

## **BETHEL CHURCH**

***Dunrobin Street, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 4NA***

### **Minister's report to the trustees for the year ending 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

This is my twenty-second report as Chairman to the trustees and it comes at the end of a difficult year following the Covid-19 lockdowns and trying to re-establish our church and community activities. However, I am pleased to report that we have continued to support those in need in our community through these difficult times.

#### **Local community involvement**

Reopening our community activities after the Covid-19 lockdowns has proved to be a slow process. Light Lunch reopened on 10<sup>th</sup> June with 26 paid meals being served. A donation of cakes, milk, and other essentials was gratefully received from the Tesco Longton Community Champion as we reopened.

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December we held our Light Lunch Christmas meal which was attended by 56 people. This was a much lower number than previous years, but we managed to support people in other ways. For example, Bethel Church Longton distributed 30 Christmas hampers as well as 30 wrapped presents donated by *TWIST* to families in our local area. Also, we teamed up with Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank who partnered with the 'Give for Good' Stoke initiative team to deliver 130 Christmas dinners to local people. We have also partnered this year with Stoke-on-Trent Adult Social Care to further help those who attend our weekday meals and access our food donations.

Unfortunately, due to poor attendance, we had to close the Thursday meals again at the beginning of 2022 for an additional 8 weeks. On 24<sup>th</sup> March we started a craft group for people with learning disabilities on Thursday mornings to run alongside the meal and within a couple of weeks we had 14 people attending this group.

We have continued throughout the year as a distribution centre for Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank on Wednesday mornings and again hosted their AGM on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October. A buffet was provided for the 70 people who attended. In addition, we have continued to deliver food parcels to those who still need support following the Covid-19 lockdowns.

*SPLAT* used our facilities to run 5 children's sessions during the summer holidays and they continued with sessions on Tuesday evenings until the end of November.

A local ukulele band has started using Bethel Church's main hall for practicing. We have also hosted events and meetings for local residential homes and the Florence Park Residents Association.

## **Bethel church**

Our Sunday services resumed on 25<sup>th</sup> July and since then there has been a steady growth in numbers with some new attendees. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December saw our Christmas Music Special with buffet. It was attended by approximately 100 people and Bethel's house band as well as the local *Uke 'n' Sing* group performed a variety of songs.

Necessary upgrades and improvements have been made to Bethel Church's building this year. These have included decorating the main hall, minor hall, back corridor, and toilets after being closed for a long period of time. The sound equipment has been upgraded, a drum booth established, and new lighting has been set up in the main hall. Also LED lights have been fitted in the minor hall, rear corridor, and preparation area which are more cost effective. Upgrades to the sound system have meant that the large mixer desk cabinet at the rear of the main hall has been removed which has given us additional space for tables for the meals. Also, the notice board in the minor hall has been re-done.

## **Funding, grants, and donations**

In June 2021 a sponsored walk of the 55-mile Derwent Valley route raised £1050.58. Also, a donation of £100.00 was received from the Masonic Charitable Foundation and in September a donation of £200.00 from Silito Housing. Councillor Lilian Dodd provided £300.00 of Ward Funding to support us in running our Christmas meal. Further donations of £250.00, £300.00, and £150.00 respectively were received in memory of individual persons. Additionally, £113.65 was received from the Monday Mental Health Support Group. Restart grants for the charity shop were received from Stoke-on-Trent City Council amounting to £5334.00 as well as £7025.03 from the Government's furlough scheme. A further grant of £1000.00 came from *Tesco Bags of Help* which helped towards the cost of roof repairs.


As well as these monetary donations we are grateful to those who have supported Bethel through donations of food and goods. These included Sandford Hill Primary School who generously gave tins from their harvest collection in October and in December we were accepted as one of the charities in the Tesco Longton and Aspire Christmas toy appeal. These toys were distributed to needy families in our area.

Regular food donations have been received from Tesco (Longton Extra and Meir Hay Express), Lidl, KFC, DHL, and Nisa (Stoke). One food collection from Nisa in December helped to feed a total of 250 people at Christmas. Also, our fortnightly deliveries from Fareshare Midlands have continue to be a valuable source of food. We have also received donations from Tesco Meir Extra and in February this year we commenced weekly food collections from PAK foods Dresden.

We are also grateful for the regular donations of food and other essentials from *TWIST* as well as goods from Tesco Longton Extra and Tesco Meir.

## **Conclusion**

During these difficult times Bethel Church Longton remains committed to supporting the people in our local community. As we seek new ways of reaching out to those who need support, we value those who continue to help us through prayer, finances, various donations, and volunteering both in the church and through our charity shop.

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	THE BETHEL CHURCH			1052513	CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	6th APRIL 2021	To	5th APRIL 2022	
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
SUNDAY SERVICE	6,434	-	-	6,434	7,563
LIGHT LUNCH	4,680	-	-	4,680	1,153
HALL HIRE	1,605	-	-	1,605	20
SHOP TAKINGS	82,960	-	-	82,960	37,496
HMRC - FURLOUGH PAY	7,025	-	-	7,025	26,770
GRANT - STOKE-ON-TRENT CITY COUNCIL	5,334	-	-	5,334	39,338
OTHER GRANTS AND FUNDING	1,300	-	-	1,300	7,356
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME & DONATIONS	9,214	-	-	9,214	5,926
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	118,552	-	-	118,552	125,624
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	118,552	-	-	118,552	125,624
A3 Payments					
SALARIES - MINISTERS	27,443	-	-	27,443	25,284
SALARIES - OTHERS	30,394	-	-	30,394	24,749
PAYE	3,820			3,820	2,611
LIGHTING, HEATING & WATER	3,887			3,887	5,141
LITERATURE, STATIONERY ETC	89			89	572
REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS, MAINT & CLEAN	7,496			7,496	2,942
PREACHERS SECS., GIFTS & TRIPS	238			238	540
ANNUAL PAYMENTS	2,359			2,359	923
CHURCH PHONE & INTERNET	1,745	-	-	1,745	1,820
FIXED PROFIT CAR SCHEME	2,300	-	-	2,300	2,086
SHOP EXPENSES	23,076			23,076	22,376
FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT	1,400			1,400	932
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	118	-	-	118	-
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	1,123	-	-	1,123	380
VOLUNTEER EXPS, WORKWEAR & TRAINING	743	-	-	743	48
SAFEGUARDING EXPENSES THIRTYONE:EIGHT	129	-	-	129	226
PENSIONS	2,813			2,813	2,737
CHURCH INSURANCE	2,740	-	-	2,740	2,826
Sub total	111,914	-	-	111,914	96,192
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	111,914	-	-	111,914	96,192
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,638	-	-	6,638	29,432
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	31,478	-	-	31,478	2,046
Cash funds this year end	38,116	-	-	38,116	31,478





# CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
THE BETHEL CHURCH

On accounts for the year  
ended

YEAR ENDED 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022

Charity no  
(if any) 1052513

Set out on pages

1 AND 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2022.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

2/2/2023

Name:

GLENN GERALD PARKES MBE

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Address:

THE MANSE, TEMPLE STREET, FENTON,  
STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST4 4NW.

### Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).