

Christchurch Baldock Constitution states two purposes for the church.

1. The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within North Hertfordshire and the surrounding neighbourhood;
2. Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting further the work of the Church.

Christchurch Baldock Public Benefit Statement

Purpose 1 - advancement of the Christian faith

We carry out this purpose by activities including but not limited to the following:

- a) *Organise weekly services and other gatherings or members and non-members, to present the teachings of the Bible and to provide opportunities for Christian response, including but not limited to prayer and worship.* The meetings are free of charge and open to all, and the public benefit of such meetings is expected to be through the promotion of family stability and wellbeing, and increased ability to contribute positively to society, for those attending. Meetings are held weekly on most days of the week, and include youth work and associated meetings in Letchworth and Baldock. The church employs a full time youth worker to promote and coordinate work with young people and teenagers.
- b) *Provide support and guidance to those activities of its members that seek to promote, in Baldock and the surrounding areas, an understanding of the Christian beliefs as set out in the church's Basis of Faith, through practical expression of Christian beliefs and ideals in the local community.* The benefit of such support and guidance is to enable those members to be better able to serve in the local community. The church provides teaching and training opportunities for members, using the resources of the staff employed by the church and also external courses and events. These are advertised in the weekly church bulletin and on the church website as necessary, using volunteers.
- c) *Assist the work of individual Christians and Christian organisations, insofar as that work, whether in this country or abroad, accords with the church's aims.* The public benefit of providing donations to such charitable organizations is expected to be in accordance with their aims and purposes. We make donations as agreed each year by the members of the church in the church's "mission giving" budget. The purpose of these donations includes the promotion of religious activity, relief of poverty, training and equipping, work with youth and the elderly, homeless and other local and national charities. Please refer to the church accounts for a listing of donations planned in 2007.

Purpose 2 – charitable activities to further the work of Christchurch Baldock

We carry out this purpose by activities including but not limited to the following

- d) *Assist the work of individual Christians and Christian organisations, insofar as that work, whether in this country or abroad, accords with the church's aims.* The public benefit of providing support and resources to such charitable organizations is expected to be in accordance with their aims and purposes, which include religious activity, relief of poverty, training and equipping, work with youth and the elderly, homeless and others in need, primarily but not exclusively in North Hertfordshire and the surrounding neighbourhood. Please refer to church accounts for a listing of charities and individuals supported in 2007. The list includes those working with international students, students and youth, children's relief and sponsorship.
- e) *Carry out acts of social concern to benefit persons in Baldock and the surrounding areas facing hardship on the basis of their need.* The public benefit of these acts is expected to be in the area of poverty relief, caring, youth and elderly people's activities aimed promoting their health, wellbeing, spiritual life and education, and is addressed by church activities, volunteer activities of individual members, and also by donations to appropriate charitable organizations and activities as agreed each year by the members of the church in the church's "special giving" budget and disbursed at the discretion of the Trustees in accordance with the budget. Please refer to the church accounts for 2008 for further details. Our members currently take part in support for the North Herts Sanctuary for the homeless in Hitchin, run a "Body and Soul" exercise and recreational activity for the elderly in residential care homes and at the Community Centre in Baldock, run a "Tea and Tots" playgroup for mothers with small children in Baldock, and church youth groups for all ages.
- f) Develop relationships with other churches in Baldock and the surrounding areas, as well as nationally and overseas, which are mutually beneficial in advancing our aims. The public benefit of such association is expected to be in community events falling under items b) or c) above and undertaken in conjunction with other churches. Christchurch Baldock is a member of Churches Together in Baldock to enable us to coordinate our work with other churches in the area.