

# **Walmer Baptist Church**

**A Christian Community  
For The Community  
In the Community**



**Annual Report  
on our Ministry and Mission 2024**

**Introduction – our Moderator,  
Revd. Simon Robertson**

We live in a time of turmoil and change, but the one thing we can be sure of is the steadfast love of God.

Kingdoms may fail and fall, dictators rise to power, but our God remains, and His kingdom will come on earth as it does in heaven.

As we enter this new year, we can look back over the past months and say in all His provision, God has been good.

Now, that doesn't mean we have not had some rough times, but as Julian of Norwich said - All will be well, and all will be well.

Looking forward, I hope we can all look to the words of Haggai in our fellowship -

“The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,” says the Lord Almighty. “And in this place, I will grant peace,”  
**Haggai 2.**

## **Audio Visual Ministry – Colin**

At the start of last year, I was asked to find coverage for when I was unable to attend church. Unfortunately that time has arrived and I must step aside from Audio and Visual recordings and leave the sound in the hands of another controller./recorder

It has been a privilege to serve my Lord in this way and as an Amateur Videographer and film maker, it has kept my mind alert as I age. Unfortunately it has also exposed me to so much worry both in copyright and vulnerable persons acts etc, taking the edge away from my worship.

Rest assured, the good Lord granting me continued health. Just as soon as Celia recovers from her forth coming operation, we will be back among you. For as I have said before, change what ever you like, but you will never take my Lord from me - and he will continue to help me and help others, learn of His Love.

God Bless you all, and Thank you for your continued support and thank you Guy for all that background support. As with other years, an archived case with all last years recording is available

## **Badminton – Rose**

Another year has gone by and I am happy to say we are still here playing . We have ten members at the moment, but not all of them play every week owing to other commitments, so would be happy for a few more players. Age is catching up with most of us. We meet the same time as usual 2-4pm every Monday with tea and biscuits and it is still only £1.50 for an enjoyable afternoon . You don't need to bring anything, it is all provided. Contact me if you need more info.

## **Banner Ministry – Lyn**

We have inherited a lovely collection of banners which beautify our sanctuary and are a pleasure to look at. I had been able to keep them displayed and changed through 2024 but with the decline in my health I regret that I must stand aside and let someone else take this on. I hope they continue to be a blessing for many years.

## **BMS Birthday Scheme - Anne**

We have a long list of church members who kindly donate to the BMS birthday scheme. The amount given was made up to £800. This was sent to the BMS before the end of December. Their generosity will improve the lives of many people; Praise the Lord! To find out more about the scheme please ask me.

## **Catering - Janet**

2022 saw the introduction of Winter Warmer Lunches. This continues and is now Spud Lunches. Various fillings are on offer. Our aim is to be open for those who wish to come along and share fellowship with each other over a meal. Thank you to our own folk who support this venture. Thank you to Glenys who is now part of the team and a great help.

Thank you to those who help as host/hostess on a Sunday who serve tea/coffee, a valued service. A Christmas bring and share tea replaced our Christmas dinner, 15 of us enjoyed fellowship together with some very tasty food! Thanks go to Anne for providing some fun entertainment.

## **Coffee Morning Charity Fundraisers - Anne**

The fun and fellowship coffee mornings run bi-monthly, have gained a following. The numbers have increased and people have made friends to either chat with or play the table games with.

The friendly faces in the kitchen serving teas and coffees are much appreciated. My ongoing thanks to Glenys, Janet and Kate for your cheery support and front of house presence.

Charities supported this year are as follows: Brain Tumour Research, Motor Neurone Disease, Hope Now Ukraine, Dementia Care, Kent Association for the Blind and Kent Hospices.

The average amount raised on the day is £280 and my thanks to members of the congregation who the following day after service generously donate further monies raising the average raised to £320.

This really is the meaning of being 'In the Community, For the Community.' Well done one and all for your support and caring for others who we may never meet but have benefited by your ongoing generosity.

## **Fabric - Seyan**

We have been well served by our Fabric Officer who had conscientiously overseen much of the minor repairs and maintenance of ageing building required. Having laid down the mantle at the Annual General Church Meeting, oversight of maintenance issues has primarily fallen upon our Ministry Assistant, who is conscientious in his regular inspection of the premises inside and outside, particularly after severe weather.

Where necessary, appropriate contractors, undertook specialist repairs and maintenance, whilst minor repairs and statutory requirements have been undertaken by church members.

### Significant repairs and maintenance undertaken in 2024:

Not so much a repair as a beautiful new addition: we now have a beautiful bespoke baby gate that closes off the North Transept. Some of our water butts were not being utilised and were causing damp problems; two of our members removed them and reconnected the downpipes. A new radiator was fitted in the musicians area as the old cast iron one was leaking. Both the hall door and side gate were repaired and recovered and varnished.

The Leadership Team has and continues to monitor the condition of The Manse. Rita Elley has taken on inspecting the manse and commissioning any repair work. This included repairs to rendering, repointed brickwork, re-rendered cracks and two coats of white masonry paint plus a water-seal to the area. The chimney was removed to just below roof level and tiled, using matching tiles. Loose cement was removed from valley and repointing done. Brickwork was repaired under front window on the ground floor plus the old cast iron guttering to the right of the property, fixing plastic eaves trays under tiles and a new black plastic deep-flow gutter to the side and a new downpipe. In the hallway a sealant and two coats of paint were applied to deal with damp problems.

## **Financial Report - Anne**

The year 2024 was fruitful in many respects. Truida appealed for a team to take over the finance role as having done the Treasurer job for longer than she initially said and she needed to hand it over. Finance now consists of Guy banking and myself as Treasurer heavily supervised and taught by Truida, as I had no previous knowledge of spreadsheets or accounting.

My ongoing thanks to Guy and Truida as well as Janet for their ongoing support and advice.

Financially we continue to be a giving church supporting the ministries and missions that Barrie overseas and keeps us aware of.

The repairs to the Manse have been mostly completed. However the ongoing problem of damp continues and the heating has been on at a low level over the coldest months to try to combat the problem. Some repairs to the church have been undertaken regarding windows and the heating system.

We are no longer advertising for a pastor as Danielle Jardine has expressed her intension to undertake theological studies regarding becoming a pastor. We have as a membership endorsed her decision to apply for training. She intends to begin her training in September once she has been accepted by the Baptist training college. If Danielle is successful we as a membership must pray that the Lord enables us to finance her as part of His Kingdom building.

We would like to thank Colin Birrell and Roger Phillips who faithfully served as an auditor for many years and Michael Cusden who has now taken on this role.

We end the year in a heathy position as our income exceeds our expenses and we praise the Lord for that blessing.

B/F 2023	£53,410.71
Income	£44,347.00
Expenditure	£44,504.52
C/F	£53,253.19

Bank balance total ending 2024 :

£53,253.19

## **Flowers – Josie**

Once again we have managed to decorate the church sanctuary with flowers bought by the fellowship, which is very much appreciated. Although we have lost one or two folk on the Rota some of you have very kindly doubled up your contribution so that we can continue this service and then afterwards be able to pass the flowers on to other people to enjoy a little longer, especially this time of the year.

We look forward to the spring when the miracle of rebirth manifests itself into another display of colourful flowers and trees, we must be careful not to destroy our land and lose what God has made for our enjoyment. What a wonderful God we have who has made all things well.

## **Food Share Report – Danielle**

Over the past year, our partnership with Co-op has continued to be a blessing, allowing us to receive surplus bakery and food items that would have otherwise gone to waste. Together, we have played a small but meaningful role in reducing food waste and supporting those in need.

Many have benefited from these provisions—whether it's a roll to go with a warm meal, a treat to share, or simply a little extra help during the week. We encourage anyone who could make use of these items to take advantage of what's available.

A special thank you to Glenys for collaborating with FoodBank, ensuring that nothing goes to waste and that even more people in our community are supported.

We remain deeply grateful to Co-op for their ongoing commitment to sustainability and community support. As a church, we are thankful for the opportunity to share and serve, reflecting Christ's love in practical ways.

If you would like to receive any of the available bakery items, please feel free to help yourself on collection days - Sunday to Tuesday (subject to availability).

## **Friday Prayers - Seyan**

One of the things that COVID-19 taught us is the ability to connect with one another remotely from our own homes. We very quickly learned how to 'Zoom' together and this has continued on Fridays each week.

Pausing from our daily activities our small and loyal group meet online at noon on Fridays to catch up on news of friends within the fellowship and family, as well as reflecting upon situations in the wider world, which causes concern.

We are always pleased to welcome others to join with us for 20 minutes of prayer and sharing. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office for the login details and help connecting with us online.

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

September 2024's Ride & Stride saw our Church manned from 10am to 2pm and for the final hour of the day 5pm – 6pm. Unfortunately, a disappointing number visited the Church this year, the lowest ever, but we managed to raise £350 for which I am very thankful. It was also encouraging that some of our neighbours took the opportunity to come and see the inside of the Church they walk past so often.

This year's Ride & Stride will take place on Saturday 13th September.

Thank you for your continued support.

## **Grounds - Peter**

During this year much of the time was spent on getting the overgrown shrubs to a more manageable size and removing some others, also keeping up with the weeding. The lawns have been mowed regularly which has been a challenge, until help came from two volunteers to spread the load, thank you. Thanks to all who gave and helped plant up the tubs and pots with a colourful display of bedding plants, and for keeping them all watered especially during the very hot spells, plus keeping the privet hedge clipped, thank you. Adopting a planter, flowerbed or border pulling, out the odd weed or dead-heading a flower can help our grounds upkeep thank you. - Peter



### **Hire of Premises - Janet**

Our suite of rooms are still used regularly, Living Lively, a singing group for the over 50's, meet every Thursday morning ( Term Time). Rosamond Club meet regularly every 3rd Friday. Sadly after 25 years+ the keep-fit group have ceased. The poetry group who have regularly used the lounge for the past 2 years has also ceased. The lounge is still regularly used by a gentleman who offers one to one counselling.

We have welcomed the Beacon School, Vintage Road Show, Bishops Antiques and The 1st Minster Girls/Boys Brigade who came and camped in our hall for 5 days

### **Housekeeping Report - Kate**

There comes a time in everybody's life to lay the loo brush down and after 20 years plus cleaning, I don't expect a crown.

But inconvenient circumstance, can't be considered mean, when the WC purification, is left to another team.

Likewise cleaning our extensive facilities require a happy band, and we know when willing, what can be done, with help from many hands!

So a big thank you to all those involved in maintaining our premises to a high standard.

### **Ins and Outs – Seyan**

The church membership roll remains unchanged at the end of the year with 31 members.

During the last year, a number of dear friends have moved away to be nearer family and we miss their fellowship and friendship.

We remember others who have been “called home” in the past year and their families, as they adjust to their loss. A number of other friends have moved into residential care or are now confined to their homes

It has been a joy to welcome new faces in the congregation, especially the younger ones.

## **Leadership Team - Seyan**

We are greatly blessed having those who have been nominated and elected by church members to serve on our church leadership team. Guided by our Moderator they faithfully meet throughout the year to ensure that the mission of the church to be a 'Christian community, for the community, in the community' is maintained.

Particular mention should go to our Administrator who ensures that the pulpit is filled each week and oversees hire of our premises to community groups and thanks must be recorded to our new Treasurer, who is learning the ropes and keeping a keen eye on the finances.

The practicalities of caring for and maintaining the fabric of our buildings (including The Manse), along with the statutory obligations we have for health and safety, food hygiene, GDPR, etc are demanding. Aably supported by a Ministry Assistant, who serves as well in so many ways, the Leadership Team take their formal role as Managing Trustees seriously.

## **Ministerial Search Committee - Seyan**

There have been no enquiries this year through the Baptist Union Settlement Process. Our Moderator has suggested to the Leadership Team that they review the Church Profile a process which is underway.

## **Ministry Assistant - Guy**

I continue to do a range of practical and administrative tasks to keep the work of the Church going. I also maintain an online presence for us. I must also give credit for all the faithful people I see come into the building and give their time and effort to work in our little corner of God's kingdom. We are blessed by what you do. This year has been challenging because of Lyn's health issues. I do want to thank the Church for their ongoing support which means so much to me; as always it is a delight and a blessing to work among you.

## **Mission Report - Barrie**

We have had several interesting missionary presentations through the year. However, the committee feels that having heard from the same 10 organisations repeating over the years that we should include speakers from other missionary organisations.

The church would continue to financially support the same societies, but the pew envelopes will go to the speaker's organisation. As requested, this year the speakers were asked to include a biblical content to their address, with excellent results. Please continue to support and pray for the organisations which we support.

### ***Mission Giving 2024***

LCM	£	200.00
Open Doors	£	650.00
Willing & Abel	£	200.00
Operation Mobilisation	£	300.00
Shiloh	£	200.00
Barnabas	£	370.00
Hope Now	£	931.00
Food Bank	£	800.00
Home Mission	£	400.00
BMS	£	800.00
Mission Giving Total	<b>£</b>	<b>4,851.00</b>

### **Music Group – Guy**

With Amy on maternity leave I have stepped in to try and keep the music going for our worship. I am grateful for the support of Ian and Phillip who faithfully join in every Sunday. Do remember that every one can help by joining in and lifting your voices up to to the Lord; I hope and pray that our worship is acceptable in his sight.

### **Pulpit - Janet**

As we continue in Pastoral Vacancy we give thanks to God for our own folk who are willing to bring God's word to us. Arthur, Guy, Colin, Barrie, Danielle & Anne.

We continue to be blessed with the retired clergy of our community , who faithfully continue to serve their Lord. We are blessed by the faithful regular ministry of The Revd. Stephen Young, Revd. Roger North, Revd. John Lines & Revd. Alan Spence, we give thanks to God for them. We have also appreciated the ministry of our Moderator, the Revd. Simon Robertson.

We have been blessed throughout the year with various mission speakers either by video link or in person has been a joy. It is good to hear about the various missions we support.

### **Safeguarding - Seyan**

The Leadership Team takes the responsibility of the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults seriously. The church has adopted the Baptist Union Policy and the Policy Statement Is read annually at the Annual General Church Meeting.

The following serve the church in matters of Safeguarding:

Safeguarding Trustee: Janet Saunders  
Deputy Safeguarding Trustee: Rita Bishop  
Designated Person for Safeguarding  
DBS.Verifier: Revd Seyan Tills

There have been no Safeguarding issues reported during 2024.

## **Shepherds and Shepherdesses - Seyan**

Particularly during a period of pastoral vacancy, a church needs to ensure the pastoral care of the fellowship is maintained.

Our long established division of the fellowship into flocks under the care of a Shepherd or Shepherdess continues to maintain contact with everyone and ensures in times of need support can be offered.

For 2025, a review of the flocks has been undertaken; if you are not sure who your Shepherd or Shepherdess is, ask Rita Bishop.

We put on record our thanks to those who have served the church well as Shepherds or shepherdesses, and those who continue to keep a loving and watchful eye on us all.

Our Moderator shares Holy Communion with the housebound on request.

## **Welcomers Report - Kate**

It is the usual report viz welcomers as it can never be overstated how important this first impression makes to members, friends and strangers alike. When they arrive at our church this friendly and informative meeting can pave the way for future contact and participation. Many thanks to all concerned.

## **Women's Fellowship**

This past year has been a season of growth, encouragement, and deep fellowship for our Ladies' Fellowship Group. Through our weekly gatherings, we have strengthened our faith, built meaningful relationships, and supported one another in our journeys with Christ.

Throughout the year, we explored a variety of Bible study themes, including the Fruit of the Spirit, the Armour of God, the Names of God, and Blessings, to name a few. Each session provided a space for honest discussion, learning, and spiritual refreshment, helping us to see how God's Word shapes our daily lives.

Beyond our studies, our fellowship has been a source of prayer, encouragement, and support. Whether through uplifting conversations,

shared testimonies, or simply being present for one another, we have witnessed God working in our lives in both big and small ways.

As we step into a new year, we remain committed to growing in faith, deepening our relationships, and continuing to support one another. If you haven't yet joined us, we warmly invite you to be part of this wonderful time of fellowship and learning.

May we continue to walk in faith and unity, drawing closer to God and to one another.





**Walmer Baptist Church**

Church Text 2025

“The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,” says the Lord Almighty. “And in this place I will grant peace,” declares the Lord Almighty.’

Haggai 2:9

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