work with the majority world mission -in response to this we are supporting the development of hubs in India, Peru (Brazilian/Peruvian), Subsaharan/North Africa and Asia Pacific -in the hope of mutual learning and collaboration. At the Oct BMS Council we heard from Rev Ardi Wiriadnata Asia Baptist Pacific Foundation - they have a God sized vision to reach all the unreached, unevangelised people groups in Asia and the pacific regions by 2040! Turning the tables by setting up foundations for previously receiving countries to become sending countries for mission .

Collaborating with other mission agencies working in the same fields. So you can see BMS continues to evolve to reach those on the margins, least evangelised and those on the move. I have also had the privilege of taking a few services across the NBA, and been welcomed to preach about the greetings of Paul and the importance of his co-workers in mission. As well a co lead the harvest appeal Sunday in my own church at Stockton BC for the village of Ghusel in Nepal. I would be glad to visit your church and encourage you in your mission as partners with BMS. Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting BMS in prayer and financially. The Baptist Union recommends that baptist churches give 5% of their income to Home Mission and 5% to BMS. I know that many churches give this and would encourage you to continue to do so, I appreciate it has been a tough year for churches and individuals alike, but please continue to give, I know that BMS uses what is given to transform lives in Ghusel, Ukraine, a tiny border hospital in Chad -trust me I could go on and on. We as churches continue to give to God, so BMS can keep transforming lives.

Penny Hyde (BMS Rep)

FINANCE OVERVIEW

Income

During the year, total income of the Association increased by £27,300. This was primarily as a result of receiving funding of £43,000 from the Lady Hewley Trust and the Baptist Insurance Company to begin pioneering projects in 2023. In accordance with accounting policy this is recognised at the point it was received in 2022, and the grants to churches are shown as a commitment for 2023 within note 18. Baptists Together has confirmed a £21,000 clawback of 2022 funding due to pressure on the national Home Mission fund, predominantly driven by a significant underachievement of income from legacies. This has been partly offset by some additional funding received mid-year from Baptists Together.

Expenditure

The total expenditure of the Association decreased by £1,300. The main contributions to this were reductions in grants payable to churches and housing costs, the latter saw a large one-off increase in 2021 from the costs associated with the purchase of a manse. The manse was funded partly by a £100,000 loan from the Yorkshire Baptist Association, repayable over 15 years plus variable interest at 0.5% below the loan rate applied on loans by Baptists Together (average of 4.8% in 2022). Additional costs were seen through the return of travel and expenses to pre-COVID levels and one-off professional costs connected with the transition of our staffing structures and governance.

Net resources

The early receipt of pioneering income has had a significant impact on net resources. Unrestricted funds have increased to £58,500 (£11,600 in 2021), which is already committed to pioneering projects in 2023.

Looking ahead

Baptists Together have confirmed the Association's expected funding for 2023, which is again contingent on their performance. The NBA is currently in a stronger position following the successful bids for additional funding to support pioneering work, increasing our ability to support churches through grants to £79,000 (£30,000 in 2022). The loan repayment on the manse remains the only notable liability, which is funded through the budget that previously met the lease cost of the previous regional minister's home. Reducing the staffing structure to one Regional Minister also creates additional flexibility to target resources to meet the needs of our priority areas

	2022 Note	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total £	2021 Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS									
Donations and legacies	2	2,584	-	-	2,584	3,940	-	4,685	8,625
Investment income	3	1,282	-	-	1,282	221	-	-	221
Income from Charitable activities	4	152,868	-	-	152,868	166,748	-	-	166,748
Other income	5	58,887	-	-	58,887	12,683	-	-	12,683
Total income and endowments		215,621	-	-	215,621	183,591	-	4,685	188,276
EXPENDITURE									
Expenditure on Charitable activities	6	(168,710)	-	-	(168,710)	(165,349)	-	(4,685)	(170,034)
Total expenditure		(168,710)	-	-	(168,710)	(165,349)	-	(4,685)	(170,034)
Net income/(expense) for the year before transfers		46,911	-	-	46,911	18,242	-	-	18,242
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	(80,000)	80,000	-	-
Other gains		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		46,911	-	-	46,911	(61,758)	80,000	-	18,242



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