

LUMLEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1052527

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1996-02-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Lumley Evangelical Church
Scorers Lane
Great Lumley
Chester-le-Street
Co. Durham
DH3 4JH

Phone 01913888758

Email lumleyec@live.com

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHURCH ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC:A) TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT IN SUCH WAYS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT;B) 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 IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT; ANDC) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN SUCH WAYS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT.

Activities: The teaching of the Christian faith and beliefs to those who believe and the sharing of the gospel of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ to those who do not believe. Meetings are held weekly and on an adhoc basis: these include Sunday Morning Church, Bible Study, Family Service, Coffee Mornings, mother and toddler and children's groups, for the promotion, development and enhancement of fellowship.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE CHESTER-LE-STREET
- Brazil
- Colombia
- India
- Israel
- Jamaica
- Nepal
- North Korea
- Philippines
- Syria
- Durham
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£35,879	£27,655	-	-
2023-12-31	£23,121	£26,479	-	-
2022-12-31	£25,265	£20,974	-	-
2021-12-31	£21,260	£17,540	-	-
2020-12-31	£20,780	£24,715	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW PETER SPENCER	Chair	
David Forth		2017-01-19
Shirley Osfield		2013-06-01

LUMLEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1052527

Accounts

LUMLEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Registered Charity 1052527

5. Annual reports

- (a) Financial Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2024
- (b) Budget Report for 2025
- (c) Annual Report 2024

as presented at the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held

6:00 pm on Saturday 1st March 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Introduction

1. The annual Statement of Account is attached for year ended 31st December 2024.

Decisions

2. The AGM is asked to:
 - Receive the report and Statement of Accounts for 2024.
 - To note the annual missionary giving of £16,600 for 2025.

Summary

3. The outcome for the year is a surplus of £8,224 against a budgeted deficit of £22,750. Greater than expected offerings, and particularly donations influenced the budget this year. In addition, anticipated work to the premises did not take place, thus a significant amount allocated to Premises was not required.
4. Overall receipts were £17,629 more than budget. Payments were £13,345 less than budget.
5. As at 31 December, reserves totalled £115,072.

Details

Receipts

6. Receipts were more than budget by £17,629. Of this, offerings and donations were higher than budget by £17,427.
7. Interest on investments has been better this year as interest rates improved. Gift aid taxation refunds, however are late in coming in and will appear in the account in early 2025.

Payments

8. Payments were less than the budget by £13,345. Although there was a slight overspend in the Outreach, Ministry and Evangelism category, this was mainly due to additional giving in regard to particular needs. As agreed at the 2024 AGM, the amount of missionary giving was increased to £17,400.
9. Under the category of Premises, the underspend was mainly due to anticipated work not being carried out as yet.

Decisions for 2025

10. The Church policy is to give 50% of general offerings and donations, to missions: therefore, for 2025 the sum calculated is £16,600 (rounded up).

	Statement of Account for the Year to 31 December 2024			
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
		2024	2024	2023
	<u>Receipts</u>	£	£	£
	Offerings	18457	15250	17784
	Donations	14720	500	1012
	Gift Aid Tax	0	1500	3144
	Interest on Investments	2702	1000	1181
	Sale of assets & refunds	0	0	0
	Total Receipts	35879	18250	23121
	<u>Payments</u>			
	Outreach, Ministry and Evangelism	22242	21000	21345
	Premises	3490	17500	3472
	Administration	1923	2500	1662
	Total Payments	27655	41000	26479
	Surplus/(Deficit)	8224	-22750	-3358

Budget 2025

Introduction

1. The attached Budget for 2025 for the AGM to adopt is attached.

Decision

2. To endorse the Budget proposals set out in this report and the attached Budget Statement.

Summary

3. This budget, as recommended to the AGM, shows a predicted deficit of £21,100. The following paragraphs explain the basis on which the Budget has been prepared.

Receipts

4. Offerings have been set at around the same level as actual previous year figures.
5. Interest on investments is shown at an equivalent level due to recent interest rates being fairly stable.

Payments

6. Expenditure on Church Outreach and Evangelism: i.e. invited ministry, hospitality, equipment and outreach (including missionary donations), has been considerably increased due to the increased offerings and donations of last year. Within this budget area, the missionary support/donations is set at £16,600 in accordance with Church's policy.
7. The remaining budget of £5,400 is for ministry, family services, equipment and children's work.
8. Expenditure on premises is shown to be significantly increased once again to accommodate any upcoming work/repairs to be done on the Church's premises.

Budget for 2025						
	<u>Receipts</u>	Budget 2025		Budget 2024		Actual 2024
		£		£		£
	Offerings	18000		15250		18457
	Donations	500		500		14720
	Gift Aid Tax	2500		1500		0
	Interest on Investment	2400		1000		2702
	Total Receipts	23400		18250		35879
	<u>Payments</u>					
	Outreach and Evangelism	22000		21000		22242
	Premises	20000		17500		3490
	Administration	2500		2500		1923
	Total Payments	44500		41000		27655
	Surplus\ (Deficit)	-21100		-22750		8224

Lumley Evangelical Church

Annual Report 2024

Our Mission Statement is:

“To care for and bring people to faith in Jesus, aiding their growth into mature believers, developing their gifts for service, for the Glory of God.”

1. We seek, as a church and as individuals, to live out our faith in Jesus Christ and in so doing act as witnesses to our community of the saving grace of God. Our testimony is that, through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, the message of sins forgiven and eternal life is open to everyone.
2. During 2024 the Fellowship met together each Sunday morning, seeking to grow in the faith by
 - sharing fellowship
 - worshipping together
 - learning together from God’s Word~
 - remembering the sacrifice of Jesus in the Breaking of Bread.

There is a strong sense of love and care within the Church, with members looking out for the needs of others, including those who are only able to meet with us from time to time, or not at all.

It was good to welcome visiting speakers, including representatives from Platform 67 and LAMA Ministries (Philippines). It has been helpful to hear first hand of the work undertaken by these organisations which the church supports financially.

A focus on the persecuted church has also been maintained with a Sunday service dedicated to provide information about the places where it is hardest to be a Christian and to pray for those persecuted for their faith.

3. The mid-week meetings for prayer and Bible study have been a source of help and encouragement. Studies included The Ten Commandments (“Just 10”), “Romans” (The Bible Society) and other Bible teaching from respected teachers on video.
4. There was some fluctuation of numbers attending Family Service but as the year progressed it became clear that a number of families were making Family Services a priority. With the lively programme seeking to engage all age groups, there has been enthusiasm to take part and genuine interest in the message that was shared month by month.
5. Coffee Morning provides a warm, safe place to meet every fortnight and has been well supported throughout the year with many attending regularly. Once again we have seen a few new faces and everyone enjoys the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Whilst it is difficult to gauge its impact, the ‘Thought for the Day’ is well received and many engage actively with the thoughts shared.

6. Children attending KidZone have done so with regularity and consistency, with over 30 on roll and an average weekly attendance between 25 and 30. Children attending for the first time have predominantly been at the younger end of the age range, including five who came up from Tiny Church. We now also have a strong nucleus of children from Y3, Y4 and Y6. In the early part of the year another volunteer joined the team to work with the children in Y3. The children's enthusiastic singing has been striking and they have engaged with the Bible teaching and age-appropriate follow up activities with enjoyment and growing understanding. With such consistency of attendance, good relationships have developed with the children and their families. As in previous years, the final KidZone session before Christmas took the form of a craft evening. Extra volunteer helpers, namely KidZone parents and some teenagers from YZone, allowed for a greater range of crafts, all of which were enjoyed and appreciated. Alongside the crafts they had made, each child was also given an age-appropriate book about the Nativity.
7. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the KidZone Choir did not meet until after Easter this year. Despite the long gap, the children who attended from April to December began with enthusiasm and have grown in confidence and musical ability, giving two performances in July and December to parents and friends. They also hosted an evening session of 'Carols with the Choir'. All three events were well attended and well received.
8. Throughout the year the same group of 9 young people regularly attended YZone, as schoolwork and other commitments allowed. The oldest three teenagers moved into school 6th form in September and continue to attend with the same enthusiasm as the rest of the group. The young people relate well and are supportive of one another. Within the group there is a growing openness, and they often engage well with Bible study and teaching. During the year some of the group met with other church youth groups in the region, under the auspices of Wearside Youth for Christ.
9. Tiny Church began the New Year with a healthy number of pre-school children on roll and with an empty waiting list. During this year the toddlers and rising-fours have begun to engage really well with singing and story-time, joining in with enthusiasm and remembering and recalling the simple Bible stories we have been sharing. 'Keep in Touch' sessions were held in the Spring and Summer term for those children in full-time nursery, then in the second half of the summer term they were invited to start KidZone early, which five children chose to do. As in previous years, some sessions in the summer term were held in the local park. In one of those out-door sessions, families took part in a 'Sponsored Toddler' event, to raise money for an animal husbandry project in Brazil, organised and coordinated by EAB, a missionary organisation we support. We were delighted that the families' efforts raised enough money to buy five hair sheep which have since been donated to five needy families in NE Brazil.

EAB leaders, who live and work in Brazil, have maintained contact with the Tiny Church group, and we have exchanged photos as well as audio and video messages with them. Some of the parents have been so impressed they have requested that we do something similar in 2025, so this will be under consideration in the early Spring. In December we ended the year with another 'Pop-up' Nativity, which was well supported by parents and other family members.

10. The Sew and Grow group met fortnightly throughout the year and have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to share fellowship and Bible study as well as developing skills. Many useful items have been created, for personal use and to be packed in Shoe Boxes. New members have been added to the group during the year.
11. We were able to support Operation Christmas Child once more, setting a target of 120 shoeboxes. During the year, church members and families from all the groups contributed gifts, both home-made and purchased. The target was exceeded and 133 boxes were packed, some by the young people of YZone, and some by the 'Sew and Grow' group. A Saturday in November was also set aside and families were invited to help pack the remaining shoe boxes. As in previous years, we were a "Drop off Location" for shoe boxes during OCC collection week, which was convenient for a number of individuals and groups in the locality. The boxes we packed were sent to Coventry to be processed, along with the bar-codes that enable us to find out their destination early in the New Year. It was agreed that this support would continue in 2025.
12. There was a warm reception in both Lumley Junior School and Lumley Infant School when visits were made to take whole school Assemblies during the Spring and Summer terms. Once again the Year 6 Leavers Assembly in July was well received and copies of the "Moving On" booklet were given to each of the children. Due to some administrative uncertainty and a crowded calendar, further invitations did not materialise during the Autumn term, however indications are that invitations into both schools will be forthcoming in the New Year.
13. The fellowship remains a relatively small group but among those who have some contact with the church, there has been a growing interest in finding out more of the Christian faith and there have been a few more people meeting regularly for Sunday morning worship. This is encouraging, as is the consistently healthy interest in all the activities, with new people being welcomed.
14. For a number of years it has been noted that we live in uncertain times and 2024 was no less a time of turmoil and instability in all aspects of life, both at home and abroad. In these days, our confidence is in God and His love for us, and the hope for the future found through faith in Jesus Christ. We also reaffirm our commitment to the Bible as the inspired Word of God, which gives us the basis for our belief and conduct.

Finance

15. A Financial Report and Statement of Accounts for 2024 is included in this document. The Charity has a sound financial position and there are no concerns about unforeseen risks to the Charity's funds. The Charity's bank has not notified us of their intention to withdraw any of their services.
16. A 2025 Budget Statement and report is also included for adoption. The Budget continues to support a wide range of missionary outreach through donations, investment in the outreach to the adults and children of the community and maintaining the ongoing spiritual and practical support to the members of the Church.
17. There were no new works carried out during the year. The condition of the perimeter wall is being monitored and although there has been some further flaking of the brickwork, it is still the case that there are no signs of substantial cracking to indicate that it is unstable. Funds had been set aside for remedial treatment of the wall.

Looking forward - 2025

18. There are a number of encouraging and reassuring signs in the work of the church:
 - members of the fellowship actively and generously support and encourage one another
 - there are healthy numbers in all activities and developing relationships with those who attend
 - there is an interest from some in finding out more about the Christian faith
 - the truths of the Word of God and the good news of sins forgiven through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, continue to be shared faithfully
 - there are determined efforts to welcome people into church on all occasions and also to reach out with love and kindness
 - there is a willingness of members to give of themselves in service, despite advancing years.

For all of this we give thanks and praise to God and acknowledge His goodness and grace.

19. Plans are in place for the "Christianity Explored" course to be run again. Invitations are to be given to all those with whom we have contact, through the activities of the church and we pray that there will be those for whom this will be the next step in their journey towards faith.

20. Needless to say, we don't know what the future will hold; good days of health and encouragement or days of difficulty and challenge. It will likely be some combination of them all, but whatever the circumstances, our desire is that, as a fellowship we -
- continue in the faith, growing, developing, maturing
 - continue to be faithful to God's Word
 - continue to serve God, as we are able, in the various ministries of the church; serving the community and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, witnessing to the difference that faith makes
 - see an openness to hear the Word of God and a desire to allow the message of its pages to transform lives
 - see the church grow numerically; with mature believers and those who embark on their own journey of faith.
21. These issues form the basis of our on-going prayers and whilst they are our aspirations, indeed, our mission, we are acutely aware of our own limitations, in strength and resources. As the church is a small fellowship and the "work force" of volunteers is limited in number, we continue to ask God for His help, strength and equipping for all those involved in service. We also pray that we will know God's direction and blessing on all aspects of the work and that the future of the fellowship and its witness be safeguarded as other believers join the fellowship and become involved in the work.
22. As a small independent church, it is possible to feel somewhat isolated. Affiliating with other like-minded churches is under consideration as this could provide opportunities for fellowship and possible practical and spiritual help in coming years.
23. As we face the future with all its uncertainties, we do so with confidence in God, in whom our hope rests. He is our rock and our redeemer.
24. **Conclusion and Appreciation**
Lumley Evangelical Church is a caring group of Christian believers who wish to help one another grow in the faith, and to share their faith with others, particularly in our locality. The commitment and contribution of each person is what makes the fellowship function. Thank you, to everyone, for everything you do and for all you contribute to the life and work of the fellowship. What we do, we do for the glory of God.

LUMLEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1052527

Accounts

Lumley Evangelical Church

Annual Report 2022

Our Mission Statement is:

“To care for and bring people to faith in Jesus, aiding their growth into mature believers, developing their gifts for service, for the Glory of God.”

1. We seek, as a church and as individuals, to live out our faith in Jesus Christ and in so doing act as witnesses to our community of the saving grace of God. Our testimony is that, through faith in Jesus Christ, the message of sins forgiven and eternal life is open to everyone.
2. There was disruption to all activities (except Sunday Morning worship) during January and February because of a new wave of Covid infections. It was considered safe to resume face-to-face meetings from the beginning of March and during the rest of the year there was an increasing sense of normality in the way services and activities were conducted.
3. After the disruption of the previous 2 years, it was good to be back into the routine of meeting each Sunday morning, seeking to grow in the faith by
 - sharing fellowship
 - worshipping together
 - learning together from God’s Word
 - remembering the sacrifice of Jesus in the Breaking of Bread.

Yet again, the sense of fellowship, of support, help and encouragement has been very much in evidence.

We note with sadness that another much loved member of the fellowship passed away in the early part of the year.

We have maintained our focus on the persecuted church and dedicated a Sunday to provide information about the places where it is hardest to be a Christian and to pray for those persecuted for their faith.

It was good to welcome the Platform 67 representative once more and to hear first hand of the work undertaken by this organisation which the church supports financially.

4. The mid-week meetings for prayer and Bible study have been a source of help and encouragement. Of particular benefit was the “The Bible Course” produced by The Bible Society.
5. Family Services have been well supported from March when it was possible to meet face-to-face again. After the summer break there was an enthusiastic return, with some families coming regularly each month, engaging with the service and taking a real interest in the message. The Christmas Family Service was particularly well attended and a number of families came to the Carol Service.
6. Coffee Morning has continued to go well with folk enjoying being able to return to meeting around the table each fortnight from the beginning of March. There has been a consistent number of people attending with a few new faces towards the end of the year. There is an atmosphere of friendliness with good relationships established. The “Thought for the Day” has been well received and there have been meaningful conversations around the tables.

7. KidZone began the year on Zoom quite successfully, but it was good to be back in church from the beginning of March. The children engaged enthusiastically with the singing, with the teaching for each topic taught and with the activities to follow up. During the Autumn Term there was quite a significant increase in the number of children attending each week, with more children at the lower end of the age range. Having another church member joining the team has been a great help, now making a team of five. There are currently 40 children on role and good relationships are being developed with parents. As in previous years, a 'Light Party' was held in early November with a range of crafts and activities to celebrate 'Jesus the Light of the World'. Once again it was of great benefit to welcome some extra volunteer helpers for the evening. As an alternative to a Christmas party, the final KidZone session took the form of a craft evening which was greatly enjoyed by all. With extra volunteer helpers, the children were able to move round various craft stations and take home many finished items.
8. YZone met fortnightly on Zoom at the start of the year and then moved back into church from March. The regular group of 6 young people enjoyed all the activities, fun and food and engaged more readily in discussion and teaching from the Bible. Being greatly moved by the plight of the Ukrainians, they wanted to help in some way. They organised a very successful, well attended coffee morning in church, raising very nearly £600 which went to the Samaritan's Purse field hospital being set up in western Ukraine. In the Autumn, 2 of the regular 6 young people felt unable to continue to come to YZone due to increased demands of homework. Whilst we understand the reasons, there is still a sense of disappointment but we have maintained contact with them. From time to time there have been other young people who have popped into church when they have noticed the lights on. Some interesting conversations have been possible but with the very different needs of the two groups, it has been difficult to accommodate those needs in the same meeting. On several occasions YZone has taken place in a home so that the needs of the regular 4 young people could be better met.
9. Tiny Church began the New Year with a growing number of pre-school children on role, and this number continued to grow throughout the year. In April we celebrated ten years of Tiny Church and the team looked back with gratitude to God. During the summer term, Tiny Church alternated between being in the church building and the park. In July we said goodbye to the children transitioning to school and it has been encouraging to welcome most of them into KidZone, thus maintaining contact with the children and their families. From September Tiny Church was again held weekly in the church building where it continues to be enjoyed by the children and very much appreciated by parents and carers. In November, being mindful of financial pressures for families, a 'Toy Exchange' was organised. This was an evening event with refreshments, and those who attended found it to be really enjoyable as well as being of practical help. We have been asked to organise similar gatherings in the New Year, to provide opportunity for parents and carers to meet without children. Tiny Church finished the year with a 'Pop-up' Nativity, which was well attended and well received.
10. The Sew and Grow group met fortnightly throughout the year and have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to share fellowship and Bible study as well as developing skills. Many useful items have been created, for personal use and to be packed in Shoe Boxes. New members have been added to the group during the year. Bible studies have been on the life of Jesus.
11. The target of filling 100 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child was successfully achieved once again. A Saturday in November was set aside and families were invited to help pack the shoe boxes. Some of the boxes were also packed by the young people of YZone. As in

previous years, we were a “drop off point” for shoe boxes during OCC collection week which was convenient for a number of individuals and groups in the locality.

12. There was a very warm welcome from Lumley Junior School in July when the Leaver’s Assembly was taken and the “Moving On” booklets were given out. During the Autumn, it was possible to resume taking assemblies with the whole school and it is anticipated that this will continue. We were contacted by Lumley Infant School with a view to us taking regular assemblies in the New Year.
13. Although there was an uncertain start to 2022, things gradually settled down and a much more normal range of activities was possible. There were still significant levels of anxiety felt by some but over the year greater confidence has allowed a more relaxed sense in all areas of the church’s ministry. Despite the fellowship being small and there being some further shrinkage of numbers meeting for Sunday morning worship, there have been many encouragements, with healthy support for all activities and increased numbers in several groups.
14. Whilst many of the immediate concerns over the Covid pandemic receded during 2022, there were many more issues creating difficulties and causing alarm, both at home and across the globe, with war, political turbulence, an energy crisis and financial distress. In the midst of all this upheaval and uncertainty, we reaffirm our commitment to the Bible as the inspired Word of God, which gives us the basis for our belief and conduct.
15. Enquiries into the possibility of engaging a youth worker were not productive and no new lines of enquiry have, as yet, become apparent. Whereas the appointment of a Pastor (or a youth worker) would be of great benefit, the fellowship needs mature believers to help share the load and to ensure the future viability of the church.
An approach was made to a larger, local church, and there was a helpful exchange of perceived needs and perspectives. The approach was made first to the Pastor and then to a wider leadership group who were encouraging and understanding of our needs. It was not immediately obvious how they could help but it was agreed that as we continued to pray, they would pray about our circumstances and present to their congregation the situation in Lumley. Several months have passed and there has been no news of any possible overlap of their circumstances and ours. It continues to be the case that we want to know God’s will and purpose for the fellowship now and for the future.

Finance

16. A Financial Report and Statement of Accounts for 2022 is included in this document. The Charity has a sound financial position and there are no concerns about unforeseen risks to the Charity’s funds. The Charity’s bank has not notified us of their intention to withdraw any of their services.
17. A 2023 Budget Statement and report is also included for adoption. The Budget continues to support a wide range of missionary outreach through donations, investment in the outreach to the adults and children of the community and maintaining the ongoing spiritual and practical support to the members of the Church.
18. Although there was no new works carried out during the year, there were concerns about the condition of the perimeter wall bordering Scorers Lane. Bradley Hall Chartered Surveyors were engaged to inspect the wall and report on its condition. The report indicated that there is a lean to the wall but there were no signs of substantial cracking to indicate that it is unstable. It was recommended that the condition of the wall should be monitored. The survey also indicated that the wall to the north of the property is in a poor state of repair.

19. Once again, The Lumley Hospital Charity made a generous donation towards the work of the fellowship in the community, and in particular the work among the children.

Looking forward - 2023

20. The new year has begun without any restrictions or interruptions to normal services and as the work continues, we seek to be faithful to God, looking to Him, seeking His will, His direction and His blessing on all aspects of the ministry of the Church.
21. We thank God, for the strong sense of fellowship and caring in the church. Throughout another difficult year the church has pulled together to offer support, to meet needs and to encourage one another. Despite advancing years and a limited number of helpers for each activity, there is a positive attitude and a willingness to serve God. The developing relationships within the different activities of church and the openness to consider matters of faith are encouraging. The work will continue, as God gives us strength, and we will persevere with anticipation, eager to see how God unfolds His plans for the church.
22. It is hoped that it will be viable to run the “Christianity Explored” course this year and that it will prove to be the next logical step for those who have shown an interest in matters of faith. We pray that the interest in learning more of the Christian faith will be significant, and ongoing.
23. We will continue, through the various activities of the church, to reach out into the community and share the message of faith in God and sins forgiven through Jesus Christ. It is our sincere prayer that, as we serve the community and share the good news of Jesus Christ, witnessing to the difference that faith makes, there will be those who embark on their own journey of faith.
24. The pace of change in the world shows no signs of slowing and it is perhaps not surprising that there seems little hope of stability and certainty. There continue to be many challenges; to keep ourselves secure in the faith and to share that faith in a meaningful and relevant way. Whereas all around is shifting and uncertain, we bear witness to God’s steadfastness, trustworthiness and unchanging nature. Whilst there are many directions to look for help, we lift up our eyes ... knowing that our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121 v 1 & 2

25. **Conclusion and Appreciation**

Lumley Evangelical Church is a caring group of Christian believers who wish to help one another grow in the faith, and to share their faith with others, particularly in our locality. The commitment and contribution of each person is what makes the fellowship function. Thank you, to each person, for everything you do and for all you contribute to the life and work of the fellowship. What we do, we do for the glory of God.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Introduction

1. The annual Statement of Account is attached for year ended 31st December 2022.

Decisions

2. The AGM is asked to:
 - Receive the report and Statement of Accounts for 2022.
 - To note the annual missionary giving of £10,230 for 2023.

Summary

3. The outcome for the year is a surplus of £4,291 against a budgeted surplus of £4630. Events which particularly influenced the budget this year were the sale of the minibus and additional giving in respect of specific needs during the year.
4. Overall receipts were £2,135 more than budget. Payments were £2,474 more than budget.
5. As at 31 December, reserves totalled £105,745.

Details

Receipts

6. Receipts were more than budget by £2,135. Of this, offerings and donations were higher than budget by £2,213. The increase in the amount of donations during the year was mainly due to the young people's efforts in raising funds for Ukraine, as well as Church's offerings in support of this. In addition, the sale of the minibus added to the final total.
7. Interest on investments continues to be fairly low due to poor interest rates during most of 2022, however they are gradually increasing which should be evident in future years. A delay in receipt of gift aid taxation due to recent changes in HMRC procedures continues to result in a zero figure on the budget in that category. Consequently, this will come into the 2023 receipts and will, therefore, be reflected in the budget figures for 2023.

Payments

8. Payments were more than the budget by £2,474. The overspend in the Outreach, Ministry and Evangelism category is mainly due to additional giving in regard to particular needs, namely in Ukraine, an appeal from Platform 67 for solar Bibles and floods in Pakistan. Under Administration costs, a new laptop was purchased.

Decisions for 2023

9. The Church policy is to give 50% of general offerings to missions: for 2023 the sum calculated is £10,230 (rounded up).

	<u>Statement of Account for the Year to 31 December 2022</u>			
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
		2022	2022	2021
	<u>Receipts</u>	£	£	£
	Offerings	17633	17500	18468
	Donations	2830	750	1850
	Gift Aid Tax	0	4000	0
	Interest on Investments	242	880	904
	Sale of assets & refunds	4560	0	38
		25265	23130	21260
	<u>Payments</u>			
	Outreach, Ministry and	15255	12000	11884
	Premises	3356	4000	1818
	Administration	2263	2500	2805
	Transport	100	0	1033
		20974	18500	17540
	Surplus/(Deficit)	4291	4630	3720

INDEPENDENT REVIEW AND REPORT OF LUMLEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH ACCOUNTS

1st JANUARY 2022 - 31st DECEMBER 2022

FOLLOWING A REQUEST BY THE CHURCH TREASURER AND MEMBER OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL SHIRLEY OSFIELD I AGREED TO RANDOMLY CHECK THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND REPORT ON AREAS CHECKED AND ANY MATERIAL ERRORS OR FINDINGS.

I RECONCILED RANDOM FINANCIAL INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY SHIRLEY OSFIELD INCLUDING PAYING IN BOOKS, CHECK BOOKS AND RECEIPTS.

THUS BY WAY OF SPECIFIC EXAMPLE I EXAMINED RECORDS OF OFFERING RECEIPTS AND CONFIRMED THAT THEY CORRESPONDED WITH MONEY PAID INTO THE BANK.

IN THE SAME WAY I CHECKED THAT OTHER PAYMENTS MADE TO THE CHURCH OF WHATEVER NATURE WERE RECORDED AS HAVING BEEN PAID INTO THE BANK.

AS A RESULT OF MY EXAMINATION OF THE BOOKS OF ACCOUNT AND WITHIN THE BRIEF GIVEN TO ME I HAVE FOUND THAT EVERYTHING HAS BEEN ACCURATELY RECORDED.

PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED AND THESE HAVE HELPED THE EFFICIENCY OF THIS REVIEW.

HEATHER FORTH

H. Forth