



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	<i>1st</i>	<i>January</i>	<i>2008</i>	<b>To</b>	<i>31<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>December</i>	<i>2008</i>

## Reference and administration details

**Charity name** *Higthorpe Baptist Church*

**Other names charity is known by** *Zion Chapel*

**Registered charity number (if any)** *X X X X X X X*

**Charity's principal address** *Long Lane*

*Little Higthorpe*

*Wilts*

**Postcode**

*XXX XXX*

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	<i>Bloggs, Heston</i>	<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Church Members' Meeting</i>
2	<i>Cousins, Edwin</i>	<i>Elder</i>	<i>21<sup>st</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> December</i>	<i>"</i>
3	<i>McDonald, Donald</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>		<i>"</i>
4	<i>Smith, Jebediah</i>	<i>Secretary</i>		<i>"</i>
5	<i>Van Heerden, Ian</i>	<i>Deacon</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> January – 23<sup>rd</sup> July</i>	<i>"</i>
6	<i>Whinney, Warren</i>	<i>Elder</i>		<i>"</i>
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### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of advisor	Name	Address

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	<i>Constitution dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009.</i>
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	<i>Association</i>
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	<i>Our trustees are appointed at the church members' meeting.</i>

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.
- The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works.
- Relationship with any related parties.
- Trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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## Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

*The principal object of the church is the advancement of the Christian faith according to Baptist principles in accordance with the church's Basis of Faith. The church may also carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.*

### Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

*Our main activities are Sunday services (morning and evening), mid-week prayer meetings and Bible studies, evangelistic activities in the community, Children's Club, Mums & Tots group, promotion of mission and matters of social concern, informal get-togethers to consider the Christian faith and a monthly club for elderly people with learning disabilities.*

### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- Policy on grantmaking
- Policy programme related investment
- Contribution made by Volunteers

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

*Owing to the spiritual nature of the church's objectives it is difficult to quantify achievements; however we have in the past year undertaken the following activities.*

*As we do not at this current stage employ a pastor of our own, we invited guest speakers to preach at our Sunday services. From February 2008 to the end of July 2008, the church provided 25% support for the pastoral training of a young male member at a London based theology college.*

*We have run a Christianity Explored course on two occasions, with five and six individuals respectively attending each module.*

*A children's holiday club with a mission basis took place in the Easter break with over a hundred attendees. Due in some part to this, the weekly Children's Club has seen its numbers increase from around 50 youngsters to nearer 70.*

*The club for elderly people with learning disabilities (currently 17 individuals) had five day outings, including visits to gardens and places of interest.*

*In the past year there have been five baptisms in the chapel. Two new families and several single people joined the church, another family and an older couple moved away, and one of our elderly members died. The church membership to date stands at 68 individuals.*

*The chapel's sanctuary saw the solemnising of two marriages and a Thanksgiving Service for the church's presence in the community over the past century.*

*At Harvest time we distributed 1,500 gospel leaflets advertising the Harvest service. The church also rented a stall to display evangelistic materials at the town's Saturday Market and this is now a regular event.*

*We held bimonthly Men's Breakfasts and quarterly Ladies Craft Evenings. These were popular, with a general attendance of 15 – 20 men and 30 - 35 women respectively. Both events attracted non-church members on a regular basis and we plan to continue holding them.*

*During the year some renovations were undertaken in the chapel, including an upgrade to the heating arrangements, particularly appreciated by the Mums & Tots group, which can exceed 45 mothers, carers and children on any given Tuesday morning in term time.*

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

*We hold £25,000 in reserves because our chapel was recently surveyed by a buildings surveyor who reported that we would need a new roof within the next five years. We also intend to upgrade the electrical system in the chapel and we are saving up for this expenditure.*

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

*Not Applicable*

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising).
- How expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity.
- Investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Other optional information

### Public Benefit:

*The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they confirm that public benefit has been provided by :-*

- *Promoting the whole mission of the church through activities for individuals, parents and toddlers, and special needs groups.*
- *Providing regular public worship open to all.*
- *Conducting pastoral work including visiting the sick and the bereaved.*
- *Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.*
- *Providing a youth club with a Christian ethos.*
- *Supporting in part the theological training of a young male member.*
- *Distributing evangelistic materials.*
- *Solemnising marriages.*

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Jebediah Smith</i>	<i>D. MacDonald</i>
Full name(s)	Jebediah Smith	Donald MacDonald
Position (eg secretary, chair, etc)	Secretary	Treasurer
Date	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	