2021 Annual Report

Building Togther for God's Kingdom

NBA
NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Presented: 2nd April 2022 | www.thenba.org.uk | @northernbaptist

From the Moderator

We have much to thank God for during 2021 which this report will evidence as you work your way through it.

2021 brought significant change and a new direction for the NBA as we contemplated the retirement of Rev Dr John Claydon as Team Leader of the Association in August. John and Janet were presented with gifts from the generosity of the churches and individuals in recognition of 20 years of faithful service.

With dedicated intent the Council explored the possibilities of the way forward. Then accepted unanimously the recommendation that we appoint a Transitional Strategic Leader to join Rev Paul Revill in the Association team. We are grateful to all those involved in this including the interview panel but most of all to the Lord who led us to the appointment of the Rev Hayley Young.

As a result the Association once again has a home for one of its Association Regional Minsters in Stockton-on-Tees. Hayley moved in early in September but had already made a start on the strategic thinking that the Job Description tasked her with. We acknowledge that in these initial months she has brought enthusiasm, innovation and challenge which encourages many ministers and churches, including their members in the Association.

2021 has been hard on many ministries and we acknowledge the stress and weariness that having to manage church life has placed on our ministers and their church leadership in the many changes the Covid pandemic has brought and imposed. We pray for their respite in 2022, their blessing and advancement of their mission.

As we look into the future we pray for and seek spiritual vitality, the hallowing of change that encourages growth and pioneering mission, the willingness of us all to participate and enter into what God has already prepared for us. In this may we all find blessing and give glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Tony Ruddle
NBA Moderator

STRAGTEGY & TRANSITION

When I started in September, one of the first things that was required of me was to 'do a root and branch review of the NBA.' I did through starting a Listening Phase in the first 100 days. Within this time I managed to meet with 27 church leadership teams, 34 minsters, 11 children, youth, families pastors/workers and a group of retired ministers.
Many more people and churches completed questions and responded to zoom calls; over the 100 days I was able to engage with the majority of churches within the NBA.

It was incredibly helpful and insightful to hear peoples heart for the future of the association as well as their reflections on the past - thank you so much for the time you all gave me and the honesty and openness you had in all the conversations.
During the listening it was clear that some of the transition of becoming an association relevant for the 21st century was required straight away; such as increasing our digital footprint and communication. Therefore, we launched our new website in October as well as increasing our engagement on social media platforms.

We were also able to build on the ministerial support that had been put in place before I joined the team and establish a new network for those working with Children, Youth and Families in the NBA.
I have also established links with churches that are entering settlement and nurturing them through this period of local transition.

I also have been representing the NBA nationally, as I seek to engage with key stakeholders in the association and wider Baptist Movement. This is through being part of the Baptist Together Core Leadership Team, meeting with ministries at Baptist Together and sharing in Team Leader meetings.
I have also had the joy of getting to know our Ministers in Training, as I seek to develop closer links with Cramner Hall and Northern Baptist College.

As a result of this listening I was then able to take the reflections back to the trustees with some recommendations for the way forward, within a report that the whole of council worked through in early 2022.
After discernment together the trustees felt that they wanted to hear the pain that was caused and apologies for our structures not always allowing God's people to flourish. You can read the full statement here, as well as watch the vision that came out of that council meeting on our YouTube Channel.

As we move forward in the coming year, I am looking forward to developing the structures that are required to enable our vision, I look forward to sharing more of this with you in the latter part of the year.
It is really exciting to be apart of embedding our Vision and Values within the ministry and mission of the NBA.

Rev Hayley Young, Regional Minister: Transitional Strategic Leader

MISSION ENABLER REPORT

The past year, like 2020, has obviously been dominated and shaped by the pandemic. Much of our 'regular' mission has changed in its approach to suit the varying restrictions, or has been paused; but also some new opportunities have arisen as well.

As the Mission Enabler, I have focussed upon encouraging churches to be seeking to discern where God has been at work in the wider community through the pandemic, to learn positive lessons from all the changes we've been through and to be bold in implementing them.

In terms of resourcing, in the first half of the year we've mostly held webinars and gatherings online such as events focussed upon raising new leaders, developing our environmental care – with the launch of our BUEN Hub, listening to God and gathering for prayer.

Through the Spring we encouraged churches to be listening to what God is saying to us, and through this we sensed a challenge to embrace new ways or being church and engaging in mission which the pandemic had thrown up, to be bold in experimenting, including intentionally using the virtual world, to resist the 'default' back to busy building-centred, minister-centred and Sunday-centred ministry, to equip our congregations to become more missional in smaller communities, to be more 'multi-voiced', to continue to resource the church 'scattered' as much as gathered.

The Re:imagine process has been running through the year, with three churches participating. Though the pandemic did make this process much harder to run fruitfully, I can definitely say that one of the three churches, Headland BC in Hartlepool, found it helpful in developing their missional culture, in particular of undergoing a shift from inward-drawing missional activities towards more outward-sending ones. A regular national online Re:imagine webinar has now become established, to which NBA churches have contributed.

The major change for us has been the transition from John's departure and Hayley's arrival, and the process of transition and review which has been undertaken under Hayley's guidance. This has meant a renewed emphasis on being a mission-focussed people and a greater freedom for me as Mission Enabler to be released from other aspects of NBA life and ministry to give more time and energy to the missional work. This process meant that through the autumn we held back on organising specific missional projects or initiatives, while awaiting the outcome of the listening stage of the review. It feels as though across our Association there is fresh energy around mission – but that story will have to wait until next year's Annual Meeting!

Rev Paul Revill, RegionalMinister: Mission Enabler

ASSMEBLIES

The two assemblies were quite different this year.
Covid causing the first to be held on zoom on an April Friday evening in April. This allowed the innovation of Alan Donaldson giving a challenging message from his narrowboat home while Glen Cormack led worship from North Allerton.
The AGM next day included the joyful appointment of the Revd Hayley Young as our new regional Minster. At the April Assembly we welcomed new Trustees to the Council of the NBA: Phil Dixon, Clare McCullars and Virgilio Pansacala. Sadly due to personal circumstances Clare had to stand down in December 2021. It is our intention to strengthen the Council by training and new nominations during 2022.

A third innovation was the holding of a Youth event by zoom on the Saturday evening and the success of this has led us to plan a similar but in person events in the future.

The autumn Assembly was held in person at Oxford Road Hartlepool with worship led by Fiona Preston and music team. It was good to be back together in this way worshipping and giving praise to God. With Hayley now in post and ably assisted by others the theme of pioneering by testimony, word and challenge to us all was strongly made and welcomed.

Tony Ruddle, Moderator

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES (CYF)

This past year has seen CYF drawn deeper into the heart of the NBA, and it has been identified as a key priority moving forward.. There have been a few developments involving CYF:
We've had the first youth assembly gathering as part of the NBA assembly, hosted by Headland Baptist Church which was a real success. Groups from four different churches were represented and other groups were keen to recreate a local event alongside the assembly at further points in the year.

Regular CYF workers gatherings have been taking place, drawing together those involved from across the region. There have also been training opportunities for those connected to CYF work and further networking opportunities via social media. CYF workers were also invited to be part of the recent NBA minister's conference which demonstrates the value of the important work they are involved in.

I'm excited to see how CYF can be developed in the region and also how it can influence the NBA as a whole.

Dan Holland, CYF Representative

MINISTERIAL FORMATION

The NBC Hub at Cranmer has had another excellent year. We have 7 Ministers in Training (MITs)linked to our Hub, 5 of whom are in NBA churches and ministries and 2 from YBA churches (Skipton BC and the Well, Sheffield). It's also my privilege as Hub Tutor to continue to journey with the current NBA NAMs.

In addition to a substantive church or missional placements (in most cases 3 days/week) and academic study the MITs support one another in a weekly discipleship group which it is my pleasure to lead. The MITs are joined in that weekly by an additional 2 students who attend NBA churches.

Our MITs and students are very busy, very gifted and minister beautifully in their placement contexts and to one another. They are also a much-valued part of the Cranmer Community of Free Church and Anglican students, the result of which is a beautiful blend of church leaders being formed in the North East for the North East.

We have people studying at various levels of undergraduate and post-graduate study, whilst specific Baptist leadership formation takes the shape of 3 weekends/ year and retreats at the start and end of each academic year.

Linda Dondalson, Hub Tutor (Training & Formation)
based at Cranmer Hall

BAPTIST TOGETHER COUNCIL

There were two Council meetings which we had the privilege of representing the NBA at last year. March 2021's Council meeting gave an opportunity to discuss pioneering across the denomination, and we discussed how we can develop meaningful opportunities to grow pioneering ministries across the country.
We also agreed as a denomination to divest from fossil fuels. September 2021's Council meeting highlights saw wider conversation about funding for ministerial training, and it was agreed to develop communication across the country on opportunities, benefits and routes to ministry.
It was also agreed to develop funding streams which support those training for ministry. This involved enhancing the existing bursary scheme, developing a new loan scheme and providing crowdfunding opportunities in partnership with Stewardship. All of these are intended to ensure that those who feel a call into ministry are not prohibited by finances to follow this call.
Read more on March Council and October Council.

Your NBA Council representatives are Tony Ruddle, Rachel Holland and Dave Tubby. Hayley Young has an additional place due to her BU Presidency.

Dave Tubby, Baptist Council Representative

BMS REPORT

You know that the household of Stephanus…..devoted themselves to the service of the Lord's people . I urge you , brothers and sisters , to submit to such people and to everyone who joins in the work and labours at it. 1 Cor 16, 15-16.

What a privilege it is to be a part of BMS World Mission as it takes the love of God across our broken world.

I have been able to represent the NBA at the two BMS Council meetings alongside Paul Revill, our regional minister. At council , members come from across the UK and Europe to discern how BMS should develop , what to lay aside and what to pick up. As BMS has supported mission workers across the world during COVID , it has restricted activities such as Action teams and short term mission trips, and BMS is re-evaluating Action teams , so please pray for wisdom to know what should become of this going forward.

The next five years BMS World mission hopes to reach out to three specific groups of people. Those most marginalised, those least evangelised and those people on the move.
While refugees are nothing new to our screen in the last few years, how poignant this has become over the last week as I write this report. We have see the devastating invasion of Ukraine and the exodus of its women and children . BMS has already been supporting areas in the disputed south of Ukraine , but now through EBF and its partners, it will continue to support our baptist family as it responds to the needs of these people on the move. The BMS website will be updated frequently to allow us to pray wisely . Through BMS we also have opportunity to support the relief action through our purses, so please encourage your churches to consider giving what they can .

Council will meet again in May, when one of the needs is to discuss the make up of council going forward , to ensure the right personnel are in place to serve BMS. This may have impact on association representation in the national council, but we need to be open to God's leading in this .
As for the NBA , I am hoping to take a service in Durham next month , which was postponed due to covid on my part , and also I have joined my husband , when he took a service in Jarrow to lead prayers for BMS .
I look forward to more opportunities to promote BMS and its work among our churches as opportunities allow. Having started to attend Stockton Baptist Church recently , I have been invited to join their mission planning group and look forward to be involved with this.

The work of BMS is not something done by others but requires the whole body of Christ . May we submit to supporting BMS and all those who labour in the service of the Lord's people.

Penny Hyde, BMS Representative

FINANCE REPORT

Income:
During the year, total income of the Association increased by £32,200. This was primarily as a result of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) not requiring a clawback of 2021 funds (£25,100 in 2020) and an additional grant from the Lady Hewley Trust to support the ongoing work with churches in the association. A significant number of churches and individuals in the region provided donations to gift to the John Claydon (regional minister) on his retirement.

Expenditure:
The total expenditure of the Association increased by £9,800. The main contributions to this increase were the one-off costs of the manse purchase of £7,200, including all legal fees associated with the purchase and the pass through of the gifts for the retiring regional minister. The impact of COVID-19 on expenditure has continued in 2021, maintaining low levels of travel and subsistence as churches were closed for part of the year, and the continuing use of online meetings.

Home Mission Grants:
The following churches recived grants from the NBA to grow their ministry and mission: Berwick, Blackhill, Filipino International Church, Headland, Westview, Marsden Road, North Sheilds, Potrack and Wallsend.

Net resources:
The purchase of the manse has had a significant impact on net resources. Unrestricted funds have reduced to £11,600 (£73,400 in 2020) and although designated funds have increased to £200,900 (£120,900 in 2020), £172.500 of this is invested in the manse.

The association also reduced its investments by £807 in 2021. The association invested £750 with BUGB in 1994 to set up the Baptist Loan Fund. This was moved into a 7-day interest account in 2010 by BUGB, accumulating a small element of interest each year. Following an audit of accounts by BUGB they advised that the balance on the account is below the usual minimum balance for that type of account, so the association agreed to close the account and the balance transferred to the association bank account.

Looking ahead:
BUGB have confirmed the Association's funding for 2022, which is again contingent on their performance. The NBA is currently in a stronger position following the settlement of all its pension scheme liabilities.

A full breakdown of accounts can be found at the back of this report & full audited accounts can be found on the Charity Commission Website.

Gavin Monument, NBA Treasurer

HOME MISSION GIVING

Once again we are so grateful in these unprecedented times for the generosity of our NBA churches which has enabled us to send a total of £97,274.59p to support Home Mission through our Baptist Union. Churches should have, by now, received their Home Mission Giving Certificate for 2021, and are encouraged to displaying it prominently.

The NBA Church's Blessed Generosity has enabled others to be blessed by what they receive in the form of Grants for Ministry and Mission in addition to the amount that comes back into our Association to enable our churches to be served by our Staff Team and the Regional Tutor.

We are all blessed by our giving to others, but it is worth noting that we in the NBA as a whole receive back a generous blessing of what we have given. Our Target for this year, 2022, will once again be £105,000

I extrapolated some figures from the 2021 Totals: of our 50 churches. () is last year

- 17 (13) churches gave less than last year
- 15 (18) churches gave the same amounts
- 12 (7) churches were unable to give anything.
- 14 (13) churches gave more than in 2020

I would like to urge all our churches to consider a modest increase on their 2021 contributions following the great example of the 14 churches that increased their giving.

Nationally, the 13 Associations did not meet the target requested again. The NBA has also not performed well in difficult financial circumstances lying 6th overall at the end of 2021. Over the past 14 years we have been 1st 7 times, 2nd 5 times, 3rd, 4th and now 6th once each, therefore consistently at the upper end of the National Per Capita givers.

Unfortunately Inflation has meant that increased giving year on year is a must but we must recognize the difficulties of the times we are in. We can easily turn this situation around by each church giving at least 5% of Income or £50 per capita, if that were to happen we would have raised over £125,800 last year and at a stroke wiped out any deficit.

Home Mission is the Baptist family purse which enables Baptist churches and individuals to reach their mission potential and demonstrate the love of God to their communities. There is an excitement around new missional opportunities in the NBA. Home Mission Grants (although reducing year on year) will enable work that has the potential to be transformational in local communities to see fruit for their labours.

Our faithful God sees how our giving is invested in people and communities and making a difference all around the North East of England. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all our Fellowships for their continued sacrificial support of their Home Mission Fund, which expresses our common vision of UK Baptists.

Every Blessing to you all, I will endeavour to continue to serve you as best I can, and if you need me to come and encourage you with regard to Home Mission I am always happy to do so, by ZOOM or any other means.

http://www.thenba.org.uk/home-mission

http://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220874/Home_Mission_Resources.aspx

Rev. Ray Richardson, NBA Home Mission Representaive

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Designated £	2021 Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Designated £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS									
Donations and legacies	2	3,940	–	4,685	**8,625**	3,584	–	–	3,584
Investment income	3	221	–	–	**221**	667	–	–	667
Income from Charitable activities	4	166,748	–	–	**166,748**	147,317	–	–	147,317
Other income	5	12,683	-	–	**12,683**	4,494	-	–	4,494
Total income and endowments		183,591	-	4,685	**188,276**	156,062	-	–	156,062
EXPENDITURE									
Expenditure on Charitable activities	6	(165,349)	-	(4,685)	**(170,034)**	(160,193)	-	–	(160,193)
Total expenditure		(165,349)	-	(4,685)	**(170,034)**	(160,193)	-	–	(160,193)
Net (expense) / income for the year before transfers		18,242	-	–	**18,242**	(4,131)	-	–	(4,131)
Transfers between funds		(80,000)	80,000	–	**–**	(42,500)	42.500	–	–
Other gains									
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	16	-	–	–	**-**	-	–	–	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(61,758)	80,000	–	**18,242**	(46,631)	42,500	–	(4,131)
Total funds brought forward		73,354	120,892	–	**194,246**	119,985	78,392	–	198.377
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		11,596	200,892	–	**212,488**	73,354	120,892	–	194.246

All of the above arises from continuing operations. The Charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses is presented. Full Audited Accounts and Notes can be found on the Charity Commission Website or by request to the NBA Treasurer.

BALANCE SHEET as of 31/12/21

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	9	**172,500**		-	
Investments	10	**2,355**		3,160	
			174,855		3,160
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	**-**		-	
Cash at bank and in hand	12	**143,969**		223,481	
		143,969		223,481	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	13	**(106,336)**		(32,395)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**37,633**		191,086
NET ASSETS			**212,488**		194,246
CHARITY FUNDS					
Endowment	14		**-**		-
Restricted	14		**-**		-
Designated	14		**200,892**		120,892
Unrestricted	14		**11,596**		73,354
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	15		**212,488**		194,246

NBA

NORTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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