



**LIFE CHURCH
BRIDGEND**

Charity No: 1050546

Trustees Annual Report 2022

Period: 1st January to 31st December 2022

Aims and Purposes

Emmanuel Christchurch changed its name to Life Church (Bridgend) in September 2022. The church is locally governed but partnered with the Assemblies of God U.K. Life Church is based in the Morfa ward of Bridgend County Borough and is committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in both word and practice. The church also seeks to be a resource to the local community – responding to identified community needs and enabling other groups to make use of our facilities. The church seeks to cooperate with other churches in its locality and further afield, in the pursuit of shared aims.

Objectives and Activities

Life Church works to encourage people in the community it serves, to identify their spiritual needs and to participate in formal services and informal activities. Faith is put into practice through worship, prayer, the preaching and teaching of the Holy Scriptures, sacrament and service to groups and individuals with identified needs both in the church, communal living settings and the community.

The Charitable Aims of the church are for the benefit of the public and are set out in its governing document, the Model Deed for Local Assemblies of God Churches. These are:

- To advance the Christian faith in accordance with our statement of faith, in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world, as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.
- To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to preserve and promote good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counseling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time think fit; and
- To advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think appropriate.

Achievements and Performance

Our services. Open services are regularly held at the church premises on Morfa Street, Bridgend and all are welcome to attend. The usual schedule of services is as follows: the main service is held on Sunday Mornings, for worship and ministry of the Word. The service caters for young families through the provision of a creche for the under 4s and Life Kids Junior Church. The church broadcasts its Sunday ministry via YouTube to extend its reach and enable those church members unable to attend the service, to engage with the church's teaching.

A prayer meeting is held on Sunday evenings and bible study groups meet mid-week on alternate weeks. A parents and toddler group meet on a Friday morning. This is open to the public and has been well-attended since its inception (January 2023). The church has experienced growth in the number of people attending during 2022, by approximately 20%.

Pastoral care. Personal pastoral support is provided to regular attendees of the church as requested. Home visits are made to those unable to attend church due to ill-health/frailty, so they remain a part of the church community. Our Community Anna Chaplaincy continues to operate within the local hospital and a local care home. Its chaplain also currently provides chaplaincy support to the Town Mayor.

Use of the church building for public benefit. The minor hall is available for hire by local community groups and has been utilised in the past year by a housing charity for staff training and the local primary school for small group-based cookery lessons. A small church of International Christians who live in Bridgend also use the building on a Sunday afternoon for their weekly service. These services are held bi-lingually (English/Polish).

A Parents and Toddler group has recently been started by Life Church. This is held weekly during school term-times. There is no charge for attendance (donation only) and refreshments are provided.

The Trustees recognise the great contribution made by volunteers from the congregation in support of church activities. The Trustees endorse the guidance of the Charity Commission, regarding the need for the church to bring public benefit through the practical expression of our faith within the local community and beyond. This is reflected in the activities of the church as stated above, and the use of the charity's property by other groups.

Safeguarding. The church maintains an up-to-date policy for the safeguarding of children and adults at risk of abuse and subscribes to Thirty-One: Eight for advisory & DBS check support.

Building maintenance. A programme of work was completed during 2022 which involved the replacement of the central heating system and replacement of paths to the front and sides of the church building. This work was supported by a grant of £10,000 allocated by the Welsh Church Act Fund.

Church leadership. The recruitment of a new minister commenced in November 2021. Eight applications were received, and a thorough recruitment process was employed which involved submission of a curriculum vitae and completion of a written questionnaire for stage one of the selection process. Shortlisted candidates were then invited for a personal interview, informal group discussions with a wider group of the congregation and Sunday service ministry. An appointment was made, and the new minister took up post on May 1st 2022. The new ministerial post is a salaried position, with the salary reviewable on an annual basis. The Trustees were pleased to confirm in July, the successful completion of the Minister's probationary period and it is anticipated that the Minister will commence formal ministerial accreditation training with Assemblies of God in May 2023.

In preparation for the church becoming an employer, a suite of H.R. policies was prepared and agreed by the Trustees and a payroll system put in place.

Financial support to missions. The church continues in its sponsorship of a 9-year-old boy in Tanzania, with members also supporting on an individual basis, seven other children. These children are supported via Compassion UK. The church also makes a monthly monetary contribution to the work of World of Worth, another UK-based Christian charity working with women and girls on a global basis.

Financial review. The total income of the church from all sources **increased** in 2022 by £17,839.05 (from £38,954.70 in 2021 to £56,793.75 in 2022). The expenditure of the church **increased** by £23,285.97 (from £29,421.25 in 2021 to £52,707.22 in 2022). There was a **surplus** for the year of £4,086.53 leaving the balance of funds carried forward to 2023 as being £46,022.84. It should be noted increased income / expenditure for this period includes grant allocated monies and the appointment of a salaried Minister.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Model Deed for Local Assemblies of God Churches and the church's constitution serve to steer the running of the charity within the context of the spiritual life of the church. The Church Council of Trustees is chaired by Mr. Richard Cross. Its membership is made up of five other Trustees: Geoff Gray, Mavis Martin, Jennifer Ward, Paul Warren and Anne Thomas. In April 2022 Vernon King resigned from the Council of Trustees and in August 2022, Keri Say resigned. Paul Warren was appointed as a Trustee in July 2022 and Anne Thomas in October.

The Trustees are responsible for the general oversight and management of the church premises and financial matters. The Church's Minister Paul Warren is responsible for promoting the spiritual life of the church and developing its activities within the objectives of the charity. He has pastoral oversight of the church. The Trustee group is assisted by the Church Administrator, Mrs. Jayne Cross. She also acts as the Church Treasurer since Norma Gray's retirement in September 2022. The Council of Trustees met eight times during the year.

Administrative Information

Correspondence details are as follows: Life Church (Bridgend), Morfa Street, Bridgend CF31 1HA

The members of the Council of Trustees who have served for the whole period covered by this report are:

Mr. Richard Cross (Chair)

Mr. Geoffrey Gray

Mrs. Mavis Martin

Mrs. Jennifer Ward

The members of the Council of Trustees subtracted during the year were:

Mr. Vernon King from April 2022

Mr. Keri Say from August 2022

The members of the Council of Trustees added during the year were:

Mr. Paul Warren from July 2022

Mrs. Anne Thomas from October 2022

Approved by the Council of Trustees on 10th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by Mr.

Richard Cross, (Chair).

Signed:

Dated: 10/3/23 .

LIFE CHURCH (BRIDGEND)
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

PBC

INCOME	2022	2021	EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
	Jan - Dec	Jan - Dec		Jan - Dec	Jan - Dec
GIFT AID	£12,930.00	£9,370.00	SALARIES	£12,960.62	£0.00
GENERAL OFFERINGS	£19,474.96	£16,221.72	HMRC & NEST	£3,838.78	£0.00
SMALL DONATIONS SCHEME	£2,654.50	£3,858.95	MINISTER'S EXPENSES	£1,095.60	£745.00
HMRC TAX RETURNS	£3,806.58	£1,694.69	TRAINING & CONFERENCES	£543.00	£0.00
DESIGNATED FUNDS	£940.00	£2,542.83	GAS,ELECTRICITY,WATER	£2,521.04	£2,486.78
MISC. DONATION & GIFTS	£5,150.00	£750.01	MAINTAINANCE - GRANT	£10,000.00	£0.00
BANK INTEREST	£56.71	£0.00	MAINTAINANCE NON-GRANT	£2,686.58	£13,827.16
HIRE OF PREMISES	£251.00	£100.00	DOMESTIC SUPPLIES / CATERING	£1,291.01	£565.00
BUILDING MAINT. GRANTS	£10,000.00	£0.00			
BUILDING MAINT. GIFTS	£50.00	£1,660.00	FEES & LICENCES	£1,390.00	£1,577.66
FLOWER FUND	£40.00	£110.00	BANK CHARGES	£177.08	
MISSIONS	£890.00	£990.00	PHOTOCOPIER	£1,241.71	£1,601.61
CHAPLAINCY	£0.00	£0.00	STATIONERY/ MINISTRY RESOUF	£2,808.34	£848.82
PARENTS & TOTS	£550.00	£0.00			
MENS' BREAKFAST	£0.00	£70.50	BROADBAND/TEL	£707.38	£672.08
LEGACIES	£0.00	£1,586.00	INSURANCES	£761.58	£725.79
			FACILITIES TEAM FLOAT	£1,500.40	£1,501.32
			AoG PARTNER CONTRIBUTION	£1,138.92	£923.21
			SAFEGUARDING - 31:8	£334.99	£185.80
			MISSIONS: ANNA CHAPLAINCY	£834.70	£0.00
			MISSIONS: HOME & GLOBAL	£1,701.00	£1,026.00
			DESIGNATED EXPENDITURE	£300.00	£300.00
			PASTORAL CARE EXPENSES	£1,388.25	£1,373.27
			DONATIONS EXPENDITURE	£1,025.00	£100.00
			PARENTS & TOTS	£601.24	£0.00
			MINISTRY GIFTS	£1,860.00	£784.26
			THE REST	£0.00	£80.99
			MISC.	£0.00	£96.50
TOTAL:	£56,793.75	£38,954.70	TOTAL	£52,707.22	£29,421.25

INCOME	£56,793.75
EXPENDITURE	£52,707.22
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£4,086.53

CURRENT ACCOUNT	£9,941.84
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£8,015.71
KINGDOM BANK	£28,065.29
CASH IN HAND	£0.00
TOTAL:	£46,022.84

BALANCE C/F FROM 2021	£41,936.31
ADD SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£4,086.53
BALANCE C/F TO 2023	£46,022.84

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Emmanuel Christchurch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J E Payne ACA

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24th April 2023