



**HEATH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
HAMPSTEAD**

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www.heathstreet.org

**Report and Accounts
for the year ending 31 December 2013**

Minister: Mr Ewan J King
Deacons: Mrs Gaynor Humphreys (Secretary/Treasurer)
Mrs Rebecca McLeod
Mrs Nesa Thorne
Ms Annie Fang (from April 2014)
Organists: Mr Edward Alden (to September 2013), Ms Judith Peak

HEATH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMPSTEAD

Report on activities in 2013

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 with, at present, no requirement to register with the Charity Commission. The congregation maintains membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the London Baptist Association.

Heath Street is a warm and friendly church in the heart of Hampstead. We are a small congregation, but open and diverse. All are welcome to attend our services and our small regular congregation is regularly joined by newcomers and visitors to Hampstead.

In late 2013 we were saddened by the deaths of both Sir Godfray Le Quesne, a lifelong member and supporter of this Church, and our organist Edward Alden. A thanksgiving service for Godfray was held at the Church on 9 October. Our Sunday morning service on 1 December celebrated Edward Alden's life and his years as Heath Street's organist.

Our services of worship continue to be every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Music was provided by instrumentalists and singers of the King Cave Project for some services, but predominantly by our organists, Edward Alden and Judith Peak. During Edward's sudden, final illness, and subsequently, Judith Peak has stepped in to cover many more Sundays and we are grateful to her for this support.

Our Minister, Ewan King, was ordained at an inspiring service on 13 August 2013, with friends from other Hampstead churches and the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church, Ewan's tutors and colleagues from Regent's Park College Oxford, Rev. Geoff Andrews (London Regional Minister), neighbours, friends and family. The sermon was preached by Rev. Paul Fiddes, Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Oxford.

We continue the tradition of a joint service with Christchurch on Good Friday and have a new pattern of a "pulpit swap" with the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church every nine months. Our Minister conducted an All Souls service for recently bereaved people and will make that an annual service on the nearest Sunday to All Souls Day. Among other special services and events, a highlight was *Waking from Sleep* in December which drew in around 90 people for a special service of lessons and carols and helped raise over £1,200 for BMS work with Syrian refugees now based in Lebanon.

For the first half of the year we had the support of Chris Little, lay pastoral assistant at the parish church, St. John-at-Hampstead, in running activities for children at Heath Street and in the music at a number of our services. Towards the end of the year, recognising that our numerous regular activities needed additional support we advertised for and appointed two part-time Church helpers, John and Lydia Baker. Both work with Heini King in running the Sunday School on Sunday mornings, with Bible study, craft, painting, sewing and music. John helps to run the various Tuesday sessions for small children - Old Time Nursery and Rhythm and Rhyme Orchestra - and has arranged free lunchtime recitals on Tuesdays, bringing to Hampstead young professional musicians of a very high standard and offering a wide range of music. Our Tuesday Old Time Nursery sessions regularly attract between 45 and 70 children and parents/carers.

The Contact Club meets at the Church on Sunday evenings, run jointly with St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Hampstead – a volunteer-run session for lonely and vulnerable people in our community.

Fortnightly Saturday coffee mornings resumed near the end of the year, organised by Nesa Thorne and supported by Rev Dr Marie Isaacs and Theresa Thom. These sessions allow the church to be open for visits and prayer, and through the sale of coffee, books and bric-a-brac we raise money for local causes.

Other regular users of the building include the Heath Street Choir (our community choir) and the Sacred Harp singing group. Members of these have participated in some of our special services, as have children from the Old Time Nursery as well as the Sunday School.

Further stages in the improvement of our building were organised in 2013. Many people helped progress this work but special thanks are due to Susan Brandt who helped maintain our impetus and identified some excellent contractors. The metal walkway running along the south side of the building and providing access to the School building needed considerable refurbishment for safety reasons. Church and School roof repairs were also undertaken and at the same time pipework on the flank walls was repainted and brickwork re-pointed. The most visible improvement amongst many essential but rather unobservable undertakings is in the vestries where an excellent job was done in mending, sanding and varnishing the floor and walls were repainted.

A full fire safety assessment was undertaken and a Fire Safety Committee (Robin Thorne, Edward Humphreys and Ewan King) started to implement them. The Church wiring and all electrical equipment were tested for safety and other work undertaken or scheduled, in priority order.

Big plans were formulated to provide a new, improved kitchen and small café area on the lower ground floor, along with better toilet provision. A Kitchen Committee comprising Annie Fang, Susan Le Quesne and Theresa Thom developed these plans with Jones Wood Architects. Heathside School has contributed £25,000 towards the new kitchen (to compensate for their use of a rear room, including our old, small kitchen). Unfortunately our request for approval of these changes from the Baptist Union Listed Buildings Advisory Committee was not fully considered as they required us to tackle all aspects of accessibility of the building at the same time. By the year end we had submitted plans for level access from the street and inside the building, a lift to the lower ground floor, and accessible toilets. The same Committee visited and raised many queries and concerns and the work to prepare plans which they will accept continued into 2014.

Robin Thorne continues to look after the Church's website (www.heathstreet.org). A large banner outside the building draws the attention of passers-by to our Sunday services and we have been making increasing use of leaflets and small posters to publicise activities.

Ewan King has been Editor of our monthly newsletter all this year. A small group of members take it in turns to be weekly stewards, getting all ready for our Sunday morning service, providing the flowers and serving coffee and tea after it: the regulars are Annie Fang, Rebecca McLeod, Theresa Thom and Nesa Thorne. Nesa organises this rota. We are all appreciative of the help of our cleaner, Mr Sear, and his son Mark and grateful for the professional support during the year of Stewart Meaney, Tim Powell-Harper and colleagues of chartered surveyors Matthews & Son LLP, and of our solicitor Duncan Tuft, Partner to Carter Lemon Camerons LLP.

Sir Godfray Le Quesne QC

18.1.24 – 2.10.2013

Godfray was a notable public figure, a barrister in civil law, appointed Silk at 38, and a specialist in administrative, electoral and constitutional law. He was Chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for 12 years, served as a Recorder, dealt with appeals to the Privy Council, and was a member of the Court of Appeal of Jersey for over 30 years.

He had a long family connection with Heath Street Baptist Church and was for many years a Deacon and Secretary as was his father, C T Le Quesne, before him. He brought to these offices his acute quality of mind and attention to detail.

He had a deep commitment to this church, its people, its life and its mission. His humanity was evident in his weekly volunteering for many years in our Contact Club for homeless and vulnerable people in the local community. There were also his memorable contributions to Sunday worship.

At the thanksgiving service for Godfray, Professor Paul Fiddes began, "I would like to celebrate Sir Godfray's life in its wholeness and its integrity. In many different contexts he was the same person, and his consistent witness to truth was something we valued deeply in him." Prof Fiddes noted how Godfray's incisive mind was balanced by his love of collegiality and his gifts of companionship, fellowship and friendship.

Godfray served the Baptist Union in many roles, was Chairman of the Council of Regent's Park College (1957-87) and chaired the Protestant Dissenting Ministers and Deputies for 49 years.

Minister's reflections on 2013

The calendar year 2013 was my first full year of full-time ministry, not only at this church but anywhere. For that reason, retrospection on the year has a double aspect for me. I find myself asking what can be learnt, both in terms of general truths about Christian ministry, and in terms of the particularity of this unique congregation and this unique locality. Given the impossibility of summarising a year's ministry in a few pages, I have decided to focus on our Christmas celebrations as an index of where the church was, is, and seems to be going.

One piece of generally received theological-college wisdom is that new ministers should go three times round the church calendar before considering any sweeping changes. The idea is that in those three years the newcomer will have arrived at a multi-faceted understanding of the existing culture of the church, understanding not only 'what happens', and 'who makes it happen', but also what doesn't happen, who wishes that what doesn't happen did happen, and just how much effort goes into making what happens happen! Like the other great festivals of the church year, Advent and Christmas are typically integral to the mission of the congregation, serving as an occasion to engage both the local community, and those on the periphery of congregational life.

It was in 2011 that I spent my first December at Heath Street. My effort that year went into assimilating and reproducing the existing culture and practice. In the context of the general low ebb at which the church operated missionally, it was not surprising if that year, Advent and Christmas served solely a focus for the devotion of the already-gathered community. Christmas services saw no influx of visitors; if anything, holidays saw numbers depleted below even their usual levels.

Christmas 2012 saw a first attempt at doing something on a grander scale, with the express intention of engaging the otherwise unengaged – the 'Waking from Sleep' event. In my view, shared by most who attended, it was a wonderful evening. However, from an organisational point of view, it could just as well have been regarded as a fiasco. The event was attended by relatively few, and the direct financial costs far outstripped the funds gathered (in what had been intended as a charity fundraising event), not to speak of the vast outlay of energy and time we made.

We repeated the 'Waking from Sleep' event in 2013, and it was a good indicator of the general progress made that year, that this time the event was as satisfactory from a missional as from a liturgical point of view. The missional impact of the event was twofold – both raising money for those in need (refugees from war-torn Syria) and telling the Christmas story to our friends and neighbours. It was of a piece with this progress that three times in Advent our Sunday service was attended by over fifty people.

However there was no indication from those arriving at these events that any kind of commitment was being made to our congregational life, much less to life-long discipleship to Jesus Christ. Naturally we welcomed these seasonal visitors as best we could.

Thus 2013 was a year full of encouraging developments of many kinds, whose sum total was to leave the church no less vulnerable in December than it had been back in January.

It was never straightforwardly appropriate to talk about Heath Street as being 'on the verge of closure'. However, back in 2011 it would have taken some explaining to convince an outsider just why it was inappropriate. By the close of 2013 the prospect of closure was no longer at the forefront of anybody's mind. The vista that seemed to have opened up before the church was one of a bright future, rather than of immediate extinction. But that bright future was distant, and the way there was obscure. In the meantime, our congregational life continued to exist in a rather attenuated form.

My description of our Advent and Christmas celebrations typifies the fortunes of various church ministries in 2013. While many of our ministries enjoyed a measure of apparent 'success', these successes were isolated. In general there was little consolidation, no unity of momentum, and despite good beginnings made, the flourishing of the new groups relied upon a continued input of foundational energy. There was nothing of which it could be said: 'this flourishing ministry maintains itself with an intrinsic momentum, our only responsibility as a congregation is to keep it going in a spirit of prayerful thanksgiving'.

The vulnerability of the new life of the church was emphasised by our failure to respond creatively to the challenge of a new member who came and left within a period of months. It was re-emphasised (in a very different way), by the death of Godfray, who had been so much at the heart of the congregation's life, and whose reading of The Journey of the Magi was left so a sad gap in our Epiphany service on the very first Sunday of the next calendar year.

Ewan J King

Note to financial report 2013

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. In early 2013, the School completed promised payments towards the creation of a new kitchen. £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 are now holding the Contact Club's funds, identified in the accounts as a special fund.

We are grateful to Derek Baker for acting as Independent Examiner of the accounts, on a voluntary basis. See his report on the past page of this document.

Income and Expenditure accounts for year ended 31 December 2013

GENERAL CHURCH FUND	2013	2012
Receipts	£	£
offerings	296	658
Gift Aid donations	11,918	9,176
Small Gift Aid donations	1,202	0
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	2,397	2,394
subscriptions to newsletter	95	0
use of Church rooms (Note 1)	8,550	3,687
legacy	0	145
Scammell Fund (Note 2)	124	184
J Harvey Memorial Fund	13	11
COIF Charity Deposit Fund interest	877	1,260
donations	297	358
bank interest	33	21
Total ordinary receipts	25,802	17,893
 Payments		
Minister's stipend and on-costs	25,367	21,675
Minister's expenses	883	403
Scammell Fund contrib'n to Minister (Note 2)	229	78
Church helpers' pay and expenses	2,087	0
relief ministers' expenses	532	334
manse council tax and water rate	2,435	2,705
manse gas and electricity (Note 3)	1,357	0
organ and piano tuning/repairs	2,857	554
housekeeping	179	282
cleaning	2,850	3,100
heating and lighting (Note 4)	15,268	1,922
water rates	114	108
Church subscriptions	183	155
newsletter printing and postage	481	534
Church website/communications	300	326
publicity	1,047	803
organist and other musicians	1,940	2,280
Church telephone, broadband, postage	752	292
printing, stationery and copying	97	711
Church events (Note 5)	1,710	0
miscellaneous items	530	1,118
donations	150	505
Total ordinary general payments	61,347	37,887
 Net at 31 December	-35,545	-19,994

Note 1: One-off lettings and regular use of Church space by community groups and choirs began during 2012 and increased in 2013

Note 2: Held in Trust by The London Baptist Property Board as a Ministerial Endowment. Value at 31 December 2013, £4,288.70 held in M&G Charifund income units. Income to help the Minister with the cost of books.

Note 3: 2013 expenditure included 2012 also. The church pays half of all bills

Note 4: Sharp increase in 2013 the result of increased use of the building and British Gas delays in billing in 2012

Note 5: This represents outgoings for a Christmas event in 2012

PROPERTY FUND

	2013	2012
Receipts		
Rent income (Note)	69,890	45,918
COIF Charity Investment Fund interest	1,169	1,568
COIF Charity Deposit Fund interest	1,881	2,132
London Baptist Property Board interest	413	1,364
Refund of insurance (from School)	1,627	1,621
Refund ref manse	0	0
School refund ref central heating	0	570
School contribution to kitchen	15,000	10,000
Refund of VAT overpayment	0	20
Refund of VAT on underpinning	0	49,565
Total receipts	89,980	112,759
Payments		
Repairs to Church	43,880	50,246
Costs attributable to new kitchen	2,732	0
Repairs to school building	32,864	972
Repairs to manse	7,028	4,328
Insurance (Church, manse and school)	5,668	6,368
Legal and professional fees	19,905	36,247
Total payments	112,076	98,161
Surplus at 31December	-22,096	14,598

Note: Rent received from Heathside Preparatory School

SPECIAL FUNDS & COLLECTIONS 2013

	B/F	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Harvest Appeal (Operation Agri)				
Church collection receipts and Gift Aid recovered (Note)	-33	108	94	-19
Contact Club				
Funds held	20	584	0	604
Christian Aid				
Church collection receipts	0	387	237	150
Waking from Sleep				
Ticket & refreshment receipts	266	1,156	0	1,422
Grand total	253	2,234	330	2,157

Note: Operation Agri overpayment of £18.75 to be refunded from HMRC Gift Aid claim early in 2014

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

ASSETS	2013 £	2012 £
Bank balance at year end	8,369	59,519
Short term deposits		
London Baptist Property Board	72,592	22,180
COIF Charities Deposit Fund Income	146,500	146,500
COIF Charities Deposit Fund Property	143,500	198,500
Investments		
COIF Charities Investment Fund income units (James Harvey Memorial Fund)	283	253
COIF Charities Investment Fund income units (property account)	40,687	36,362
TOTAL	411,931	463,312
REPRESENTING BALANCES ON THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS		
General account	89,640	125,184
Property account	319,851	337,622
James Harvey Memorial Fund	283	253
Special funds and collections account	2,157	253
TOTAL	411,931	463,312

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Heath Street Baptist Church

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2013, which are set out on pages 5-7.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) 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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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

Signature:

Name: Derek John Baker

Retired Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants

Address: 51 Meadway
Southgate
London
N14 6NJ

Date: 21 March 2014