

BETHEL CHURCH

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

Minister's report to the trustees for the year ending 5th April 2023

This is my twenty-third report as chair of trustees. This year Bethel has continued to increase its local community involvement, numbers of people attending our weekly events are steadily increasing, and we continue to forge new links and partnerships with individuals and organisations.

Local community involvement

Over the year the number of people attending Bethel's Thursday three course lunch has increased to between fifty and sixty per week. New connections have been made with organisations who provide supported living accommodation for people with disabilities and the craft sessions for people with learning disabilities has seen a steady increase in numbers with up to seventeen people taking part each week. On Thursday 15th December eighty people attended Bethel's Christmas meal and entertainment was provided by the local ukulele band, 'Uke 'n' Sing'. Bethel was also able to support Swan Bank with the provision of their Christmas Day meals.

On Wednesday mornings, Bethel remains a distribution centre for Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank. On Friday 13th May we hosted Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank's 10 year celebration for its staff and volunteers. A buffet was provided and over ninety people attended. On 4th November Bethel hosted Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank's AGM and provided hot food for ninety people. A further hundred meals were provided for Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank for its open day in December.

During the winter months Bethel was part of the 'Stronger Together Through Winter' initiative and, partnering with Stoke-on-Trent City Council, is one of the 'Welcoming Spaces' which provides support to local residents. In December Bethel became a member of Coalfields community investment programme's practical support initiative and one of Coalfields' representatives partnered with us for a short period of time at our Thursday lunch.

Bethel's charity shop continues to provide good quality clothes and household goods etc. for very reasonable prices. We work closely with local police, councillors, schools, and

organisations to provide items for those who need additional support. All this is made possible because of the generous donations received.

Bethel church

This year has seen a steady increase in the number of people attending Bethel's Sunday morning service, including young families. The Resurrection Breakfast took place on Easter Sunday, and it was attended by over fifty people. The people who attended were from the wide range of weekly activities as well as the Sunday service congregation.

To celebrate the Queen's 70th Jubilee 'Big Lunch' on Sunday 5th June a roast dinner was served to sixty-four people. Again, this included people from all aspects of Bethel's community work as well as new people who have since started to regularly attend the Sunday services.

During October and November, we ran the eight-week course *Christianity Explored* which was well attended. This was followed by a baptismal service in December and a dedication of one of the young children who has started attending with their family.

On 20th November we held a 'thank you' party for everyone who has supported Bethel over recent years. This event included live music by the Bethel Band and a buffet. Over one hundred people attended.

The Christmas party on Sunday 11th December was a time of celebration and fun and was attended by fifty people. Bethel's carol service on 18th December was combined with a baptismal service and was a time of blessing for all involved.

Funding, grants, and donations

Donations have included £200 from MADL, £500 from Populus Housing, and £100 from the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Councillor Lilian Dodd provided £500 Ward Funding towards the cost of Bethel's community Christmas meal.

Regular food and other essentials have been received from Tesco (Longton Extra, Meir Hay Express, and occasional donations from Meir Park), LIDL, Farmfoods, TWIST, KFC Meir, and Pak foods Dresden. Donations have also been received from DHL Nisa Stoke. These donations are all valuable in helping Bethel continue its work supporting people in our local


area. Also, the fortnightly deliveries from Fareshare have contributed additional supplies. Throughout this year we have been providing between three to four hundred meals every week and have partnered with other individuals and organisations who have the same passion to help those who are in need in our area.

We are extremely grateful to Sandford Hill Primary School for providing milk and donating their Harvest contributions to Bethel. On Friday 9th September Bethel received 380 Walker's pies from Stoke Football Club after cancellation of the match following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Also, the Community Champion at Tesco Longton Extra nominated Bethel as one of the charities and we received numerous chocolate eggs in their Easter Egg Appeal.

At Christmas Bethel was again one of the charities nominated in the Tesco and Aspire's Christmas Toy Appeal. Additionally, donations of food and toys for Christmas were received from 'Step up Stoke' and TWIST.

Conclusion

We are grateful to all those who have supported Bethel this financial year through various donations, finances, prayer, and volunteering. Whilst this year has shown a financial deficit of £621.64, Bethel remains committed to supporting the local community.

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	THE BETHEL CHURCH			1052513		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	6th APRIL 2022	To	5th APRIL 2023		
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 & GIFT AID	15,449	-	-	15,449	6,434	
THURSDAY CRAFT & MEAL/LIGHT LUNCH	8,628	-	-	8,628	4,680	
HALL HIRE	1,250	-	-	1,250	1,605	
SHOP TAKINGS	77,122	-	-	77,122	82,960	
HMRC - FURLOUGH PAY	-	-	-	-	7,025	
GRANT - STOKE-ON-TRENT CITY COUNCIL	-	-	-	-	5,334	
OTHER GRANTS AND FUNDING	700	-	-	700	1,300	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME & DONATIONS	9,985	-	-	9,985	9,214	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	113,134	-	-	113,134	118,552	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	113,134	-	-	113,134	118,552	
A3 Payments						
SALARIES - MINISTERS	29,489	-	-	29,489	27,443	
SALARIES - OTHERS	34,292	-	-	34,292	30,394	
PAYE	4,362			4,362	3,820	
LIGHTING, HEATING & WATER	3,909			3,909	3,887	
LITERATURE, STATIONERY ETC	198			198	89	
REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS, MAINT & CLEAN	2,089			2,089	7,496	
PREACHERS SECS., GIFTS & TRIPS	339			339	238	
ANNUAL PAYMENTS	646			646	2,359	
CHURCH PHONE & INTERNET	2,339	-	-	2,339	1,745	
FIXED PROFIT CAR SCHEME	1,505	-	-	1,505	2,300	
SHOP EXPENSES	23,315			23,315	23,076	
FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT	3,458			3,458	1,400	
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	57	-	-	57	118	
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	978	-	-	978	1,123	
VOLUNTEER EXPS, WORKWEAR & TRAINING	448	-	-	448	743	
SAFEGUARDING EXPENSES THIRTYONE:EIGHT	222	-	-	222	129	
PENSIONS	3,177			3,177	2,813	
CHURCH INSURANCE	2,933	-	-	2,933	2,740	
Sub total	113,756	-	-	113,756	111,913	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	-	-	-	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	113,756	-	-	113,756	111,913	
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 622	-	-	- 622	6,638	
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	38,116	-	-	38,116	31,478	
Cash funds this year end	37,494	-	-	37,494	38,116	



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 5th APRIL 2023

**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:

2/2/24

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).