

## **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 2024**

This is my twenty-fourth report as chair of trustees. During the year, Bethel has remained successful in its regular community activities and continues to help local people who are in need of extra support.

#### **Local community involvement**

Bethel's Thursday three course lunch remains a popular weekly event and this year we have incorporated the colouring and craft activities for people with learning disabilities into the same room as the meal. Numbers attending the meal and craft continue to steadily increase and we are now serving between 65 and 75 people each week. New connections have been made with organisations who provide supported living accommodation for people with learning disabilities. In March we retained our level 5 Food Hygiene rating.

Our Christmas meal on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December was attended by 104 people. We also supported Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank and Swan Bank Church with the provision of their Christmas meals.

On Wednesday mornings, Bethel remains a distribution centre for Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank as well as a Community Lounge which provides information and advice. In June we hosted a frontline professional meeting for Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank and provided a buffet for 75 people. On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we hosted and provided food for Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank's AGM which was attended by over 100 people.

*Uke 'n' Sing* continue to use our building every Thursday to practice and on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June they performed a concert at Bethel which raised £240.00 for our community activities. On 10<sup>th</sup> August, Karen Pfeiffer and Paul Weaver performed another music concert which raised a further £330.88 for Bethel.

Bethel's charity shop continues to provide affordable clothing and household goods. We also work closely with local police, councillors, schools, and other organisations in providing a variety of goods to those who need them. We remain grateful for the generous donations which help to make this possible.

## **Bethel church**

The number of people attending Bethel's Sunday morning service has remained steady this year. On Easter Sunday 60 people shared in the Resurrection Breakfast and these included members of the congregation as well as people from the various weekly activities. Staff and residents from 4 different residential homes for people with learning disabilities joined in the breakfast.

This year various members of Bethel have helped to raise funds by engaging in different sponsored events. These included a sponsored cycle, abseil, and silence. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October there was a sponsored 25-hour drumathon which included an open day in the afternoon and 2 concerts in the evening. The event was opened by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Lyn Sharpe and we are grateful for the support received from the Community Champion at Tesco Longton Extra as well as the staff at Sandford Hill Primary School for their donations towards the cost of the buffet. The drumathon raised £1640.81.

A Christmas music concert was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December and a carol service on 24<sup>th</sup> December. The carol service included the baptismal of 4 people from the church.

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

Generous harvest donations were received from Sandford Hill Primary School, Alexandra Junior School, as well as St Mary and St Chad's church. Also, in December, Christmas food donations were received from Staffordshire University, *All Things Werrington*, and Farmfoods. These were distributed to families within our area. At Christmas Bethel was nominated by both Tesco Longton Extra and Tesco Meir Hay Express for the Tesco and Aspire Christmas Toy Appeal. Additionally, donations of food and toys were received from *Step up Stoke* and TWIST.


Regular food and other essentials have been received from Tesco (Longton Extra, Meir Hay Express, and Meir Park), LIDL, Farmfoods, TWIST, KFC Meir, and Pak Foods Dresden. Donations have also been received from DHL Nisa Stoke. The fortnightly deliveries from Fareshare Midlands have contributed additional supplies. Throughout the year between 300 and 400 hundred meals have been provided to individuals and families every week as Bethel

continues to partner with other individuals and organisations who have the same enthusiasm for helping people in our area.

Financial donations have included £216.34 from MADL, £500.00 from Populus Housing, £100.00 from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, £100.00 from TWIST, £30.00 from a member of TWIST, and £1500.00 from Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank. Councillor Lilian Dodd helped towards the cost of Bethel's community Christmas meal with £500.00 Ward Funding.

### **Conclusion**

We remain grateful to all those who support Bethel through various donations, finances, prayer, and volunteering. This year has seen an increase in financial receipts of £5874.59, but expenses have increased further meaning that at the close of the financial year there is a deficit of £15813.47. Despite financial pressures, Bethel remains committed to its valuable work 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 2023	To	5th APRIL 2024		
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	10,833	-	-	10,833	15,449	
THURSDAY CRAFT & MEAL/LIGHT LUNCH	12,721	-	-	12,721	8,628	
HALL HIRE	2,239	-	-	2,239	1,250	
SHOP TAKINGS	72,133	-	-	72,133	77,122	
	-	-	-	-	-	
OTHER GRANTS AND FUNDING	716	-	-	716	700	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME & DONATIONS	20,367	-	-	20,367	9,985	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	119,009	-	-	119,009	113,134	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	119,009	-	-	119,009	113,134	
A3 Payments						
SALARIES & PAYE	75,667	-	-	75,667	68,143	
LIGHTING, HEATING & WATER	9,112			9,112	3,909	
LITERATURE, STATIONERY ETC	1,334			1,334	198	
REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS, MAINT & CLEAN	4,409			4,409	2,089	
PREACHERS SECS., GIFTS & TRIPS	389			389	339	
ANNUAL PAYMENTS	871			871	646	
CHURCH PHONE & INTERNET	2,067	-	-	2,067	2,339	
FIXED PROFIT CAR SCHEME	1,881	-	-	1,881	1,505	
SHOP EXPENSES	23,838			23,838	23,315	
FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT	4,647			4,647	3,458	
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	13	-	-	13	57	
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	2,461	-	-	2,461	978	
VOLUNTEER EXPS, WORKWEAR & TRAINING	791	-	-	791	448	
SAFEGUARDING EXPENSES THIRTYONE:EIGHT	238	-	-	238	222	
PENSIONS	3,549			3,549	3,177	
CHURCH INSURANCE	3,555	-	-	3,555	2,933	
Sub total	134,822	-	-	134,822	113,756	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)						
	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	134,822	-	-	134,822	113,756	
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 15,813	-	-	- 15,813	- 622	
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	37,494	-	-	37,494	38,116	
Cash funds this year end	21,681	-	-	21,681	37,494	

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	BUSINESS RESERVE	17,354	-	-
	MAIN/GENERAL ACCOUNT	3,718		
	BUILDING FUND	# 561	-	-
	CASH IN HAND	48	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>21,681</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
	<i>J. Woodman</i>	<i>J. M. Woodman</i>		<i>3/2/25</i>





# 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 2024

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 05/04/2024.

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:

31/1/2025

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).

**Give here brief details of  
any items that the  
examiner wishes to  
disclose.**