

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024

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### Trustees

David Bolton, Senior Pastor (**Chair**)

David Onyekwe (**Treasurer**)

Peter Stephanis

### Church Elders

David Bolton, Senior Pastor (**Chair**) (*with oversight of vision, teaching, pastoral care & administration*)

Leanne Bolton, Senior Pastor (*with oversight of worship, children's and youth ministry, and evangelism*)

Friday Ehiguese, Elder (Minister in Training with AoG) – **appointed on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

David Onyekwe, Elder (*with oversight of Finance*)

### Holding Trustees

(*in order of appointment*)

Peter Gale

Richard Norton

David Onyekwe

David Bolton

### Registered Charity Name and Number

Life Community Church (Warwickshire): 1052019

### Principal Operating Office

Life Community Church, Charlotte Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV31 3EB

### Independent Examiner of Accounts

Luke Silver, Accountancy & Taxation Services, 25 Ellicombe Close, Minehead, Somerset. TA24 6DQ

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank, 73 Parade, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV32 4BB

Kingdom Bank, Media House, Padge Road, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2RS

### Solicitors

Field Overell, 42 Warwick Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV32 5JS

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## TRUSTEE REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024

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The Trustees present their Annual Report together with the externally examined financial statements of Life Community Church for the year ended **30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity, and the charity's governing document.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### *The Governing Documents*

The Church's governing document is the "Model Constitution with Trust Deed for Local Assemblies of God" dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

Life Community Church (Warwickshire) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission with registration number 1052019. The church is a member of the Assemblies of God in Great Britain, and the Evangelical Alliance.

### *Trustees*

The Trustees of the Church are responsible for the day-to-day management of the Church's business in accordance with the Church's objects.

The Trustees meet approximately 4-8 times per year, to discuss a full range of matters relating to the life of the church including activities, finance, fabric, general administration, the implementation of the church constitution, and church membership. Decision making happens either through a simple majority vote in a meeting (a quorum being the highest of 3 or a third of the Trustees present) or by a written resolution and signed by all the Trustees.

One of the Church's Trustees receives remuneration for their employed position in the ministry. In compliance with Charity Commission guidelines, a greater proportion of Trustees are voluntary and receive no benefits or remuneration in connection with their duties.

### *Appointment of Trustees*

The Church Council and Trustees of the Church identify suitable candidates, who are then invited to serve as Trustees. Their suitability for this role would be based mainly on their commitment to the Church, demonstrated by membership (or partnership), regular attendance and a high degree of involvement. Potential candidates are not appointed as Trustees due to any particular professional competence that they may be able to bring, although the Trustees do seek to ensure that an appropriate mix of skills are represented to help the charity identify and manage risks that might be faced by the Church. The induction and training process for a newly appointed Trustee, will include them having mentoring conversations with the Senior Pastor, to review their role and to seek to understand any training needs. They will also receive copies of the following documents:

- The charity's Constitution with Trust Deed
- The most recent financial statements
- Recent minutes

- Suitable Charity Commission guidance, such as CC10 "Hallmarks of a well-run charity", CC3 "The Essential Trustee" and guidance noted on "The Advancement of Religion for Public Benefit".

## ***Holding Trustees***

Holding Trustees are individuals appointed to hold the property of the charity. They can only act on the lawful instructions of the charity Trustees and in accordance with any provisions contained in the governing document.

## ***Church Members (Partners)***

Church membership (or Partnership) is open to any individual who:

- By grace has exhibited saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and
- Desires to worship and serve God in the context of the statement of "What we Believe" as set out by the Assemblies of God in Great Britain, and
- Is committed to promoting the church's objects.

Church Members share in providing for the finances, administration, maintenance, and activities of the church.

## ***Risk Management***

The Church's primary concern and objective is the glory of God. Whilst it is the Church's policy to trust wholly in the Lord that He will work out His purpose to this end, the Church also acknowledges that it has a responsibility both as individual members and as a body of members, for the identification and proper management of risks faced by the church in achieving its primary aim.

The Trustees have therefore sought to assess the major risks to which the Church is exposed, particularly those relating to the specific operational areas of the Church, its investments, and its finances. The Trustees believe that, by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring that controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the Church, it has established effective systems and procedures to mitigate those risks.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### ***Objectives***

In accordance with the Constitution, the church's purposes (or objects) for the benefit of the public, are:

- 1. To advance the Christian Faith.***
- 2. To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind including through the provision of counselling and support.***
- 3. To advance education in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Church Council from time to time may think fit.***

The Trustees do not believe that it is possible to accurately report on the individual performance of the 3 parts of the objectives above, as they are intrinsically linked, and therefore impossible to account for independently. The Trustees believe that doing so, would portray an inaccurate representation of the charity's achievements.

We are confident that we have tried to equip ordinary people from a wide variety of diverse backgrounds, to grow in their faith within the local community through:

- Provision of Sunday Services where anyone in the community is welcome, and can have an opportunity to worship, pray and hear teaching that can positively equip them in their lives.
- Provision of courses such as Alpha and "Exploring Christianity" open to the community, where people can discover more about the Christian Faith, as well as to develop those beliefs even further.
- Provision of "Life Groups", which are small groups designed to help people build relationships of support and care, and to provide an opportunity for them to grow in their faith.
- Provision of "Messy Church" events, designed to engage with people of all ages from the local community, to build relationships, provide a free meal, whilst teaching some basics of the Christian faith.
- Pastoral Care for people living in the local community, who may need guidance, support or simply an encouraging "listening ear".
- Provision of a Community Café to provide a free warm and safe space for people from the wider community to connect with others and make new friends over coffee and cake. This provides an opportunity for people to explore initial conversations of faith.
- Missionary and outreach work to help promote the faith, and to educate around finances and hardship.
- Sign-posting other organisations and ministries with shared values, to help work in partnership with others.

The Trustees are confident that with the comprehensive provision of activities to people of all age ranges and diverse backgrounds, the charity does provide benefit to the public. The Trustees and Elders of Life Community Church are confident that the church has advanced the Christian Faith.

### ***Public Benefit Statement***

The previous section of this report, entitled "Objectives", sets out the aims and priorities of the charity.

When planning our activities for this year, the Trustees and Church Leaders have considered both the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, and the further specific guidance contained within "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit". We have concluded that we have had due regard to the guidance in exercising our powers, and so:

1. The aims of the organisation continue to be charitable.
2. The aims and work done give identifiable benefits to the charitable sector, and both indirectly and directly to individuals in need.
3. The benefits are for the public, are not unreasonably restricted in any way, and certainly not by ability to pay.
4. There is no harm or detriment arising from the aims or activities.

### **Achievements and Performance**

Life Community Church is an independent church and is affiliated to the Assemblies of God of Great Britain. The congregation is composed of a wide range of ethnicities and backgrounds from across Leamington Spa and the surrounding areas and caters for all age groups. The Church has maintained a presence in the town since 1937, and by God's grace, we continue to build on the work of previous generations. The Trustees are truly thankful to the great and growing number of volunteers who serve on teams to help Life Community Church outwork its objectives.

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## ***Performance Against Objectives***

Life Community Church meets its objectives through the delivery of activities both on a Sunday, and during the rest of the week. During the main Sunday ministry, the congregation will gather for worship and teaching. The congregation will then outwork the benefit of that teaching, in both quantifiable and often non-quantifiable ways, in their everyday life within the local community, as well as through the various ministries in the life of the Church.

## ***Sunday Ministry***

Sundays play a key part in the life of the church, and our Sunday Morning Family Service plays a central role in helping us to meet our aims. Over the course of the year, the teaching team gave various series to positively equip people to live out the Christian faith every day. Messages over the year included:

- When a Church ACTS (a series exploring the key disciplines of the early church)
- Encounters with Christ (a series exploring how Jesus changed the lives of individuals from the Gospel of John)
- EveryDAY! EveryWHERE! EveryONE! (a series to equip the church to share their faith)
- Breakthrough (a series of faith at the start of the New Year, which saw characters from Genesis experience God breakthrough in their lives)
- What God can do with a Few (Vision series – taken from the life of Gideon)
- The Call to Surrender (exploring the need to surrender as disciples of Jesus, as we looked at key events of the first Easter)
- Moving into Mission (a series exploring the Missional Strategy of LCC and equipping people to share their story and invite people to church)
- Be Rich (a series looking at financial stewardship and generosity)

We were delighted to also receive ministry from the following guest speakers:

- Ps. Jon Froggett (in July, from Christian Life Centre, Rugby)
- Ps. Misheck Manhanha (in December, from !Audacious Church, Manchester and AoG's Church Planting Director)
- Ps. Kirk McAtear (on Vision Sunday in February, from Trinity@Birmingham and AoG's 3D Missions Director)
- Ps. Jon Froggett (on Father's Day in June, from Christian Life Centre, Rugby)

Sunday ministry also included:

- Kids' Take-over services in August, October and June. These services are when children and young people take over most of the roles during the service and on serving teams. They are really encouraging times, as we continue to see younger people step up, grow in confidence and gift, to serve us all so well.
- Family Services during our key times of the year such as Father's Day, Christmas and Mother's Day.
- Several messages from key Partners of LCC, namely Friday Ehiguese, Michael Tucker and Cathryn Myers.

Towards the start of May 2023, Ps. Dave and Leanne were able to commence a special three-month Sabbatical. This was an opportunity for them to rest, recharge and study following 11 years of ministry at LCC (in total). During this time, many key people from the church served in vital roles to serve the church family. These roles varied from administration, speaking, pastoral care, prayer, to building maintenance and support and so much more. They wish to officially express thanks to everyone involved who carried the load to allow them to benefit from this very special time.

The church continues to livestream all our services onto Facebook and YouTube. This means that those from the church family who cannot attend in-person, can also join in live or on catch-up. We have heard from several people, how they can no longer attend due to age and ill health but watch regularly from home: a genuine lifeline for them. Also, others can watch when away or travelling and still feel connected. Our online presence has now become the new “shop window” for people to connect with the church, before visiting us for the first time. It has become a vital tool to help us reach new people.

Sundays also saw celebration services take place, designed to reach more people in the community on special occasions. These included our Mother’s Day Celebration (where we celebrated mothers and women), and Father’s Day Celebration (honouring fathers and men). At Christmas time, on 10<sup>th</sup> December, we ran our “Carols by Candlelight” Christmas services. Both services were very well attended, with 183 people present across two services.

We had two baptism services during the year. In October it was fantastic to see **3 people get baptised**, of different age groups. Then on Easter Sunday we saw **2 more people get baptised**, and going public in their faith, confessing Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives.

### ***Engagement, Service and Discipleship***

The “Next Steps Journey” course is designed to help new guests (or the existing church congregation) meet some of the team, and to understand the church’s mission, vision, and values. Over three sessions, they can “discover family and find their fit”. This means that participants can learn more about LCC, explore their gifts and talents, and understand how to get more involved in the church through groups and teams. Attendees are encouraged to then pray and see if the Lord is leading them to make LCC their spiritual home. This has proven to be a highly successful method to engage new people and to also find out how we can serve them better. Throughout the course of the year, we have seen **8 people become Partners at LCC, choosing to make the church their spiritual home**.

We are so thankful to the many volunteers who serve on teams throughout the life of the church. Many serve on a Sunday, as well as on teams throughout the week. These are the heroes who always go above and beyond, to serve the needs of others. Our volunteers are the life blood of the church, and their selflessness really does make a difference to the lives of many people. Whether it has been teaching, playing in the worship team, leading a Life Group, calling and connecting with members of the church, pastoral visits and calls, serving on hospitality, hosting kid’s work, the list goes on... **On behalf of the Leadership Team, I wish to thank you for all your commitment and hard work. You really are making an impact in the lives of the church family and wider community!**

Throughout this year, we have endeavoured to provide opportunities for people in the church to be discipled. This has been outworked through the provision of 1:1 mentoring and pastoral sessions, our Life Groups, and Leadership Development.

### ***Children, Youth and Families***

We have 2 ministries in the life of the church that cater to children and young people – Sunday Stars (school years reception to year 5) and Elevate (school years 6+). We also aim to serve the children’s respective families, as well as to reach out to other families within the local community.

Cathryn Myers, our Children’s Ministry Leader, and her wider team have done a fantastic job in teaching and leading our children and young people. Here’s a brief summary:

## **Sunday Stars:**

- July 2023: A Sunday Stars social was held for parents, the team and the children.
- April 2024: Children from Sunday Stars attended a worship event in Leamington with other church groups, run by Thrive Juniors.

## **Elevate:**

- August 2023: This was the first time we took 8 young people to the Limitless Youth Festival. Whilst camping in tents, the young people enjoyed a great time together, whilst worshipping Jesus with 100s of others, and listening to relevant teaching. They all took steps forwards in their faith!
- November 2023: We relaunched Elevate by moving the Friday programme from the Manse to the Main Church Centre, to make space for growth.
- March 2024: We attended an AoG inter-church Youth Event in Gloucester called "Awaken", as AoG relaunched their Youth Department called "Youth Alive".

## **General:**

- We're seeing more involvement from the children and young people in our family services, Kids' Take-over services and the Christmas Carol Service for the community.
- In October 2023, a Light Party was held to engage with the community and to offer an alternative to Halloween. In December, a Kids' Christmas Party was also held. During both, during a fun time, a gospel presentation was given, and children were given gifts and gospel leaflets to take home with them.
- We saw the launch of the all-age Messy Church in April 2024. Messy Church provides a unique opportunity to reach the community by providing a free-of-charge programme of arts and crafts, singing, activities and the provision of a hot meal. A short Christian Message is shared that is appropriate for any not-yet-Christians who attend the event.
- Overall, there is a growth of children and young people joining the Sunday Serving Teams, serving alongside the adults.

The Trustees would like to thank Cathryn and the whole children's and youth teams for the amazing work they have done by equipping our children and young people. We stand amazed, encouraged and thrilled at what the Lord is doing, as we see young and old serving side-by-side together in ministry!

## ***Life Groups***

Life Groups have also been a vital way for people in the church to connect with others, care for each other and grow together. They run termly, three times a year, with an official start and end date, so people can attend for a season (if life is busy), or swap groups if they would like. Life Groups are currently open to attendees of LCC as well as the wider community to sign-up to. On average, seven groups ran per term, catering for different ages, and with each group having a unique focus. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the Life Group leaders who have served to connect, care, and help disciple people in the Christian faith.

## ***Corporate Prayer***

Prayer continues to be a significant priority in the life of the church, as we seek to encourage people to gather in different settings to pray together. We still have our Monday morning prayer group (led by Peter and Anne Gale) who meet to pray for requests both within the church family and now coming in from the community from the website and social media. Friday Ehiguese also faithfully led our Thursday evening prayer group, who met faithfully on a weekly basis to commit the activities of the church to the Lord. Our Pre-Service Prayer meeting on a Sunday morning is gathering real momentum. At 9:45am on a weekly basis, everyone serving on team is asked to gather for a short



time of prayer and encouragement to commit our morning to the Lord. People from the wider church family are also encouraged to come along. This continues to be an important and significant time together.

“Encounter Nights” continue to take place on the first Thursday of each month. This evening seeks to provide a time of extended worship and prayer. We are encouraged by the engagement of these evenings.

Seasons of Prayer and Fasting within the church, are significant and vital times for us to pause and to seek God in various settings. During this period, we held our annual “21 Days of Prayer and Fasting” towards the start of the year in January. We are thrilled by the engagement of people as they set aside time to pray individually as well as corporately on Zoom and in-person. It is no surprise that the impact of these seasons is always evident in the life of the church!

### ***Care Home Outreach***

Sandra Middleton is our Care Home Outreach Team leader. Here is a brief summary on LCC’s visits to Gainsborough Hall:

In January 2023, Life Community Church were invited to visit Gainsborough Hall retirement Home and set up regular meetings with some of the residents. We were specifically asked to teach on the parables of Jesus. I was very interested in doing this as the people were of a certain age group and needed to hear the gospel. I invited Peter and Bev to join me. We have now been visiting Gainsborough on the second Thursday of each month for over two years. Apart from sharing the Parables we have shared chapters in Matthew’s Gospel. We have 9 or 10 people each time and we are made to feel very welcome. It is wonderful to share the life of Jesus with these dear people most of them hearing this for the first time in their lives. We were asked to put on a Carol Service in December 2023. I was very pleased that everyone who was asked to participate said yes. There were 19 people from LCC altogether. We sang Carols, read the Christmas story and Peter brought the Christmas message. Everyone seemed to enjoy the service. On the last Friday of the month, Irene and I go to the coffee morning and chat with the residents. Also, when there is a special event taking place there, a few of us have been to support the Home. We are always made welcome and have got to know some of them.

### ***Community Café Outreach***

Here is a report on LCC’s Community Café by Sandra Middleton (Team Leader):

The café has been running since 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and was opened by the Leamington and Warwick Mayor. We have 7 volunteers who serve, and we enjoy what we do. We provide a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, showing God’s love to people who come through the door. Rather than staying in the kitchen or behind the refreshment table, we sit with our guests and chat, if they are happy with this. Sometimes we have prayer requests and if people wish to talk over a problem, we will talk and pray in the Church. We also have a prayer box and from time-to-time people will put their prayer request into the box.

At the cafe we display a variety of Christian literature which people are free to take home. We usually get between 8 to 18 people at our cafe morning. At the moment our average is about 12. Our volunteers provide all the refreshments apart from the milk, and we are very happy to do this. Our donations from July 23 to June 24 were £103. I normally give the Treasurer our cafe donations every 6 months. As volunteers we feel that we are catering for people who mostly live on their own and who need some encouragement. We always like to give them food to take home, as it's another way of sharing Gods love. We trust that the work continues.



## Pastoral Care Team

Here is a report on LCC's Pastoral Care Team by Sandra Middleton (Team Leader):

There are 5 of us on the Pastoral Care Team: Bev, Vivian, Marion, Geoff and I. We try and meet up every 10 weeks or so. We discuss any problems and also share who needs prayer or a visit from us, including hospital visits which thankfully are rare. Most of the people we talk to and pray with don't need follow up although we are always available. Occasionally there may be someone who needs ongoing care, encouragement, prayer, and home visits, but we would always stress the importance of being with the body of Christ and getting spiritually built up.

There can be a number of reasons why some Church members need a visit from us. Since Covid some people have lost confidence in being in a close environment with others, or on-going medical issues prevent some people from joining us on a Sunday for worship. As a result, these people can miss fellowship with the body of Christ and look forward to a regular visit from some of us from the Pastoral Care Team.

We all have people connected with our Church community whom we visit and "look out for". I myself, visit 5 ladies regularly. Basically, as volunteers, when we hear or are made aware of someone who needs prayer and encouragement, we are there to listen and pray. As a team, we aim to be of spiritual help to others as and when needed.

## Missions and Partnerships

**Table: Church Spending on Missions' Partnerships in 2023-24**

<b>Children's Bible Camp in Poland</b> (via Siloam Christian Ministries)	<b>£1,200</b>	<b>LCC Hardship Fund</b> (This fund is available to people in the church family facing crisis or hardship).	<b>£500</b>
<b>Christians Against Poverty, Junior Debt Centre</b> (based at St. Mary's Church)	<b>£3,000</b>	<b>Jews for Jesus</b> (exists to support Jews in exploring Jewish life with faith in Jesus).	<b>£1,600</b>
<b>Christmas Appeal</b> (see below)	<b>£700</b>	<b>Street Pastors</b> (work with other organisations to practically help vulnerable people under the influence of drink or drugs, or homeless, or disorientated by mental illness, or the young, lost or lonely).	<b>£300</b>
<b>Empart UK</b> (Reaching the lost in South Asia)	<b>£1,500</b>	<b>Thrive Youth Ministry</b> (exists to help local churches be more effective in reaching out to young people and discipling them in the Christian faith).	<b>£400</b>
<b>Heart Transformation Ministry</b> (Seth Copeland's trip to Uganda via Siloam Christian Ministries)	<b>£1,550</b>	<b>Warwick University Christian Union</b> (helping them with their annual outreach to reach more Students with the good news of Jesus Christ, on campus).	<b>£500</b>
<b>Helping Hands</b> (Local charity who extends compassionate and practical support to those struggling with the causes and effects of homelessness and trauma).	<b>£700</b>	<b>Warwick District Foodbank</b> (exists to provide emergency food and support to people facing hardship, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK).	<b>£700</b>
<b>Hope For Justice</b> (exists to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives, and reforming society).	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>Other:</b> Gift to CFaN (Christ for all Nations) for Evangelism Training and resources	<b>£550</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£14,200</b>

The church seeks to partner and build relationships with other organisations who share an affinity with our charity's objectives and values. We realise that more can be achieved in partnership than in isolation, and so we seek to partner through signposting and offering support through prayer,

finance and volunteers. To help us achieve this, the church tithes on its income to produce an annual missions' budget (10% of the previous year's income), whose expenditure is allocated to other organisations or individuals (e.g. Missions Partners) or needs as they arise. The table above, is a breakdown of our annual mission's expenditure for the Financial Year. In 2023-24, we were able to spend most of the amount allocated.

At Christmas, we launched our annual Christmas appeal, seeking to give to those in need in the local community. This year, working in partnership with Helping Hands, and Warwick District Foodbank, and local Primary Schools, we launched our Christmas Hamper Appeal. We invited people to contribute financially to our campaign with the goal to raise enough money for 110 hampers. We were able to give away 125 to the local community through our Missions Partners and through the church. This was amazing, and we were so thankful to the generosity of the church, to be able to bless people in need at this time of year!

## Venue Hire

We continue to see a gradual increase in demand for the hire of the centre for small meetings and groups. We currently only offer the Life Lounge and Kitchen for hire, as this is helpful from a logistics perspective. During this year, we are pleased to report that LCC earned £1,608 from venue hire within the local community, compared with £1,612 last year.

## Financial Review

### Financial Activity and Financial Position

#### Current Financial Review from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

The main sources of funding for the Church are the free will offerings of Church members and income tax recovered under the Gift Aid scheme.

Due to the financial threshold in which the Church fell this year, the charity's accounts have been prepared on a "receipts and payments" basis. In the "Statement of Account and Independent Examination Report" attached to this report, pages 5-7 show the Receipts and Payments Accounts, and page 8 shows the Church's Statement of Assets and Liabilities. A comparison of the current and previous Financial Year follows:

- **Total Church Income increased by a significant £23,268 from £135,957 to £159,225 (increase of 17.1%)**
  - Of the Total Income, **General Tithes and Offerings** (including Gift Aid) **increased by £17,600** from £108,728 to **£126,328 (increase of 16.2%)** for which we are truly thankful, as this is vital to the day-to-day operating expenditure of the church.
  - During this Financial Year, we received a total of **£32,521** (including Gift Aid) for **Vision Offerings**, broken down as follows: **£8,088 for Vision 2023** and **£24,433 for Vision 2024** (more details below).
- **Gift Aid** continues to really benefit the church, with **£27,830 reclaimed from HMRC** through Gift Aid donations. This is an **increase of 4.5% (£1,198)** from last year's reclaim of £26,632. This year, our total donations have increased, and the percentage of gift aided donations has also increased. To illustrate, our **total donations for this year were £128,401** (cf. £104,923 in 2022-23). However, **gift-aided donations this year rose to £103,782 or 80.8%** (cf. £81,631 or 77.8% in 2022-23).
- With people carrying less cash these days, electronic giving (i.e. card payments on a Sunday through our website, or standing orders) continues to be a popular method for donations. This past Financial Year, we saw giving continue to switch to electronic means. **Electronic giving was £119,148** (compared with £101,326 last year **excluding Gift Aid**); an **increase of £17,822 or 17.6%** Year on Year. Also, this year the split of electronic giving to cash giving was

**89.1% vs 10.9%** (compared with 88.0% vs 12.0% last year, excluding Gift Aid). **This is helpful to the church**, as it means that less cash is being physically handled by the offering counters for various reasons including security. Also, electronic giving methods reduce the time and administration of processing cash payments but also facilitate the ease and speed for people to donate. **Standing Orders remain the Church's preferred option of giving, as there are no charges incurred with this method.**

- Total spending for the year increased marginally by 1.9% (£2,476) from £130,414 (2022-23) to £132,890 (2023-24).
- Overall, the charity made a profit of c.£26,335, but this largely represents an amount of unspent Vision Offering for the financial year, ear-marked for future spend.
- **Vision Offering 2024:** On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024, we held our Vision Day, during which we asked people to seek God to see what they might pledge to give in faith throughout the year towards this offering. The purpose of the offering was to make progress in the areas of Property, People, Planting, and Present Ministries and Mission. Below is a summary of what happened:
  - **Total amount pledged (incl. Gift Aid):** £44,556
  - **Total amount received (incl. Gift Aid):** £32,772 (and £24,433 during financial year)

***This compares with the previous Vision Offering 2023, where people pledged £33,728 in total, and gave £23,778 in total. YoY, total Vision Income increased by £8,994 (37.8%)***

## Financial Position:

Cash at Bank: 30/06/2024	£	113,815
<b>Less</b>		
Previous Missions Fund balances	£	2,012
AoG 3% balance	£	-
Unspent Vision Balances*	£	35,633
Vision80 Building Fund Balance	£	32,483
Other commitments (children's account)	£	1,114
Sub-Total	£	71,242
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>42,573</b>
Essential Operating Expenditure for 2023-24 is c. :	£	62,637
<b>Reserves Policy of 5 months OPEX would be c.:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>26,100</b>
<b>FREE CASH POSITION: 30/06/2024</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>16,473</b>

### \* Vision Balances: £35,633

- Vision 2023: £11,200 unspent
- Vision 2024: £24,433 (of £32,772) received in 2023-24.

**We are so thankful to every person who gives within the life of the church. From regular donations in our weekly offerings, to those who gave sacrificially into our Vision 2024 offering, the church Leadership Team and Trustees wish to express our deepest gratitude. Your giving is truly making a difference!**

## Reserves Policy

The Trustees have examined the requirements for free reserves, i.e., those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets. The Trustees consider that, given the nature of the Church's work, free reserves should be equivalent to approximately **5 months'** routine general fund expenditure, plus committed future expenditure on other projects, where funds permit. The Trustees are of the

opinion that this provides sufficient flexibility to cover temporary shortfalls of incoming resources and will allow the church to cope and respond to unforeseen emergencies whilst action plans are implemented. However, as income increases, the Trustees will look to increase this amount to provide a greater safeguard for the charity. As of the end of the current financial year, **free reserves requirement for 5 months budgeted routine expenditure is c.£26,100**. This money will be held in the current account, and through regular monitoring the account will not be allowed to slip below this amount without actions being put in place to mitigate against any decline in income.

### ***Grants Policy***

The Church makes grants, equivalent to 10% of its donated income annually, to support missionary endeavours both in the UK and abroad. This amount is transferred into the “designated account”, known as the Mission Fund. The policy of the Church is to give grants on the basis that they are subject to annual review and only renewed based on meeting set criteria. These grants will either be donated as a “lump sum” or will be given on a monthly or quarterly basis. In addition, the Church makes donations for hardship at the discretion of the Eldership, to those in need within the Church.

### ***Future Plans***

We are excited about the future of the Church. We continue to put in place a strategy where mission is kept at the forefront of the church, along with discipleship pathways to help people grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ. We continue to develop leaders through a leadership development pipeline, and finances are strong. As attendance and engagement continue to increase, we will need to take a step in the next financial year, to make space for growth.

Again, we are thankful for the all the volunteers who give of their time and their money to make a significant contribution to the Church, and as we expand our volunteer base in the future, Life Community Church will seek to continue to make an impact, both locally and beyond.

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## TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

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The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Trustee's Statement

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report was approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information of which the charity's Independent Examiner is unaware, and
- They have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee to be aware of any information needed by the Independent Examiner in connection with preparing their report, and to establish that the charity's Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



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**David Bolton, Senior Pastor**  
Trustee

**10/04/2025**

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**Date**

**LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE STREET  
LEAMINGTON SPA  
WARWICKSHIRE  
CV31 3EB**

**Registered Charity: 1052019**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT  
AND  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

**Luke Silver  
Accountancy & Taxation Services  
25 Ellicombe Close  
Minehead  
Somerset TA24  
6DQ**

**Mobile: 07710 456376**

**E-mail: [luke-silver@puresilver.org.uk](mailto:luke-silver@puresilver.org.uk)**



# **Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts**

## **Receipts and Payment Accounts**

**Report to the trustees of Life Community Church**

**Registered Charity Number 1052019**

**On the accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Set out on the following pages**

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:  
examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;  
follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and  
state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- Have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed** *L A Silver*

**Date: 11 February 2025**

Luke Silver, HNC Business & Finance

Accountancy & Taxation Services  
25 Ellicombe Close, Minehead, Somerset. TA24 6DQ

## **Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees**

### **Introduction**

Thank you for submitting the accounts for independent examination. They have been well maintained and the treasurer and others responsible are to be commended for their hard work. Therefore I will keep my comments to a minimum.

### **Charity Law and Financial Regulations**

The independent examination has been carried out in accordance with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995 (Statutory Instruments No 2724) and the Accounting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

### **Signing of Accounts**

I shall be obliged if you will please forward a copy of the signature page for my records after the accounts have been signed by a representative appointed by the Trustees and Church Council. A spare copy is enclosed.

### **Conclusion**

There are no other matters I feel need to be brought to your attention.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further clarification or for further assistance.

**Luke Silver**

**Date: 11 February 2025**

**LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

**ACTIVITIES REVIEW**

The financial results are set out in the enclosed accounts.

The principal activity throughout the year under review was that of

- The advancement of the Christian Faith
- The relief of sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of counselling and support
- The advancement of education

**TRUSTEES AND CHURCH COUNCIL**

The trustees and church council during the year were as follows:

**David Bolton**

**Leanne Bolton**

**Friday Ehiguese** (Appointed as an Elder on 14 April 2024)

**David Onyekwe**

**Peter Stephanis**

**STATEMENT**

We certify that the books, vouchers and information produced to enable the independent examination of our accounts to be conducted contain a full and correct record of our financial transactions and activities to the best of our knowledge and belief.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



Please print name: **David Bolton**

Date: **10<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**

**Life Community Church**

**Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2024**

**Receipts and Payments Account**

	<b>2024</b>			<b>2023</b>		
	Designated Fund £	General Fund £	Total £	Designated Fund £	General Fund £	Total £
<b>Grants and Donations</b>						
Donations - G/A (Standing Orders)	0	97,201	97,201	0	74,494	74,494
Donations - G/A (Cash)	0	5,272	5,272	0	5,851	5,851
Donations - G/A (Card / Online)	0	1,309	1,309	0	1,286	1,286
Donations - Non G/A (Cash)	0	8,925	8,925	0	7,894	7,894
Donations - Non G/A (S O)	0	14,401	14,401	0	13,448	13,448
Donations - Non G/A (Card / Online)	0	1,293	1,293	0	1,950	1,950
HMRC Gift Aid Tax Rebate	0	27,830	27,830	0	26,632	26,632
Children's Income	0	765	765	0	1,092	1,092
	0	156,996	156,996	0	132,647	132,647
<b>Trading Activities</b>						
Church Rent	0	1,608	1,608	0	1,612	1,612
General Sales	0	0	0	0	1,650	1,650
Manse Rent	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	1,608	1,608	0	3,262	3,262
<b>Investment Income</b>	0	621	621	0	48	48
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>159,225</b>	<b>159,225</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>135,957</b>	<b>135,957</b>

**Direct Charitable Expenditure**

Teaching	0	195	195	0	51	51
Training	0	4,858	4,858	0	2,732	2,732
Outreach	0	1,238	1,238	0	483	483
Missions	0	16,186	16,186	0	13,639	13,639
Gifts	0	916	916	0	1,659	1,659
Ministry Gifts	0	1,165	1,165	0	1,045	1,045
Children	0	814	814	0	635	635
Youth Ministry	0	1,968	1,968	0	1,214	1,214
Student Ministry	0	116	116	0	36	36
Worship Team	0	0	0	0	108	108

0	27,456	27,456	0	21,602	21,602
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**Equipment**

IT Equipment	0	470	470	0	1,038	1,038
Furniture & Fittings	0	0	0	0	144	144
Worship Equipment	0	479	479	0	2,508	2,508
Office Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Hire	0	264	264	0	132	132
General	0	395	395	0	1,670	1,670

0	1,608	1,608	0	5,492	5,492
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**Management & Admin**

Net Salaries	0	58,730	58,730	0	58,470	58,470
PAYE & NIC's	0	10,339	10,339	0	10,852	10,852
Professional Fees	0	3,896	3,896	0	1,590	1,590
Pensions	0	5,057	5,057	0	4,881	4,881

0	78,022	78,022	0	75,793	75,793
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**Support Costs**

Property Insurance	0	3,198	3,198	0	1,566	1,566
Water Rates	0	85	85	0	57	57
Gas & Electricity	0	3,306	3,306	0	4,172	4,172
Travelling Expenses	0	117	117	0	141	141
Mileage	0	1,109	1,109	0	553	553
Printing & Stationery	0	1,116	1,116	0	873	873
Postage & Carriage	0	17	17	0	58	58
Maintenance	0	1,565	1,565	0	6,400	6,400
Subscriptions	0	4,327	4,327	0	3,611	3,611
Licences	0	2,632	2,632	0	2,389	2,389
Telephone Charges	0	588	588	0	510	510
General Expenses	0	253	253	0	429	429
Cleaning	0	3,341	3,341	0	3,450	3,450
Hospitality	0	1,306	1,306	0	1,338	1,338
Subsistence	0	39	39	0	50	50
P.R. (Leaflets & Brochures)	0	100	100	0	137	137
PSP (Card Payments)	0	749	749	0	513	513
Refuse Collection	0	794	794	0	736	736

0	24,642	24,642	0	26,983	26,983
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**Manse**

Property Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gas & Electricity	0	1,158	1,158	0	364	364
Water Rates	0	0	0	0	0	0
Furniture & Fittings	0	0	0	0	28	28
Equipment Hire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintenance	0	4	4	0	152	152

0	1,162	1,162	0	544	544
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**TOTAL PAYMENTS**

0	132,890	132,890	0	130,414	130,414
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Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Excess of Income over Payments For the Year	0	26,335	26,335	0	5,543	5,543
Funds as at 30 June Start of Year	34,674	52,806	87,480	34,674	47,263	81,937
Fund Balance Adjustment	28,262	(28,262)	0	0	0	0
Funds as at 30 June End of Year	62,936	50,879	113,815	34,674	52,806	87,480

**Monetary Assets:**

Bank Current Accounts	51,517	37,846
Kingdom Bank	32,483	33,120
Cash in Hand	0	0
Life Youth & Children's Account	1,114	1,114
Life Vision Offering	28,701	15,400
Creditors	0	0
	<u>113,815</u>	<u>87,480</u>



# Life Community Church

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities As At 30th June 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Church Building & Manse <i>(Commercial Property Valuation undertaken in 2023)</i>	820,000	820,000
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<u>Bank Balances:</u>		
Current Account	49,765	35,325
Life Designated Account	1,752	2,521
Kingdom Bank	32,483	33,120
Life Youth & Children's Account	1,114	1,114
Life Vision Offerings	28,701	15,400
Cash In Hand	0	0
	113,815	87,480
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>113,815</b>	<b>87,480</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	0	0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>933,815</b>	<b>907,480</b>