

Key Objectives for 2013

Seeking and celebrating God at work

Renewing his Church

We will continue to support local church life through resources like "Encouraging Missionary Disciples" reflection series. We will continue to develop initiatives to encourage prayer.

Equipping his People

We will continue to arrange conferences, away days and seminars through Forum and Roadshows. We will particularly maintain our focus on Youth Work and supporting Youth leaders. We will offer a training day for deacons in 2013, and will also explore the development of further initiatives for local leaders.

Pursuing his Justice

We intend to draw various strands together during 2013 to develop a major focus on justice in 2014.

Enabling his Mission

We continue to actively develop work in Melling, Ellesmere Port, Victoria Park, Lancaster and elsewhere as part of an intentional Church Planting strategy. We will continue to offer particular support to church planters and pioneers. We look forward to working with other Associations to develop our shared vision further. We will also seek to further develop local mission partnerships and to explore how to build on the work begun through the "Down to Earth" presidential visits.

Expressing his love

We are committed to exploring a deeper understanding of covenant as a means of defining our identity in the 21st Century. We look forward to working with other Associations to develop this further.

Home Mission

Through Home Mission, NWBA churches support mission and ministry in a variety of contexts. This has included new church communities being nurtured in Melling, Merseyside, The Ridge Estate Lancaster and Victoria Park Manchester. It has supported churches like Emmanuel, Sefton and Partington who are working with the Eden Project to develop new expressions of mission in their local communities. Home Mission supports the NWBA staff team in providing support, advice and training to local churches, and through Home Mission churches across the North West and beyond are enabled to develop their work and witness.

**In 2012, NWBA churches
gave
£205,460
to Home Mission. Thanks be
to God!**



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A Year in the life of NWBA

Welcome to this brief summary of the work of the North Western Baptist Association. As a registered charity, each year we are required to produce an Annual Report, giving an account of our work and our finances. This formal document is available from the NWBA office, and can be downloaded from our website.

The Key focus for 2012 was "Down to Earth" seeking through various events and resources to encourage local churches to re-engage in evangelism. This was inspired by the national presidency of Chris Duffet, whose Light Project was founded by North West Baptists and remains based in Chester.

Chris visited the Association in January 2013, but through a programme of preparation which included our Minister's Conference, a series of local roadshows and our Autumn Forum meetings in Lancaster, mission and evangelism was already well on our agenda.



NWBA - Seeking and celebrating God at work

Key events and activities in 2012

Our Down to Earth Programme was the key focus of NWBA life in 2012. In addition to the various events listed overleaf, a series of newsletters and mission update sheets were circulated to churches and made available through our website. Two unanticipated factors that affected the year were:

- **The Baptist Assembly** - The Assembly's return to Blackpool in 2013 has involved local churches and team members in various support activities.
- **BUGB Futures** - The significant review undertaken by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, not only has ongoing implications for NWBA, but also significantly involved some team members in the process.

The Futures Process has been an important feature of our shared life, and as an Association we have sought to engage with it fully. This has inevitably meant that certain plans and ideas have had to remain on hold, but we look forward to working together as our shared vision continues to unfold.



Highlights from the year

- **Working with Young People** remains a high priority in NWBA. During the year, a number of new Safeguarding training resources have been developed; networking evenings for volunteer youth and children's workers have continued along with ecumenically arranged training and events. The annual Youth Weekend at Quinta Hall has successfully continued.
- **Church Life** - We continue to support churches through regular preaching, away days etc. Conscious of changing patterns in ministry and church life, we were concerned to consider how our own work needed to adapt to this. This has been recognised by the BUGB Futures Process and will be taken forward in that context
- **Women as leaders** - A day retreat for women leaders in and beyond the church was held as planned and a working group has now been formed to develop an on-going strategy.
- **Ministry Support** - Our Ministerial Recognition Committee commended 8 candidates from NWBA churches for ministry formation. Our Ministry Review Group provides support to Newly Accredited Ministers and recommended 3 candidates for full accreditation

The Financial Picture . . .

We are grateful to our honorary treasurer and the finance team, most of whom are volunteers. The charts below offer a brief snapshot of our financial

