

# **Walmer Baptist Church**

**a Christian community  
for the community  
in the community**



**Annual Report**  
**on the Ministry and Mission 2022**

# **CHURCH TEXT 2022**

## **The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.**

*(Psalm 24.1)*

### **Introduction**

Based upon Isaiah 11.9 we do, from time to time, sing the hymn: *God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year.*

The efforts of so many who use their time and talents to take forward the Ministry and Mission of our fellowship are recorded here.

There are too many to mention and thank individually and there is always the danger that, in compiling the Annual Report, there are contributions which have been inadvertently overlooked.

For any oversight, please accept our apologies.

As the hymn writer A C Ainger asserts:

*All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed;  
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide till God gives life to the seed  
yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.*

## **Annual Reports 2022**

### **Audio/ Video Ministry ... Colin**

We continue to make available a DVD of the weekly services to those who need it, whether every week, or just for one service that they missed, wish to hear again, or even to share with someone else.

We do also maintain an archive of previous years services that stretch back several years. It is our hope that through this the reach of God's word is extended. Do ask if you need more information or a DVD.

### **BMS Birthday Scheme ... Truida**

Birthdays can be celebrated in a variety of ways. One different and special way you can mark your birthday is to join the BMS Birthday Scheme and help BMS to provide life-saving medical treatment and care to some of the poorest and most marginalised people around the world.

Anyone of any age can join the Birthday Scheme. On your birthday, you receive a BMS birthday card, inside the card is a gift envelope to make your donation and return the envelope to church or directly to the treasurer. Or, you can make the donation directly to the church bank account, reference 'Birthday Scheme'

Once again, I'd like to thank everyone for their donations. As always members have been very generous on their birthdays - we have received a total of £582 for the Birthday Scheme in 2022.

### **Badminton ... Rose**

Well, another year has gone and we are still playing badminton and enjoying it. Our numbers are down unfortunately due to accidents and health problems but I'm glad to say not due to playing badminton.

We are keen to recruit more players to come along. We have 8 members at moment but not everyone can come along every week with other commitments. We play on Monday's at 2 o'clock.

We have a good laugh; it's gentle exercise; only £1.50 for two hours enjoyment. Hope to see more of you. Give it a try!

### **Banner ... Celia**

Another year has passed and no new banners have been made.

We continue to use the banners that we inherited from Victoria Baptist, our mother church. Grateful thanks must go to those who have changed the banners as the church year has required.

If you feel that you would like to make a banner for use in the Sanctuary, please speak to myself or Lyn. We do need some new blood and ideas. We must be thankful for the work put into the banners in past years and that they continue to attract attention and inspire those who take time to look at them.

### **Catering ... Pat**

2022, after Covid lockdowns, saw the kitchen begin to be used properly again.

Sadly, we had to cater for the 'home call' of much missed members of the fellowship. On a happier note, on Tuesdays, "Winter Warmer Lunches" have started offering a warm space and a hot meal to the community during the "cost of living crisis".

Thanks go for the provision of the soups already portioned, to be heated and served.

The year ended with us once again able to celebrate the birth of our Saviour around the table for a Christmas dinner when a great time of fellowship was had by all.

My thanks go to all those who faithfully help in the kitchen Sunday by Sunday serving refreshments and at activities in the week.

My one plea to all users is to please leave the kitchen as you would wish to find it as 2022 saw an invasion of ants which we would like to avoid this year as we look to ways our wonderful facilities can be used to witness in the community.

### **Fabric Report ... Peter (PB 1)**

Firstly, I would like to record my thanks to our Ministry Assistant for his help in many ways, particularly highlighting issues to be addressed and keeping us up-to-date with statutory compliance.

I have found plenty to do around our buildings and grounds:

- hinges on the alley gate upgraded to heavy duty ones
- freed the door to the crypt that was jammed shut
- gutters and downpipes were checked, cleaned and cleared at both the Church and the Manse.
- outside some much-needed attention, sanding and varnishing to the Kelvedon Road external doors and benches and noticeboards
- the railings were also sanded and repainted. (I hope to do the gates in 2023.)
- Internally, fixes included cleaning blistered paint behind the kitchen fridge and repainting
- sanding and revarnishing to remove marks on the hall floor.

Many minor jobs have been done and forgotten!

Some jobs are not able to be done 'in house':

- We needed help from a locksmith for the garage doors.
- A hall window winder also needed expert attention.
- We are awaiting work for the damp in the church lounge when the weather is a little warmer
- Some minor electrical and plumbing work are pending.

Thanks to Barry and Rita E work to improve and refresh the Manse are underway including renewal of the central heating boiler.

I already have projects in mind for this year when it is warmer including repainting the floor of the accessible toilet and painting the inside of the kitchen windows.

## Finance ... Truida

'Volunteering' to pick up the mantle of Church Treasurer which had been the preserve of Roger for decades was a daunting prospect.

Gratitude must go to both our Administrator and Church Elder for their guidance, support and background knowledge and to others who have been patient as I have learnt the ropes.

Training offered by SEBA has also been a benefit, as has practical support given by our Ministry Assistant.

The generosity of you all in your faithful, sacrificial giving, week in week out is reflected in our year-end balance sheet:

### Balance Sheet

Bfwd 2021	£48,872.70
<i>Income to 31/12/22</i>	<i>£59,595.14</i>
<i>Expenditure to 31/12/22</i>	<i>£47,160.91</i>
Cfwd 2023	£61,306.93*

*\*Ministry Fund £16,000; Activities £5097.76;  
Donations £13,635.10; Working Capital £26,574.07  
(These are accrued balances)*

Moving forward, I am grateful for help across specific areas of financial management, (e.g. Ian with utility charges) that make the responsibility of Church Treasurer less onerous.

If you've time and interest in joining a Treasury Team or in taking on the role of Treasurer (full-time), do please 'volunteer'!

*(Audited accounts will be tabled at the Annual General Church Meeting with thanks to our Independent Examiners.)*

### **Flower Ministry ... Josie**

What would we do without flowers? They play an integral part of our lives: weddings birthdays, christenings, funerals and any number of special occasions.

God created the garden on the third day of creation so that we can enjoy the beauty and colour of this wonderful world and it is up to us to look after it. To see a display of flowers each Sunday is a way of sharing them for all to enjoy.

It is a pleasure to be able to pass on said flowers, particularly to folk who for various reasons are unable to attend church, to show them that they are not forgotten and are still part of our church family.

Thank you to everyone who continues to buy flowers for the church service. Unfortunately, we have had to replace several names on the list this last year, but would appreciate some new volunteers to join the rota. I am reminded of the hymn: 'All things bright and beautiful' and thank God for his many blessings.

### **Friday Prayers ... Seyan**

Pausing from our daily activities at home, a faithful group "gather" each week, at noon on Fridays, for prayer. Using the computer software we learnt during Covid we connect virtually, looking and listening to one another through our computers, tablets or mobile devices.

The time spent affords the opportunity to share pastoral news with each other and to reflect upon issues locally, nationally and globally. All these and other cares and concerns, joys and sadnesses we bring before our God in prayer.



### **Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride ... Pat**

This fund-raising event took place on 10 September just after the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The timing was maybe a contributory factor to the considerable decrease in visitors to our premises. Nevertheless, our two Striders and the recording team managed to raise £238 in sponsorship, half of which was returned for our Church funds so thank you to all who supported this effort.

### **Grounds ... Peter (PB 2)**

I would like to thank Kathleen for all time and work given to the grounds, prior to her retirement in April. We are grateful to those who have taken on the care of planters and hanging baskets which have done well. We are grateful also to Jonathan for watering throughout the summer, to Harry for hedge cutting and all who have helped in the grounds.

Our aim this year has been to try and make the grounds more manageable. On Saturday the 14 May we had a work day and thanks go to the volunteers armed with loppers and secateurs etc. we cut back shrubs, cut tops off holly trees and cleared rubbish; all went into the skip. The work day ended with an excellent lunch prepared and served by our Catering Team and much appreciated, thank you. A second skip was filled a month later. A new battery lawn trimmer purchased makes edging of lawns easy as the mower doesn't cut edges. Also, I have taken out the rest of the Holly trees.

Bind weed is a big problem in the grounds. In one area, next to the pond, I have dug up all the perennials and set aside, dug up and cleared three bags of bind weed roots, whilst another area has had black polythene put on in a bid to kill off the bind

weed. If we can keep on top of the weeding things should be more manageable.

Adopting a planter, flowerbed or border, along with pulling out the old a weed or deadheading a flower, can help the Team and maintain the recognition of the Walmer in Bloom judges, who this year, awarded a Certificate of Excellence for our grounds displays.

### **Hire of Premises ... Janet**

Along with our own functions, our suite of rooms are still used regularly. Keep fit, singing for the over 50's ( Living Lively) and the Rosamond Club continue to be popular.

We have two new hirers, who hire the church lounge; a poetry writing group meet regularly on Wednesday mornings, and a gentleman who provides 1-1 counselling.

We welcomed a Vintage Road Show back in November. Albeit a dreadful day of rain, many from the community came with their antiques!

We continue to pray for our community who come into our building week by week. We pray they will be drawn to read the many posters and to attend all of our events.

### **Ins and Outs**

Our membership roll remains 31 at the year-end, having seen two new members welcomed and the 'home call' of two long serving and dedicated members in 2022: Roger Saunders and Peter Hoskins.

### **Housekeeping ... Kate**

Keeping a premises clean is very important when we consider the variety of organisations who hire our hall or rooms for activities not directly connected with church worship.

So, thank you to all those involved in the upkeep of our premises for our use and visitors alike. It displays a respectful attitude.

Cleanliness is next to godliness!

### **Knitting Group ... Rita B**

Yet again it is time to report and reflect on another year of knitting group activity. The numbers are lower than pre-Covid times but we do have some new ladies and are always getting donations of wool, which is much appreciated.

We did adopt a Charity of the Year, ` Holding on, letting go`, a little-known Kent charity supporting children who have been bereaved.

We really went to town holding sales on the 1st Tuesday of the month in the Church Lounge, one at Eastry Summer Fair, four in St Georges Hall, Deal, one at the Scout Hut Balfour Road.

This activity was only possible with the great help of those who volunteered their time and of course the knitting and crochet talents of everyone in the group. The total raised was £1,890.

Knitwear sales will continue in the New Year on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Church Lounge and at other dates and

venues in the community. The Charity of the Year for 2023 is Friends of Deal Hospital.

*(On a personal note, the group are supporting me as I struggle with my eyesight, not able to read properly or do any knitting, I can still organise.)*

Thanks go to everyone - the knitters and crocheters, those who prepare and serve the refreshments, but, the greatest thanks go to the Lord for giving us talents to share, that can benefit others who are in need.

### **Leadership Team**

Through any period of Pastoral Vacancy, a church relies upon its Leadership Team to ensure day to day administration and activity continues as well as discerning the Lord's guidance for the future.

Though a small team, our Deacons work hard collaboratively and have done so this year with the support of our Moderator, Helen. Honouring her commitment to serve us for 12 months, Helen stood down in the autumn to be replaced by a new Moderator, Simon.

Statutory compliance, overseeing contractors, welcoming hirers, producing church publicity, maintaining the website, and much, much more essential to church administration are tasks undertaken by Ministry Assistant, Guy, whose help is priceless.

We benefit too, from the experience and wisdom of our Church Elder, Seyan, whose support, health allowing, is valued.

**Ministry Assistant ... Guy**

I do find it hard to believe a year has gone since my last report.

My work continues to be extremely varied and I try to be flexible to keep things running smoothly, whatever the task.

I am privileged to see the many people who quietly come to the Church every day and support the work here, often doing the kind of jobs that would only be noticed if not done.

It continues to be a privilege to serve in a Christian community and I am truly grateful for the love and support I have found here; you are a blessing.

**Missions ... Barrie**

We have continued our monthly Sunday morning mission updates, which are very informative and seem to be being received with interest. These afford us the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts, in person or by video, which can inform our giving in support of our chosen causes.

(This slot will move in 2023 to the fourth Sunday of the month to avoid calendar clashes such as Remembrance Sunday.)

Many causes now promote themselves online and receive direct giving electronically. Printed material and gift envelopes can be sourced on request. Don't hesitate to ask for details.

**Music Ministry ... Amy**

The Musicians' Team has had an interesting year especially with the anticipation and arrival of baby Isaac. Despite the demands that he brings when a feed is due. we are starting to settle into our 'new normal'.

We are currently a trio and seem to have settled into a friendly comfortable and, especially, a flexible way of working together.

We love to hear your voices on a Sunday morning, so please do sing up! We will be listening for you.

### **Pastoral Search Team**

Guided by our Moderators, our small Pastoral Search Team have considered those on the National Settlement List who have expressed an interest in the pastorate here.

Conversations with Spurgeon's College have taken place indicating the church's willingness to consider a Minister in Training.

### **Pulpit Supply ... Janet**

In this period of Pastoral Vacancy, along with our own faithful folk who led from time to time, we say thank you to Arthur, Guy, Colin and Seyan who regularly bring God's word to us.

Thanks to go to Ewart Graham and Ewen Blaker who we have helped occasionally.

We are also blessed with the faithful retired clergy of our, community, the Revds. John Lines and Roger North (Methodist), and Father Stephen Young (Anglican); they all bring their own unique style and we are so very blessed by their ministry. They have become very good friends of us here at Walmer and we give thanks to God for their faithfulness and willingness to come along regularly to bring God's word.

### **Safeguarding ... Janet**

The church continues to take its statutory obligations seriously with regard to the care and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Where appropriate, areas of concern have been discussed and specialist advice from the SEBA Safeguarding Officer sought. Appropriate monitoring and reporting strategies are in place.

### **Shepherds and Shepherdesses ... Rita B**

Pastoral care continues to be an important responsibility shared by our Shepherds and Shepherdesses who take a keen interest in their health and well-being of their assigned flocks.

Regular reporting through our weekly Pastoral News of the Fellowship within our worship helps to keep us all updated.

The commitment and dedication of the Team to keep in touch is greatly appreciated, not least by those now isolated at home by age or infirmity.

### **Welcomers ... Kate**

Thank you to all those who act as Welcomers throughout the year. This is the first impression people have when attending a church and has often been remarked upon in a very positive way.

May we continue to share the joy of the Lord when welcoming those who pass through our doors and encourage them in their spiritual journey.

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