



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
From	Day	Month	Year	To	Day	Month	Year
	1st	Jan	2014		31st	Dec	2015

Reference and administration details

Charity name *Little Higthorpe Baptist Church*

Other names charity is known by *Zion Chapel*

Registered charity number (if any) *XXXXXXX*

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>Heston Bloggs</i>	<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Church Members' meeting</i>
2	<i>Edwin Cousins</i>	<i>Elder</i>	<i>21st March – 31st Dec</i>	<i>Church Members' Meeting</i>
3	<i>Donald McDonald</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>		<i>Church Members' Meeting</i>
4	<i>Jebediah Smith</i>	<i>Secretary</i>		<i>Church Members' Meeting</i>
5	<i>Ian van Heerden</i>	<i>Deacon</i>	<i>1st January – 23rd July</i>	<i>Church Members' Meeting</i>
6	<i>Warren Whinney</i>	<i>Pastor</i>		<i>Church Members' Meeting</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 adviser	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)

Constitution dated 15th January 2009.

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Association.

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Our trustees are appointed at a Special Church Members’ Meeting.

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 undertaken for the public benefit 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. We have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Please see Section 'Other Optional Information' for further details.

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

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 2014 to the end of July 2014, 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 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>J Smith</i>	<i>D. McDonald</i>
Full name(s)	<i>Jebediah Smith</i>	<i>Donald McDonald</i>
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>

Date *30th January 2015*