

## **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 2025**

This is my twenty-fifth report as chair of trustees, and I am pleased to report that Bethel continues in its mission to support the local community in a variety of ways.

#### **Local community involvement**

Bethel's Thursday three course lunch, including colouring and craft activities, continues to be successful with an average weekly attendance of more than 70 people. Since September we have seen an increase in the number of people with learning disabilities attending from across the city including Newcastle and Hanley. During February and March numbers have increased to over 80 attendees with a maximum of 97 people attending for two of these weeks.

On 18<sup>th</sup> June BBC Radio Stoke and BBC News held and recorded a hustings debate for the Stoke South MP candidates at Bethel. On 9<sup>th</sup> November Bethel held a BBQ and entertainment evening which was attended by 121 people and raised £516.50.

Our Christmas meal on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December was attended by 120 people and the Christmas party as well as the Christmas Eve Carol Service were well supported. We again helped Swan Bank Church with the provision of their Christmas meals.

Bethel continues to partner with Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank as a distribution centre on Wednesday mornings and on 8<sup>th</sup> November we hosted Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank's AGM providing food for 120 people. Also, on Wednesday mornings advice and information about services in Stoke-on-Trent can be accessed through the Community Lounge at Bethel.

Additionally, we work closely with local police, councillors, schools, and other organisations in providing food, provisions and household goods to those who need them. Bethel's charity shop continues to support the community by providing affordable clothing and household goods and we are grateful for all the generous donations which help to make this possible.

## **Bethel church**

The number of people attending Bethel's Sunday morning service remains steady and we have seen several new people. Upgrades to the building have included the refurbishment of the chairs used in both the Sunday Service and week-day activities.

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

We are grateful for the companies and individuals who support Bethel with regular finances as well as donations of food, toiletries, and other goods.

This year generous food donations were received from Sandford Hill Primary School and a Harvest donation from Alexandra Junior School. For Christmas £100 worth of food was received from Argos to support the families in need in our area and in March we received a donation of frozen food from Farmfoods.

Once again Bethel was one of the charities nominated by the Community Champion at Tesco Longton Extra for the Tesco Community Christmas Gift Appeal. Additionally, donations of food and toys were received from *Step up Stoke* and TWIST.

Throughout the year regular food and other essentials have been received from Tesco (Longton Extra, Meir Hay Express, and Meir Park), NISA Stoke, Farmfoods, LIDL, KFC Meir, TWIST, and Pak Foods Dresden. These are supplemented by fortnightly deliveries from Fareshare Midlands. These donations have helped Bethel provide an average of 350 meals to individuals and families every week. We really appreciate those who are willing to partner with us in this valuable work.

Financial donations have included £317.50 for a sponsored Zip Wire challenge, £500.00 Ward Funding from Councillor Lilian Dodd towards the Christmas meal, £324.01 from Florence Residents' Association, £70 for grip bars at the entrance of the church, £100.00 from TWIST, £1075.00 from Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank, and £200.00 from The Grand Charity. We have also received various donations from individuals which have helped Bethel to continue its work.

## **Conclusion**

Whilst these remain difficult times for many people, we are grateful to all those who continue to support Bethel through finances, prayer, various donations, and volunteering. This year has seen an increase in financial receipts of £14695.24 and a decrease in expenditure of £9963.42. This has resulted in a surplus for the year of £8845.19. Bethel continues to be committed to supporting the local community in whatever ways possible.

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

6th April 2024

To

5th April 2025

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
SUNDAY SERVICE & GIFT AID	11,065	-	-	11,065	10,833
THURSDAY CRAFT & MEAL/LIGHT LUNCH	13,278	-	-	13,278	12,721
HALL HIRE	2,910	-	-	2,910	2,239
SHOP TAKINGS	74,341	-	-	74,341	72,133
	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER GRANTS AND FUNDING	700	-	-	700	716
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME & DONATIONS	31,410	-	-	31,410	20,367
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>133,704</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>133,704</b>	<b>119,009</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>133,704</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>133,704</b>	<b>119,009</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
SALARIES & PAYE	68,166	-	-	68,166	75,667
LIGHTING, HEATING & WATER	7,950	-	-	7,950	9,112
LITERATURE, STATIONERY ETC	118	-	-	118	1,334
REPAIRS, IMPROVEMENTS, MAINT & CLEAN	3,029	-	-	3,029	4,409
PREACHERS SECS., GIFTS & TRIPS	664	-	-	664	389
ANNUAL PAYMENTS	840	-	-	840	871
CHURCH PHONE & INTERNET	2,661	-	-	2,661	2,067
FIXED PROFIT CAR SCHEME	2,721	-	-	2,721	1,881
SHOP EXPENSES	25,614	-	-	25,614	23,838
FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT	4,346	-	-	4,346	4,647
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	193	-	-	193	13
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	660	-	-	660	2,461
VOLUNTEER EXPS, WORKWEAR & TRAINING	346	-	-	346	791
SAFEGUARDING EXPENSES					
THIRTYONE-EIGHT	159	-	-	159	238
PENSIONS	4,264	-	-	4,264	3,549
CHURCH INSURANCE	3,128	-	-	3,128	3,555
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>124,859</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>124,859</b>	<b>134,822</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>124,859</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>124,859</b>	<b>134,822</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>8,845</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,845</b>	<b>- 15,813</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>21,681</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,681</b>	<b>37,494</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>30,526</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,526</b>	<b>21,681</b>

## 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	15,573	-	-
	MAIN/GENERAL ACCOUNT	10,518	-	-
	BUILDING FUND	-	-	-
	CASH IN HAND	4,435	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>30,526</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Judith Woodall	Judith Woodall	25/11/2025





# 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

The Bethel Church

On accounts for the year  
ended

Year Ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1052513

Set out on pages

1 AND 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **05 / 04 / 2025**.

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 (other than that disclosed below \*) 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:

*Jack Martin*

Date:

25/11/2025

Name:

Jack Martin FCCA

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

Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (the ACCA)

Address:

Paterson Brodie Limited, Cliveden Chambers, Cliveden Place,  
Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire,  
ST3 4JB

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.**