



Annual Report 2016



Contents

	page
Report from the Minister	3
Reports	4 - 14
The Leadership (Trustees)	15

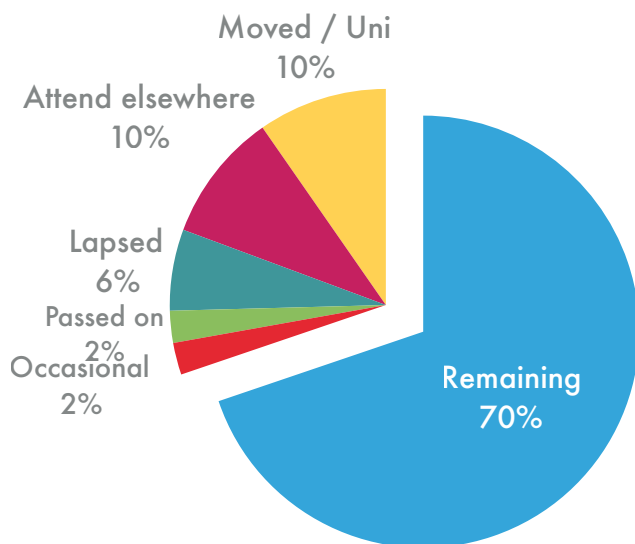
“...this year will be a year of challenge and change.”

Martin Shorey, Sunday 10th January, 2016

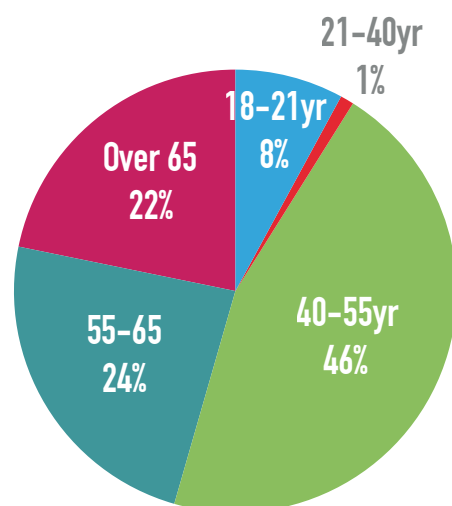
Happy new year!

I hope you had a good break over the Christmas period, but the festivities are now over and its back to routines and busy-ness. However, I find that the period between Christmas and New Years is a time when I can reflect back over the past year and look forward to the next. Its a full stop in our busy lives, that allows us to pause, breathe deeply, and take stock of life. I don't know how 2016 was for you, but I know for many people in our fellowship it has been a tough time. Difficulties at work, illness, family conflict, even the death of a loved one have dominated our lives over the past year, and with trepidation we step forward into a new year, hoping 2017 will be better, but worried that it won't.

As a church we have had so many positives that we can recall - a wonderful outing to Sheringham, 3 weddings, The Gathering, Big Church Day Out, Soul Survivor, and a powerful Encounter weekend. A hugely fun and enjoyable Winter Warmer Ceilidh, a blossoming youth group, an amazing Lendy Park Cycle Challenge, the baptisms of Nathan and Emily, the Alpha course, and well attended Christmas services. These are just a few of the wonderful things we have been doing in the past year, and all have shaped us as a church and filled our year with joy, laughter and growth in so many areas. However, we have also had our problems, and this was highlighted by a talk that Ian Jackson gave at the AGM where he pointed out how many friends we had lost since this time last year. Many had moved away, some had died, and others had just drifted away to other things. But I guess the biggest shock was the loss of our 20-40s group. In my letter to the church last year this was an area we were really growing in, and the future showed such promise. Unfortunately this promise was never realised, and we now find ourselves in the situation where we have an age gap that seems impossible to fill.



WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?



2016: RBC AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

So how do we respond to this situation? Well I think there are 2 ways in which we can react; either we throw our hands in the air in despair and get depressed about it, or else we chuck our all into the problem, coming up with numerous ideas and solutions that will work if only we have the courage to implement them. But are either of these responses

right? I think we would all agree that an apathetic reaction is not a helpful ones and if our sermon series on Gideon taught us anything it showed us that impossible odds and falling numbers are not a barrier to God's plans. But is activism any better? My concern is that we can end up being firefighters, springing to action to put out any blaze that might threaten our church. Or maybe engineers finding a clever solution to every problem. This is all ok and necessary, but too often this approach is about maintaining what we have, rather than driving ourselves forward towards something new. It creates a busy church, but not necessarily a healthy one.

In 2017 I want us at Ramridge Baptist Church to stop and ask ourselves the question, 'why?' Why is the church here? Why do we exist? Why are we different to other churches? Or perhaps our questions will be more personal; why do I go to church? Why am I a Christian?

I sincerely believe that if we are going to move beyond firefighting, if we are going to be able to lift our heads and look past our own situation, our own likes and dislikes, our own agenda, we need to first discover God's agenda for the church. If we don't then we will become reactive to every problem, going this way and that. Coming up with new ideas but unable to sustain them because we have spread ourselves too thinly, or the reason for doing them has gone away.

By asking the question 'why?' we start to see a vision for the future, tailored specifically for us and no one else. Its a vision that should become a guiding principle and a foundation stone against which everything else is measured. It focuses our plans, sifts our ideas, and gives us a target to aim for.

It also reminds us that people may come and go, and times may be easy or hard, but God and His purposes remain.

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails
Proverbs 19:21

Martin Shorey, January 2017

PASTORAL AND SOCIAL

This has been a great year of activities having fulfilled the majority of the planned events for 2016.



We started the year in January with High Tea for the over 60s. Many sandwiches and cakes were consumed and pots and pots of tea were made! Unfortunately the heating clicked off so the guests were cold during the piano presentation. This will be rectified for next time.

March was the Quiz Night – with fish and chips being consumed with the hope that it would provide instant brain food for the challenging questions! This was a great evening with many visitors to the church.



The slow start to the summer was a worry but we needn't have worried as Sheringham came up trumps and provided a coach load of visitors from Ramridge with a pleasant day which was topped off with a street party to celebrate the Queen's birthday.

Unfortunately the car rally in August was cancelled but we will look to having another one next year.

We have just had the Winter Warmer Ceilidh and I can confirm that it was certainly warming! The sweat was pouring off many of the dancers and there was much laughter and jigging all evening. Scott from Scotland was the star of the night and his calling, organisation and kilt was the talk of the evening. There were many visitors to the Church and the evening was a great success!



This year has also seen the introduction of the visitor's packs. These are bags with the Ramridge logo on with a What's On Guide, a contact information card, a pen and a scripture. These are given to every visitor and we have had a number of information cards returned and contact has been made with them.

We look forward to another year of events in 2017.

Sally Jackson

BUILDING FABRIC & MAINTENANCE

This brief report covers the period of December 2015 - November 2016

Whilst we accept that the Church is the people, our buildings enable us to fellowship, serve and worship God together. They are a legacy of those members before us and therefore we should willingly maintain them out of a sense of gratitude and good stewardship.

Let us commend and give thanks to God for those who voluntarily give of their time in regularly cleaning, maintaining and repairing our church buildings and grounds; not forgetting those taking responsibility for the aspects of Health & Safety which beset us in these times also the day to day maintenance of equipment. These things often get done unseen and only become obvious to us when left undone!



Expenditure December 2015 -November 2016

During the past year we have spent £3,600 on Church Buildings and Maintenance.

Main item being renewing church rear car park (£3,240), the rest being servicing contracts & the relatively minor repairs or replacements.

Expenditure December 2016 – November 2017

As presented last year, there are some Capital Projects identified for improving our buildings over what is now a 2yr period as funds became available. (See 1-9 below) It is pleasing however to report that because of our relatively healthy financial situation £17,000 has been allocated in the church's 2017 budget which may enabling these projects to be done earlier than expected.

In no particular order they are:

1. UPVC fascia & eaves on the rear.
2. Signage on the Marshall Road end of the hall.
3. Install emergency lighting in church.
4. Install fire protection alarm system in church.
5. Renewal of Manse driveway.
6. Restoration of the hearing loop system.
7. Church kitchen improvements.
8. Cavity wall insulation to church exterior walls.
9. Improve church loft insulation.

Ian Jackson

SISTERS

The targets for this year were as follows:

- Publicise the group through our own women's leaflet that can contain brief notes about our meetings and individual testimonies.
- Encourage women to pray for each other and the church by pairing women for a month.
- Organise and attend one women's conference during the year

We have been able to meet as usual with more new faces joining the group. We have managed to go on an Encounter with a number of the SISTERS. A follow up meeting was held at Wendy Peter's house and all the available ladies will be sharing their personal testimonies at the next SISTERS meeting. We have not been able to produce a leaflet but have been able to share on some Sunday mornings about our meetings.

In the coming year we will continue to work on:

- Publicity
- Engaging more women in the church
- Organising and attending a women's conference

Sabina Madiri

MEN

Men's ministry has been quiet this year. However we did have a great, though muddy time at The Gathering in June, where we once again joined with a group from Ipswich. This was a time of prayer, worship, and recommitment to God.



Kirk Dumbleton has now taken over the lead position for Men's Ministry at Ramridge and he will look at restructuring and revitalising this area over the next year and beyond.

Martin Shorey

PRAYER GROUP



The prayer group is continuing to meet each week on the Tuesday evening, with a core group of faithful attendees. Recently the group has grown and we are grateful for that.

Last month we have managed to go on an 'Encounter' weekend at the New Covenant Fellowship Church, and would like to build on that by involving others in prayer ministry.

Sabina Madiri + Jonathan Adeyemi

LADIES GROUP

The ladies group meets every Wednesday morning in the church foyer from 11 to 12 noon. It is an informal time with tea and biscuits, exercises, chat, Bible study and prayer.

It provides a friendly atmosphere which enables people to share news, complain, cry, laugh, inform and encourage each other on any subject or problem. We like to give a small sum of money each week and have been happy to donate £300 to Rebecca this year. It has been a blessing that she has met with us and shared what God has been doing through her, in the Youth work and she showed us the laptop we had enabled her to buy, in action. We have also donated well to the Lendy Park appeal.



Prayer points.

- To attract more ladies to the group.
- For us to maintain good health and mobility.
- For each to know the reality of Gods Plan and His love working in our lives.

Low Points.

- The sad losses of Gwen in July and Ina in November, and also of losing the services of Brian as our driver.

Jennifer Gurney (+ Wendy Peters)

YOUTH

Soul

Soul has continued to meet on Friday evening and we are encouraged to welcome around 15-20 young people each week. During the summer term we had a Grease themed outdoor movie night and had around 35-40 attending. We finished our year with a Hawaiian themed BBQ where again we had around 30-35 young people. We also had two away days, one for boys and one for girls.

We returned in September and had to say goodbye to Emily and Nathan, but were able to celebrate their Baptisms before they left! We have welcomed some of those who started at high school and look forward to watching them grow in their friendship groups and with God. This term has been mainly focused on preparing for our massive cycle challenge to raise funds for Lendy Park and although it took up most of half term, it was so encouraging to see so many people join together to be part of the event.



We are looking forward to finishing this term with our Christmas Party and are looking at organising Carols on the Green for Sunday 11 December... More details to follow!

Please pray for new young people to join us and for those who already come to know Jesus and to grow in that relationship. Also we are looking in to the idea of taking the group to camps this summer and we need prayer for wisdom in the best way forward in order to make this the best experience for the young people.

Catriona Burns

Engage and 'Team on the Green'



This term has been good for both Engage and Team on the Green. Engage finished the summer term by exploring who Jesus was and why he came to earth. The young people enjoyed sharing their own thoughts and feelings with each other in discussion based lessons on Sunday morning so this term, we have carried on with this format, now focusing on where God is active in our own lives and how we can build on our relationships with him. Each young person has started their own spiritual journal that we will add to each week as the term goes on.

Team on the Green kicked off again this term successfully. We have an average of 15 young people coming along to spend time with us on a Friday afternoon. At the end of the summer term, the group changed from meeting out on the Green to meeting on our church

premises which then progressed into us opening the hall and creating a Youth drop-in environment. We have had positive feedback from both the young people and their parents on this move. The young people have all agreed that they particularly enjoy getting to know each other better and having the security of somewhere to come, even if it is only for a couple of hours on a Friday.

We are praying for God to give us more fresh ideas and direction on where He wants this to group to lead and to provide us with more volunteers to join the team.

Becca Burns

Worship

There have been some changes to the Worship group since the last AGM, which has seen a few people move away and we are therefore limited on the resources we have available each week.

I/we are thankful for those who still willingly commit to help Ramridge in Sung worship each Sunday.

The group has been invited and participated in 1 or 2 events outside Ramridge, at SBC for the Central Baptist Association's Daring Greatly event. We also we played at Ramridge Primary School fete in the summer.

We have given an opportunity and seen a number of our younger people step up (mainly in café Church) and although they are singers rather than musicians this is encouraging. We do need to pray for additional musicians to join the ranks.

In the last few months there have been "different" formats to our services and exploring alternative ways to allow the Holy Spirit to move.



On a practical level, I am looking at upgrading some of the AV equipment we have in the church and there is a small gifted budget for this, we have purchased drum mics, a clip mic and we are looking to replace the Video projector and replace the lap top. Both these items are c15 years old and are either becoming unreliable or just worn out. I am also looking at providing a basic AV set up in the hall to allow the Sunday School to use Sound and visual projection during their teaching

Key events coming for the end of the year are The Ramridge Primary School Christmas Concert (where we lead the parents in singing some carols), Carols on the Green and the Carol Concert.

For next year there are no specific events planned as yet, but the groups' intention is to help serve God and the church to the best of our abilities.

We are a relatively small church and I believe we have some quality musicians that we need to be thankful for.

Andrew Jackson

CHILDREN'S WORK

Powerhouse

Powerhouse meets Sunday mornings apart from the summer holiday and Café Church services. We have children aged between 2 years old and 10 years old. In the corner we set up a crèche area for younger children. This has worked well since this was changed last year. Younger children are able to join in with songs, videos and sometimes craft activities. The numbers of children attending varies from week to week.

In Powerhouse we talk about Jesus and study Bible stories. We watch youtube video clips which provide details about the Bible story we are studying. We usually complete an art and craft activity and an edible activity. We have been studying miracles that Jesus performed in the Bible this year. We worship using songs, banners, parachute and prayer.

We still need some helpers to enable myself or Heather to have a Sunday off, one adult helper would be great. They would not need to do any planning, Heather or I will do this, unless someone wishes to plan the activities.

Family events

Over the past year we have carried out a Christmas craft morning, games afternoon and a Light Party which have been all well attended from children from the church, from Girls Brigade and children from the estate. On each of the event a small number of people from the church attended. It would be great to see more people from the church attending as these are great opportunities to talk to the parents of the children attending which Heather and myself do not get much opportunity to do so as we are busy with the events. We have had a good turnout of children attending each of the events.

At the Christmas craft morning last year we had a large number of children attending who all enjoyed the variety of craft activities available. At the games afternoon we also did an Easter egg hunt which was enjoyed by all the children that attended. At the Light party all the children got involved in the craft activities and games. All these events will be running again next year as each time they have been very successful. We hope to reach more families from the estate and encourage them to come along to all the events planned.

Michelle Baldock (+ Heather Dumbleton)

Girls Brigade

We have had a successful year at GB. We have a large Senior/Brigader group and it has been good for Rebecca to be part of leading that group. Many of the girls have really grown in their faith. They are a chatty group and good strong relationships have developed within the group.

Our Junior section has good regular girls and each term we have focussed upon a biblical character story and highlighted different characteristics the person has demonstrated. We look for ways to try to embed them into their lives. It also been great to see how the girls have bonded as they all come from different backgrounds.

Our Explorer section has recently grown in numbers which has been good to see. They have been working alongside the junior section where the older girls have helped the younger girls. Now that the number of girls have grown and become regular we will be their own group on a Tuesday evening and come together for games session.

We have our usual activities running through the year:

- Annual prize giving and award evening – great attendance by the girls' parents and members of the church. This is always a good outreach events to engage the church with GB.
- Video night – this year was watching the Secret life of pets
- Christmas craft evening – organised by Catriona
- Christmas party – a common request by all girls

I'm sure many other events will continue to happen throughout the year. We are hoping a district evening will take place to mark 125 years of GB

Finally, I would like to thank our leaders for their help over the year – Catriona Burns, Wendy Booth, Jennifer Gurney and Laura Buckingham and for the church for their ongoing prayer and support. We have valued Martin coming in on requested Tuesdays evening to take devotions.

Prayer Requests:

- Girls will continue to grow in their faith.
- News girls to join us – particularly in the junior and explorer section.
- For the Girls' parents that we can reach out to them too.
- That Tuesday evenings will be an enjoyable evening for everyone.

Lynn Norris

FINANCE REPORT

Present position

At the church annual general meeting in November 2015 the budget presented seemed ambitious as we took on Youth Graduate costs and sizey fabric expenditure of nearly £8000. Now we approach the end of 2016 and can see that God has been good, as all this expenditure has been embraced with seeming ease and with the obvious benefit that these initiatives were made possible. Why? Two reasons – there were some under spends in some parts of the budget and second, giving is expected to exceed the budget by nearly £5000. This is amazing and we are grateful to all those who give faithfully each week, and each month.

Overall our income is projected at £63000 and our costs at £59000 by the year end. The current account balance at 30.9.16 was £45277 but church is holding £8800 of that for Lendy Park – money raised through various events but excluding the cycle challenge where around £2700 has been raised so far. This money is NOT included in the accounts. The 2016 costs include our 15% church tithe (£7500) that is given to the Baptist Home Mission Fund, Baptist Missionary Society and other Christian Charities.

Next year

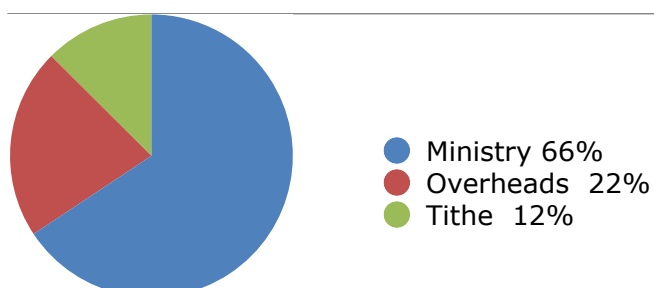
The proposed budget will be provided separately but using the cost/income profile from 2016 we expect 2017 to produce £62000 income and £60000 costs. The income is made up of Gift Aid, Cash collections and hire of the church hall. Costs include anticipated expenditure of £4500 to purchase audio visual equipment, kindly enabled by Valerie Dearnley in memory of her husband Dennis. The overall financial reserves are such that we are able to initiate more essential fabric projects (See Ian's report). A provision of £17,000 has been set aside for this; however, we would seek to undertake such work as economically as possible.

We have all noticed how much the 'Soul' youth work has been established and is flourishing. Some £3500 was invested in that in 2016 through the Youthscape Graduates. This year we do not have that but see it is time to give Soul its own budget to enable it to plan ahead though the year.

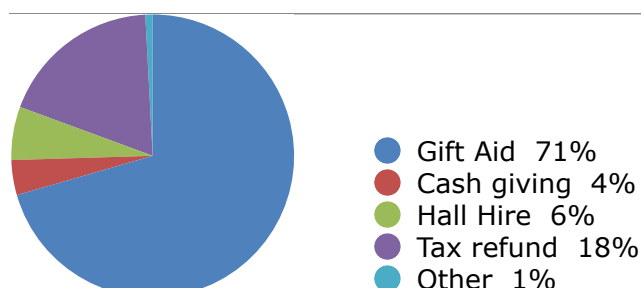
Finally, the church benefits greatly from gift aided giving. This makes much of our work possible in the church. We expect to receive approximately £11500 from HMRC in 2017. If you are a tax payer and do not gift aid to Ramridge at present, please see Barry or Ian for details. There is no long term commitment – you can stop or vary payments at any time but for every £1 given HMRC adds 25p.

Barry Brown

2017 Budget: COSTS:



INCOME:



RBC Financial Budget for 2017					
	2016	2016	2017		
Cost/Income items	Sept	Y/E	Budget	2017	
Pastor Stipend	-12261	-19644	-20144	Manse driveway	
Employers NIC (Pastor)	-1472	-1964	-2014	UPVC Rear Church Gable	
Pastor Pension	-6675	-8731	-8863	Church kitchen improvements	
Pastor - Nursery costs	-2187	-2916	-2916	Church loft insulation	
Manse Council Tax	-1525	-1525	-1550	Fire protection alarm	
Manse Phone	-408	-544	-550	hearing loop	
Pastor expenses	-437	-582	-750	emergency lighting	
Manse Insurance	0	-200	-200	cavity wall insulation	
Manse Energy	-657	-876	-900	Total provision	17000
Manse Water	-239	-494	-500		
Manse Expenses	0	0	-1000		
Youth worker costs	-3625	-3625	0		
Children	-131	-190	-400		
SOUL Youth Group	-260	-260	-600		
Visiting Preachers	-180	-250	-250		
Music & Worship	-177	-200	-175		
Catering	-193	-300	-300		
Outreach & Evangelism	-301	-400	-600		
Church telephone/Broadband	0	0	0		
Sundries	-113	-200	-200		
Subscriptions (BU, GB, Website, etc)	-433	-600	-600		
Music Copyright	-403	-403	-405		
Fabric & Maintenance	-3632	-4000	-1500		
Electricity	-728	-970	-970		
Water (Church)	-90	-140	-140		
Cleaning	-305	-520	-520		
Audio Visual	-40	-1000	-4500		
Buildings & Contents Insurance	-1337	-1337	-1400		
Fellowship Fund	0	0	-500		
15% Tithe	-3400	-7500	-7515		
Total Costs	-41169	-59371	-59962		
Gift Aid Income	32934	43900	44000		
Non Gift Aid	1730	2300	2500		
Hall Hire	3530	3800	3800		
Other income	617	700	500		
Interest	14	21	21		
Inland Revenue Refund	12365	12365	11575		
Total Income	51190	63086	62396		
Difference	10021	3715	2974		
Current A/c Balance 30.9.16	45277				
Less Lendy Park donations £8801	36476				
BU Loan Fund	10868				
Redevelopment Fund	2292				
Total	49636				
Average weekly figures to 30.9.16	30.9.16		Budget 2017		
GA	844		846		
NGA	44		46		
IR Refund	204		198		
Total average weekly income	1092		1090		

The Leadership (Trustees)

Core Leadership



Martin Shorey
Minister



Barry Brown
Treasurer



Kirk Dumbleton
DBS



Ian Jackson
Secretary

Deacons



Heather
Dumbleton
Family Ministry



Sally Jackson
Pastoral/Social



Jonathan
Adeyemi
Prayer



Andrew Jackson
Worship



Sabina Madiri
Prayer + Sisters



Michelle Baldock
Family Ministry