



LIFE CHURCH BRIDGEND

Charity No: 1050546

Trustees Annual Report 2024

Period: 1st January to 31st December 2024

Aims and Purposes

Life Church is locally governed but partnered with the Assemblies of God (AOG) U.K. The church is located 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. Additionally we work with other local churches and those further afield, in the pursuit of shared aims.

Objectives and Activities

Life Church seeks 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 leadership of the church 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 in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the church leadership 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 leadership 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 weekly and small groups (Life Groups) are held on alternate weeks for informal bible discussion and prayer in church leaders' homes. Transport is made available so no individuals in the church are prevented from participating.

The church has continued to experience growth in the number of people attending during 2024, with an average of 42 people attending regularly.

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 continued to operate within the local hospital and a local care home during this year. Its chaplain also provided chaplaincy support to the Town Mayor and staff team in the Town Community Council.

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 Men's Mental Health Support Group for training days and the occasional children's party. 'Little Fishes', a parents and toddler group run by the church, operated from January – July in this year but sadly had to close due to changes in group leader / volunteer availability.

In this year an Easter and Summer Holiday Club was held for children in the community with an average of 15 children attending each session. The church again hosted a live-music Christmas event for the community, which was well-attended.

The International Evangelical Church have held their Sunday afternoon service in our church throughout 2024 also. The small congregation is largely made up of Polish citizens who live in the locality.

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. The church received a grant in 2024 from the Welsh Church Act Fund for a new sound mixing desk as the one being utilised was on loan from another church. The main church hall was rearranged towards the end of 2024, to facilitate an increase in seating availability. This necessitated the re-siting of AV equipment. It is the intention to progress in early 2025, the redecoration of the main and minor halls. The church has maintained annual fire safety system and boiler servicing and has a contract in place with Rentokil to prevent any rodent infestation.

Church leadership. The Leadership Team has benefitted from the appointment of a retired Pastor for a two-year period. Other members of the team remain unchanged. The Minister's participation in AOG UK's minister accreditation programme was deferred to May 2025.

Financial support to missions. The church continues in its sponsorship of a 11-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 Christian Ministries, another UK-based Christian charity working with women and girls on a global basis and a missionary couple serving in Asia, via AOG USA.

Financial review. The total income of the church from all sources **increased** in 2024 by £25,635.14 (from £48,728.74 in 2023 to £74,363.88 in 2024). The expenditure of the church **increased** by £1804.63 (from £58,817.45 in 2023 to £60,622.08 in 2024). There was a **surplus** for the year of £13,741.80 leaving the balance of funds carried forward to 2025 as being £49,675.93.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Model Deed for Local AOG 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 Anne Thomas. Its membership is made up of four other Trustees - Paul Warren, Richard Cross, Jennifer Ward and Jill Hearse.

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. Administrative support is provided to the Trustee group by Jayne Cross. She also acts as the Church's Treasurer. The Trustee group meet on a quarterly basis with further meetings scheduled if, and when required.

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:

Anne Thomas (Chair)

Paul Warren

Richard Cross

Jennifer Ward


The member(s) of the Council of Trustees subtracted during 2024 were:

Mavis Martin (resignation March 2024)

The member(s) of the Council of Trustees added during 2024 were:

Jill Hearse (appointed June 2024)

Approved by the Council of Trustees on 14.02.25 and signed on their behalf by Anne Thomas.

Signed: 

Dated: 30-3-25

LIFE CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2024
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

PBC

INCOME	2024	2023	EXPENDITURE	2024	2023
	Jan - Dec	Jan - Dec		Jan - Dec	Jan - Dec
GENERAL OFFERINGS	£23,364.18	£18,789.84	SALARIES	£28,477.36	£23,283.39
GIFT AID DONATIONS	£21,723.00	£15,081.00	HMRC & NEST	£6,645.84	£6,560.02
SMALL DONATIONS SCHEME	£3,008.00	£3,614.87	EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	£607.12	£629.36
TAX RETURNS (HMRC)	£5,832.47	£4,622.74	TRAINING & CONFERENCES	£236.70	£1,696.33
DESIGNATED FUNDS	£4,305.00	£2,235.00	MINISTRY RESOURCES	£76.99	£0.00
OUTREACH: Life Lounge	£0.00	£0.00	MINISTRY GIFTS	£825.00	£1,315.00
OUTREACH: Events	£115.00	£0.00	PASTORAL CARE EXPENSES	£1,759.28	£1,032.27
OUTREACH: Little Fishes	£209.89	£608.25	UTILITIES: GAS	£3,128.11	
REIMBURSEMENTS / MISC. GIFTS	£12,225.41	£943.00	UTILITIES: ELECTRICITY	£1,653.45	£3,515.84
BANK INTEREST	£745.93	£429.04	UTILITIES: WATER	£271.56	
HIRE OF PREMISES	£640.00	£600.00	FEES & LICENCES	£2,413.25	£2,268.28
BUILDING MAINTENANCE GRANTS	£1,399.00	£0.00	BANK CHARGES	£134.96	£139.84
BUILDING MAINTENANCE GIFTS	£0.00	£0.00	AoG PARTNER CONTRIBUTION	£1,395.00	£1,677.20
GLOBAL MISSIONS	£796.00	£1,555.00	INSURANCES	£893.88	£798.31
ANNA CHAPLAINCY	£0.00	£250.00	MAINTAINANCE - GRANT	£0.00	£0.00
			MAINTAINANCE NON-GRANT	£2,074.98	£4,576.05
			HOSPITALITY/CATERING SUPPLIES	£1,273.85	£1,182.94
			PHOTOCOPIER	£1,231.89	£1,262.51
			STATIONERY/EQUIPMENT	£2,233.63	£1,865.24
			BROADBAND/TEL	£474.48	£110.94
			SAFEGUARDING - 31:8	£196.60	£260.59
			OUTREACH: Life Lounge	£89.56	£0.00
			OUTREACH: Events	£1,118.17	£0.00
			OUTREACH: Little Fishes	£63.64	£675.87
			ANNA CHAPLAINCY	£323.98	£505.68
			GLOBAL MISSIONS	£2,834.00	£4,176.84
			DESIGNATED EXPENDITURE	£50.00	£215.00
			CASH FLOAT	£138.80	£0.00
			DONATIONS EXPENDITURE	£0.00	£50.00
			FACILITIES TEAM FLOAT	£0.00	£1,019.95
TOTAL:	£74,363.88	£48,728.74	TOTAL	£60,622.08	£58,817.45
		£25,635.14			£1,804.63

INCOME	£74,363.88
EXPENDITURE	£60,622.08
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£13,741.80

BALANCE C/F FROM 2023	£35,934.13
ADD SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£13,741.80
BALANCE C/F TO 2024	£49,675.93

CURRENT ACCOUNT	£10,999.96
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£13,143.11
KINGDOM BANK	£25,532.86
CASH IN HAND	£0.00
TOTAL:	£49,675.93

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Life Church Bridgend

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024

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 FCCA
Graham Paul Limited
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Court Road
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7th May 2025