



SEAFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHARITY COMMISSION REPORT 2018

The Trustees of Seaford Baptist Church usually meet each month and are responsible for the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission of the church. They are also responsible for the maintenance of the main church building in Belgrave Road, Seaford and also the outreach centre at The Cabin in Raymond Close, Seaford. All major decisions about policy and expenditure are taken by the Church Members' Meetings which are held at least four times a year.

2018 has been a good year for SBC. During the year six people came into membership (including two by baptism) and at the end of the year there were 162 members, (an apparent reduction as a number of inactive members were removed from the lists during the year). The Trustees always have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and they are committed to enabling as many people as possible to be part of the the worshipping community here. Church members and others who attend regularly are actively encouraged to live out their faith as part of the community of Seaford.

In addition to regular Sunday worship services and weekday prayer times at the main church, special outreach invitation services are held at intervals, as well as courses for those who want to explore faith. There are groups for young people and young adults, the bereaved and lonely, fathers and other male carers and young families. There are similar activities, often more informal, at The Cabin – these are a direct response to the expressed needs of the local community.

The SBC building in Belgrave Road is a very valuable community resource and the Trustees are keen to make it available as much as possible for the public benefit. The auditorium is one of the biggest in the town and the various rooms are intensively used by very many community groups, the NHS and three local musical societies. To improve the quality of the service offered to the community the Trustees appointed a Facilities Coordinator in January 2018; he has been very responsive to enquiries from the town and greatly increased the range of users.

The Trustees always guide the church's activities according to the biblical principles of the Great Commission – which are intrinsically for the public benefit. In order to increase the possible range of activity undertaken by SBC, the Church Meeting has decided to make the Youth Pastor a full-time appointment and, in addition, to appoint in 2019 a Pioneer Minister to further develop the work at The Cabin and a Pastoral Worker to look after more complex cases and help develop pastoral care initiatives in the town.

SBC's nursery setting, EarlyBirds, provides high-quality (Ofsted “outstanding”) nursery education for children in the town. The church's associated charity, WAVES, which supports young families and children in school, has seen an increase in demand for its services as local authorities and social services have had to curtail their involvement.

Many members of the SBC community give freely of their time to the church's activities and the Trustees wish to record their thanks to them.

