

ALSAGER COMMUNITY CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1052554

Details

Other names	ALSAGER CHRISTIAN MINISTRY CENTRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1996-02-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Alsager Community Church 5 Lawton Road Alsager Stoke-On-Trent ST7 2AA
Phone	01270873859
Email	alsageroffice@gmail.com
Website	www.alsagercommunitychurch.org.uk

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; AND(C) 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: Alsager Community Church has 3 objectives. Its key charity work can be outlined according to 3 different headings, namely;To advance the christian faithTo relieve sickness and financial hardship and to advance education.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE STOKE ON TRENT
- Cheshire East

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£106,467	£97,674	-	-
2024-08-31	£92,040	£117,360	-	-
2023-08-31	£101,390	£124,805	-	-
2022-08-31	£105,877	£107,320	-	-
2021-08-31	£98,388	£82,730	-	-
2020-08-31	£89,950	£74,066	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Roper		2022-09-04
Andrew Collett		2023-01-17
Ian Tideswell		2022-09-10
Jackie Tideswell		2025-09-29
Laura Smith		2020-11-09
Michael Keenan		2022-09-04
Rev PETER HOWARD		2013-08-28

Accounts

Alsager Community Church
5 Lawton Road
Alsager
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST7 2AA



Registered Charity : 1052554

www.alsagercommunitychurch.org.uk

**Report and Accounts
For the Year ending
31st August 2025**

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Report of the Trustees and Activities Review

The Financial results are set out in the enclosed accounts on pages 17 to 18.

The Principal activities throughout the year under review were

- 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:
- 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:
- To relieve sickness and financial hardship and promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods, 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 may think fit.

CHURCH TRUSTEES

Rev Peter Howard (appointed 28th August 2013), 27 Woodside Avenue, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2DL
Contact via Church office Telephone 01270 873859

Andrew Collet (appointed 17th January 2023), 5 Elanor Road, Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 3FZ

Jackie Tideswell (appointed 29th September 2025), 57 The Bank, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3LF

Ian Tideswell (appointed 10th September 2022), 57 The Bank, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3LF

Michael Keenan (appointed 4th September 2022), 45 Sydney Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4HQ

Alan Roper (appointed 4th September 2022), 16 Kingfisher Court, Thwaite Street, Cottingham, HU16 4QA

Mrs Laura Smith (appointed 9th November 2020), 36 Alfred Moseley Place, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2ZL

Sarah Humphries (resigned 29 September 2025) also served as a Trustee during this financial period.

The Holding Trustee of the churches property (appointed 2nd August 2023) is the Official Custodian for Charities. Holding Trustees simply 'hold' the deeds to the building for us as required by law.

The Rev Howard's term continues until he ceases to be Minister of the church. The Data Protection Officer continues to be Mrs Vanessa Howard and the Trustee responsible for Safeguarding is Ian Tideswell.

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Report of the Trustees and Activities Review - continued

RESERVES AND OTHER POLICES

The trustees have recently reviewed their reserves policy on Organisational Risk to ensure that adequate funding is available to allow the church to deal with unforeseen expenditure, replacement or repair of equipment and six months building and staff running costs. Other policies in place and approved are Safeguarding, Building hire terms and conditions, Code of conduct, Complaints management, Confidentiality, Data Protection, Equality and Diversity, Health and safety, Health and safety Risk assessments, Organisational risk management, Pastoral Care, Prayer and Prayer Ministry, Financial Reserves, Staff handbook, Trustee conflict of interest and Volunteering.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ACCOUNTS

We certify that the books, vouchers and information produced to enable the independent examination of our accounts to be conducted contain a full and accurate record of our financial transactions and the activities to the best of our knowledge and belief. In view of the scale of the charities activities, the Trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council and Trustees



Michael Keenan

Dated: 1st April 2026



Pastor's and Trustees church activity review

Introduction

The material included below is taken from the Vision Sunday meeting reports of 26th January 2026 presented by the various groups.

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Leadership Team and Trustees (Pete Howard)

Our Leadership Team are responsible for vision, ministry and mission, whilst our trustees take responsibility for more practical matters and therefore, support them. Over the last year, we have, we believe, seen growing success learning what roles belong to which and in functioning in these accordingly.

The Leadership Team currently consists of Nessie Howard, Laura Smith, Peter and Janice Bird, Wendy Walker and myself and our intention in the next 12 months, is to seek God concerning how this may be further expanded in the future as God reveals the right people.

Part of the work we have been doing has been to begin to evaluate different areas of church life and ministry, as we identified at last year's Vision Sunday.

Initially we intended to evaluate a different area every month but in reality, we have instead chosen to take more time than this to ensure it is done more robustly. The following areas have been evaluated and re-purposed: Sundays including leading of meetings and worship (whilst at the same time work has been done in the area of hosting and welcome outside of the team meetings – Alan and Marie Shaw have largely led this and are taking responsibility for this area), Partnership (and on our Vision Sunday, we will be relaunching this), and prayer.

We will be continuing with this process of evaluation this year. In addition, we have completed writing a course for new people joining the church called Heart for the House, which has been tested out in one of the Life Groups.

The Trustees have grown in confidence in terms of their work and main areas of focus this year have been finance and fire safety. Many will be aware that we discovered that we were not in as financially strong position as we had previously been. This was not due to poor management but rather decreasing income and more especially increased costs. As a trustee's team we have closely monitored spending and discussed different strategies to respond to this. God has helped us, and we were able to finish the latest financial year with a surplus as the church has grown, and matters have been addressed.

We received a further boost when we held our Love Offering in October 2025 and as a congregation you generously invested over £6500. This has meant we have been able to look forward with much greater confidence, and it is our hope that this money can be used not just for general purposes but for vision.

A change in the law meant that we had to have a formal fire risk assessment completed for the building. This required us to bring in a professional to complete it at a cost, and obviously to respond to the different matters the assessment identified. This is an ongoing process which has involved some alterations in the building, and we are grateful to Rob for the work he has done. We are also grateful to Darren and his company for the donation of new lights including those with emergency lighting, etc.

The biggest commitment is that we are informed of the need for a fire alarm and we have been exploring quotes, one of which we have now accepted. We now need to move this forward.

We have struggled to recruit new trustees as different trustees have, for different reasons, stepped down but are now bringing new trustees on board. We are still seeking to recruit more and particularly some ladies so if you think you might be able to serve us in this way, please speak to me.

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Laura Smith

We have appreciated Laura's input into the life and leadership of the church both before and since we employed her first as Assistant and then as Associate Pastor on Staff. Congratulations to her on the completion of the AoG Minister's in Training programme back in May, giving her full status as an AoG Minister. We are extremely proud of her and thrilled that she will continue working with us.

Worship

I include worship in this report because while we are privileged to have lots of people involved, there is no single designated department leader although Graeme Smith is in practice completing this role more and more. He currently takes responsibility for the first Sunday of the month and also leads our monthly worship practice and this is now including dealing with some useful matters such as standardising the keys songs are played in which will help us to coordinate between band members better.

Darren and Veronica Spencer take responsibility for the last Sunday and I generally take responsibility for all other Sundays, with Graeme and Darren and Vron leading additional weeks when needed. We are supported by a good group of musicians, many of whom now play most weeks. This is our standard pattern unless it is changed for particular purpose.

The Worship continues to go from strength to strength with new members joining the team and a real sense of unity and connection between members. The monthly practices are fun, and team members are learning each other's styles and learning to play together well. As a church we can again say that we are also getting better at worship - by this I mean are engaging with God as we learn to do so, rather than just singing songs. We have experienced some beautiful times in the presence of God.

Services in Residential Care Homes

We currently regularly hold services for the residents of two of the local care homes. The first is New Milton House, where our turn for the service happens on the 1st Sunday of the month with other churches taking some of the other weeks. Eric and Miriam or Anne often take the lead with this service supported by Laura and a faithful team including, occasionally myself.

Our last report commented on frustrations this ministry as we were moved from the lounge to the 'activities room', which effectively resulted in no one coming as the staff didn't have the capacity to bring the residents up to the meeting. That the meeting happened at change-over time did not help. This was resolved now with a move in time to 1:30pm and a change in venue to the Dining Room, so that residents can choose to stay after lunch. As a result of this, while numbers can still be a bit hit and miss, they are increasing and the service therefore more established.

An exciting new development for this year is a new service in Twyford House happening fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon. The service is enthusiastically supported by a member of staff and so a good-sized group of residents attend each time. I tend to lead this service supported by Laura and a faithful team.

The Annexe

Once again, we have to report that there hasn't been much movement forward in terms of vision and repurposing of The Annexe as we had hoped this year. One reason for this was the decision to delay this so that we could move things into the space while we sorted through and reorganised cupboards and storage in the main building as part of a wider sort through.

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This has largely been completed (thank you to Anne Beard), actually without the Annexe really being used but there is some reorganising still to do.

We have used The Annexe for prayer and other activities during this time, and the Foodbank has been able to use the larger area available. This has been particularly useful during Harvest and Christmas where toys for Foodbank clients from the Alsager Community Support Toy Appeal and extras we provided were sorted out and hampers, etc prepared. We also received a call from two other Toy Appeals who then delivered all their left-over toys and the room was filled again until it was sorted out.

Funerals

This last 12 months saw the loss of three more respected and beloved members of the church family, Phil Scoggins, Olive Pitcher and Chris Collett. They were each examples of unassuming but hardworking servants who contributed to the life of the church in valuable and practical ways over the years and we will continue to miss them. We honour them in this report. The funerals of Phil and Olive were both held here at ACC, Chris' funeral is still to take place at time of writing but will also be at ACC.

Other activities and matters arising

There are separate reports included below for some of these activities and matters.

- Continued with our Life Groups, weekly prayer meetings and monthly Reflective Prayer sessions and in addition, prayer days, weeks of prayer and fasting and new for this year, Encounter evenings
- Continued to run our coffee shop 4 days a week and to run our monthly Play Church.
- We ran a successful Alpha in the Autumn term and Held regular Men's Breakfast events
- Continued with our monthly after-church fellowship lunches on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Continued with our involvement in local schools with assemblies and occasional lessons.
- Along with the other Alsager Churches, we distributed Hot Cross Buns at Easter on Holy Saturday.
- Restarted Churches Together events such as the Easter Sunrise service and Unted service between Christmas and New Year.
- We have continued to hire our premises to local organisations: U3A, Slimming World, Alsager Spinners and Weavers, and others.
- We again held a stall at the Alsager Carnival distributing hundreds of poppet toys to the children and advertising the presence of the church.
- We have had guest speakers: Anthony Bhunu and Richard Brunton
- We have continued to work with Christchurch and Wesley Place Methodist Church to run a youth group on Thursday evenings and took young people to the 3generate youth event. We also took some young people to the AoG Awaken Youth Conference Day.
- We moved to a supporting role at Sandbach Community Church, which became part of Middlewich Community Church which has renamed itself Mid-Cheshire Community Church
- Held a term-time Summer Kids Activity Day and partnered with Christchurch and Wesley Place to hold 2 summer fun days in Wood Park.

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Church Manager's Report (Nessie Howard)

The church building continues to be a busy place whilst trying to remain a welcoming and God filled space.

We employ Sue who works as our cleaner for 12 hours a week and Rob and David have continued to provide a level of maintenance and care for our building as well as completing our 6 monthly H&S reviews.

We have 4 groups who regularly use and hire the building, as well as some that use us occasionally. We would like to increase this back to previous levels as a revenue stream.

This year has seen us having a fire risk assessment which was legally required from new legislation. We are working through the points raised which have included some work needing doing in the building and installing a fire alarm, quotes for which are being worked through.

Kids church/Ablaze on Sundays (Nessie Howard)

We currently have 3 children and 5 young people who regularly attend church. It is a wide age range, but the children care for and support each other well.

Once a month we have Ablaze on Sundays where we connect with the young people from Christchurch, alternating between meeting at our venue or at theirs. On that Sunday Kids church has a different feel as we make the session bespoke for a younger age which the children have enjoyed as much as the youth have.

On Sundays we use the TV for worship songs, have access to craft activities, have bible studies, play games, share and care for each other, provide space for faith to deepen and meet with God. All whilst having fun. Our curriculum has continued to be adaptable and bespoke this past year as we have responded to a wide age range and a smaller number of children. We are currently following the church's curriculum in the main meetings and continue to design our own sessions.

We have a great team of teachers who love both God and our youngsters. They lead with compassion, laughter and skill.

Pastoral Team (Pete Bird/John Hammond/Anita Wilson/Laura Smith)

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd", (John 10:11). He is the Good Shepherd that loves us completely and unconditionally. He also said, "this is my commandment, that you love one another, in the same way I have loved you" (John 15:12).

At Alsager Community Church, we want to be those who show love, care and friendship to everyone that comes through the door of the church. The global church is in fact, (although perhaps not in name), the church of the Good Shepherd.

We are blessed to have a Pastoral Team that work to undergird and support Pete and Nessie in the work that they do. The team help with home visitation, hospital visitation, pastoral telephone calls, and generally are available for anyone that needs prayer or just a chat.

The Meeting Place Coffee Shop (Nessie Howard)

This continues to be open Tuesday to Friday mornings between 9am and 1.30pm. Some days are quieter than others, but this has given the opportunity to get to know people better. 'The Meeting Place' is a place we hope that people will meet and connect with each other and perhaps more significantly, where they might meet

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Jesus. There have been opportunities for prayer and conversation, and we pray this might happen more and more.

We have a 'help yourself' bookshelf with second hand/donated Christian books which has continued to be popular. We also have two people who produce cards for us to sell as a way of fundraising.

We are so grateful for the volunteers who serve each week, with again, new volunteers coming on board this year, and are also grateful for the kind volunteers who bake/bring us cakes. They are always so popular and add something special to our menu. We are desperately in need of more cake volunteers and if you can help us with this, please speak to me. We would also appreciate help with washing tea towels, shopping and even having you as customers!

As with last year the car parking charges have affected the footfall coming into the Meeting Place, although Asda providing 2 hours free parking has helped. we have again produced some vouchers for Little Treasures parents to use in an attempt to attract new customers. Our play area is a brilliant, yet under used attraction. We introduced a card payment system last year which has been helpful, although we have experienced technical difficulties with it at times and it has not been used as much as we thought it would be.

Finally, we are really pleased to report that we continue to hold a level 5 in our food safety inspection. This is something we have consistently done but it is always a source of celebration for us to feel we are doing things well and this is recognised. Here are some quotes from some of our customers...

'Family atmosphere!'

'The highlight of the week!'

'A place of friendship.'

'An important part of our weekly routine...come from Newcastle every week because it is an Oasis and as place of fun!'

What next? It would be fantastic to have a manager of the coffee shop again- someone who could lead it forward! We always try to have a church rep on each shift too.

Foodbank (Nessie Howard)

We were able to help feed and support 150 referred households during 2025 consisting of:-

213 Individual Adults and 164 Individual Children in 2025. We also gave out 55 Christmas Hampers to the clients we had, in the lead up to Christmas, having nominated 48 Households for children's toys and issuing Toys provided by Alsager Community Toy Appeal to 111 Children.

Our data shows that so far this year, we have been asked to support a mixture of households including those with 1 or 2 people, as well as families. Households referred to us in 2025 have been with us for longer periods of time than in previous years, as their situations are seeming to take longer to reach a conclusion .

We continue to be blessed with many donations – both monetary and goods. These donations come from individuals, churches, schools, charities and businesses in our area. One of our biggest challenges was physically stocking the shelves but we have seen many groups not only raising funds for us but also actively shopping on our behalf. We continue to be very grateful for the community support we receive.

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We continue to work in partnership with other organisations, referring people on to other organisations if appropriate. We still operate on a referral basis which means people receive help from ourselves as a result of them being referred to us. This can be from schools, medical or welfare teams, housing associations and churches to name but a few.

We continue to give fresh fruit and/or vegetables, bread, cheese and eggs when we can. We are enrolled with Neighbourly, so Sainsburys give us their surplus bakery most days and occasionally fresh fruit and veg. We have also enrolled with Olio, a scheme used to reduce waste from shops which has helped on an ad hoc basis with bread, potatoes and vegetables.

We currently have 4 Coordinators, all taking a week at a time to run the foodbank and we have 13 volunteers helping to pack and sort stock on a rota basis. We have continued to have 6 people who will deliver, a few folks we can call on to help sort stock and others who have offered to shop for us.

We have also continued to give out vouchers for drinks and food at the Meeting Place and for the Big Breakfast at Christchurch. We also give vouchers to those with preschool children so that they can come along to our Little Treasures on Thursdays.

Recently, a member of the public asked us how we were getting on, and we explained that we were busy, and she asked how we carried on. We responded that it was the kindness of the people of Alsager that kept us going.

We are so fortunate to live in such a good community and to be part of a great Church. We would like to say a 'BIG THANK YOU' to all who regularly donate, without whom we really couldn't do what we do.

Please continue to remember that we are there for those in need and contact us through our referral system if help is needed.

Prayer (Wendy Walker)

Past/present : Over the past 12 months we have had an average of 10 attending Thursday evening intercessory prayer, which is again slightly down from last year.

Prayer and Fasting. We have had 4 periods of 7-2-7 prayer and fasting weeks. Attendance dwindled towards the end of the year.

Prayer days : In April we had a prayer day focussing on God raising a prayer army. 22 people attended [not including Anne and myself].

In November we had a second prayer day, focussing on 2 Chronicles 7:14 and challenging people to seek His face. 20 people attended [not including Anne and myself].

Other prayer events.

15th February – 'How to be Un-successful' course. A 24/7 Prayer International course. Attendance was quite low. If we run this course again it will be spread over 2 or 3 sessions rather than in one day.

15th March – the first Ladies Prayer breakfast. We held 2 prayer breakfasts at the beginning of the year but attendance wasn't great, although we did have a blessed time together. I have decided to shelve this for the time being.

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Looking forward.

Pre-service prayer on Sunday's will start to be held in the church hall from 10:00 til around 10:20, alongside the worship team.

'Be Connected' prayer will start on 8th January 2026. A daytime opportunity for people to find out about different ways to pray. Using mostly resources from 24/7 Prayer International.

Pray 500 will start on 1st February and run until 30th November 2026. Seeing encourage people to pray for our church 500 hours during these 10 months. That is only around 5-10 minutes per day.

Anne and I intend to continue going away on retreats, roughly quarterly, to seek the Lord's guidance for us as individuals, and for ACC. Our next retreat is 9th to 12th February 2026.

I am always listening out for new ways to encourage our folks to engage in corporate intercessory prayer. The boiler house of the church needs to be continually stoked, so that we keep moving forward.

Wendy Walkers's Life Group

Over the last 12 months our numbers have again fluctuated. We are now 16 members although it is rare that we are all there at the same time. We are a diverse group who love to study The Word together. We are very much a family and our Whatsapp group is a place for us all to share and reach out.

During 2025 we completed a study on Nehemiah, explored the persecuted church and completed a video series on the letters to the seven churches in Revelation.

AND we still have cake on birthdays – most of which are baked by Rob and are yummy!!

Leadership of a small group of believers is an incredibly humbling and privileged thing, the responsibility of which I do not carry lightly.

The following was on previous years' reports and still very much stands:

At the beginning of my 'tenure' as leader of this group, I declared Ephesians 2:22 over us all. '.....in Him you too [as a group] are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit'. I also gave a promise, to God, to myself and to the group. "to be a leader who doesn't seek to 'climb the ladder', but who digs deeper; to be a servant to all". The declaration and promise are still and always will be at the very heart of the wonderful group of brothers and sisters I have the awesome job of leading. We will encourage one another; grow together; and praise our Heavenly Father for all His blessings.

Anne Beard's Daytime Life Group

Our Friday Life group meets in ACC every two weeks 10.30am -12md or as the Holy Spirit takes us. Six to twelve people gather in fellowship, prayer and worship as we study God's word. Here are personal reflections on the last year.....

"Two things stand out for me – one is that I feel our group has become closer this year. It's a blessing to meet together and share good and not so good times together, as families do. Secondly, I'm always amazed at the way the Holy Spirit leads you (and us). We've experienced it several times now and it's becoming the "norm" Enjoyed delving into Ezra hearing everyone's thoughts and input. Looking forward to what will transpire during 2026."

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“Enjoyed gaining insight and knowledge and very much enjoyed the life group sessions. I am grateful to the group who have made me feel at home. I love the way the Holy Spirit is centre stage and it’s helping me to be more conscious of spiritual guidance day to day.”

“I feel it is inspiring and feel it’s wonderful to be able to attend.”

“I look on our group to be very important to our spiritual growth and guidance. Not forgetting our loving God, who by his Spirit has inspired us...”

“Our group is a little oasis.....as the year has passed there has been a shift in our group....a strong feeling and recognition of us as a family. Love, care, understanding and support at all times. The Holy Spirit works through each of us to lovingly be there for one another, the scripture we read and reflect on, the songs and lessons we share all carry a deeper meaning. A word or prayer shared constantly shows the Lord is right with us. Our life group is a spiritual oasis.”

“I don’t usually have much to say, but can I add to the group’s thoughts please. When joining a new group, I am often not able to get comfortable and take part. In this case, I have had such a feeling of understanding, welcome and warmth, I have been overwhelmed at times, I could not have a better church family which shows such love and thoughtfulness. God bless you all, and so many thanks.”

Thank you everyone for sharing your thoughts.

We look forward to studying Nehemiah.....Restore, Renew and Rebuild.

Thank you, Father God, for your everlasting faithful love which endures forever.

Graeme Smith’s Life Group

L is for Learning. We usually follow a video-based course which involves listening to teaching and then discussing the subject. The courses we have used this year include How to be unsuccessful by Pete Portal of 24/7 prayer, Anxious for nothing by Max Lucado, and currently the Bible Course by the Bible Society. It is great to get new insights from the videos and each other, and to be challenged about how to live out what we are learning.

I is for intercession. We always have a time of sharing and prayer for one-another, our families and friends, and the church. We also use a WhatsApp group to share urgent prayer requests. We keep a record of our prayers, and over the last year have seen some wonderful answers.

F is for fellowship. We don’t just learn and pray. We enjoy light-hearted quizzes with variable relevance to what we are discussing! We had a Christmas meal together, with some festive games. And we share what is going on in our lives, and encourage each other.

E is for everyone welcome. We currently have 10 members and meet at Tony and Laura’s house. There is room for a few more, so if anyone is interested you would be welcome to join us. Do come and have a chat with me.

Mike Keenan’s Life Group (Crewe)

We meet in Crewe on alternate Wed Mornings commencing 10.30 am

The emphasis of the group is fellowship, sharing, testimony and prayer so as to encourage one another and build up our faith without being too formal. Also, if a member of the group has a problem or burden, we are free to share and pray about it. We also spend time in worship with my keyboard as accompaniment. We often

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each bring a passage of Scripture to share and discuss with the group which always works well as we can all contribute.

Over the last year we have continued to look at the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount and also the parables of Jesus from the Gospels. We have looked at some videos produced by Gary Kent from his Incredible Journeys series which are true life stories. Also looked at videos of past revivals such as John Wesley in the 18th century and the ministries of Moody and Sankey and Billy Graham all of which are very inspiring and challenging.

Alpha (Janice Bird)

Alpha 2025 was advertised through social media/website. Two thousand five hundred leaflets were posted through doors, however there was no response from the community from this method of publicity. We also put posters in various places throughout Alsager, along with the PVC banner at the back of the church, and an A board outside the foyer.

We initially gathered twenty names of people who were interested, and at the start of Alpha, twelve guests had signed up. Two from the website, one from the A board poster and the rest were from personal invitation. On the first evening however we had three apologies, and two no shows. One person joined part way through the course.

The course itself went well, even though some guests were infrequent attendees. Every session began with a meal, or food of some kind. This was precious time spent, enabling us all to get to know each other, which helped to break down any barriers. The team really worked together well. There was a strong sense of unity and purpose as we worked together to make the guests feel welcome, sharing the gospel and practicing hospitality.

Each session was covered with prayer, led by Wendy. Once again, we felt the power of this throughout, however, as a team, we recognise how the enemy looks for opportunity to close the gospel down to those seeking.

When we measure success of an outreach programme, we should consider that God does so much more in people's hearts than we can ever see, and the gospel seed is good seed. God's word never comes back empty, but always returns producing whatever He set it forth to do. It is a joy to be able to meet the community in this way and share the wonderful message of the gospel. We count it a privilege.

Little Treasures Playgroup (Gina Poole)

Runs every Thursday 0930 until 1130. Term time only.

No need to book in advance – come along and have fun. Only £1.50 per session.

Little Treasures is directed at all children from 0 years up to school age.

Each week we have an activity for any child who enjoys doing crafts (Mum's and Nan's also).

The first half of the morning is free play for all the children, while Parents and Grandparents enjoy a chat and a coffee or tea. At approximately 1030, all children and their carers, are invited to go to the cafe, where the children enjoy listening to a story, while enjoying toast and juice. After which, when returning to the playroom, all the toys have been put away, however, ride on toys as well as a soft play area is still available.

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The parents and grandparents have often shared how much they love Little Treasures, it is a treat that they would not miss.' It is lovely to see that all parents and grandparents feel so welcome.

We want Little treasures to be a place where friendships between adults, as well as children grow, and we are aware that individuals do meet up regularly outside of the group, attending other play groups, having lunch and arranging play dates.

We would love to see greater connection with the parents and grandparents who come along and would love, for example, to encourage visits to the coffee shop. The availability of the card machine has made a difference and also providing our parents with vouchers will hopefully play a part in making this happen.

Ablaze Youth-Group (Pete Howard)

We work with Christchurch and Wesley Place, two other churches in the town to run a youth group. The group meets at Wesley Place and is very much one youth group among 3 churches. This last 11 months we have seen the group continue with a programme which includes games, interaction, Biblical teaching and is interspersed with social activities. The programme also regular includes eating meals together and we ran the new Youth Alpha in the last year.

We have had the opportunity to take the young people away. A large group went to 3generate, which is the Methodist Youth and Children's Congress. This last year's event was truly excellent, being very God focused with high quality worship sessions. Our youth particularly enjoyed the band SAINTS, who some had encountered before and the concert they put on was excellent with the gospel powerfully presented.

An equally great event we were able to take a car full to was AWAKEN, the AoG Day Youth Conference. Those that went loved it and I was especially impressed with how it was led by local youth leaders. We sadly can't go this year as the date clashes with another weekend we are taking the young people to.

We are encouraged that some of these young people continue to attend ACC on Sundays and others attend other churches.

Men's Breakfast Group (Steve Noble)

The ACC men's group has now been meeting for about 18 months, meeting for breakfast every six weeks. We see an attendance of around twelve people, however, there are approximately 20 who attend regularly. We make time for the guys to chat with each other as this is an important focus. There is then a short time with a reading and short reflection.

One of the aims of the group when it was first set up was to also have social evenings and work towards events where people could invite friends to join us. These additional times have been slow to start; however, we recently enjoyed a meal out together on a Saturday evening.

The aims over the next year are to increase the frequency and variety of social events but also to look for a new leader. I will be stepping down in September when I'll be moving away from the area so will be looking for someone else to take on organising men's work at ACC, in the same format or in whatever way they feel led.

Play Church (Pete Howard)

As reported last year, we rebranded and revamped what had been started as Café Church to create Play Church. This event contained many of the same attributes as Café Church such as craft, worship, teaching and food, but increased the play element and made it less formally structured. We began to have activities in both halls

Alsager Community Church

and centred our teaching and worship time around the stage which made it more manageable and focused. This year however, we have led teaching in the coffee shop due to restrictions swapping computers in the sound room.

Attendance has fluctuated quite a lot, with some weeks full and other weeks with quite low attendance. All who come express enthusiasm about how good it is but often don't seem to come again, which is disappointing. What has been really nice, is to see some of our former CRASH TIME families come along. Crash Time was a monthly event run for families which gave a particular welcome to those who has children with special needs. The kids are older now of course but still fit in very well.

Missions (Pete Howard)

We continue to support 4 'missions': Hope Uganda, Living Hope Ministries, Andrew Cannon – Gospel Grenades and UCB. Mission's giving is due to be evaluated this year.

Maintenance (Rob Walker)

Throughout the year maintenance is an ongoing activity, i.e. toilets get blocked or stop working, taps leak, things get damaged, light bulbs, plugs break etc; These things usually get fixed in the background.

Last year we have had children climbing on the church roof, and the annex roof, a few times. Climbing up via the iron gates at the back and side of the buildings. I have painted all the areas where they have climbed up with black anti climb paint to try and dissuade them. Also I have put up warning signs to warn against climbing, to cover ourselves legally.

The hedges at the back and side of the building have been cut several times during the year. Weeding along the side of the building, clearing gutters of leaves etc.

During the summer break, I repaired the gable end window frames of the church hall. Removing loose paint, loose putty, and loose / rotted wood. Filling with wood filler and putty where necessary. The gable end windows were then under coated and painted twice with weather proofing paint. At the same time, I painted under the eaves along the side and front of the church.

During the summer break, a group of volunteers from the church helped out, by painting ie, walls, skirting and radiators where needed inside the building. This work was organised by Sarah Humphries.

We have also had the building checked for fire safety requirements and are in the process of updating where needed. The door to the loft in the coffee shop has been renewed with a new door and protected with fire retardant paint, Also door between the coffee shop and foyer has had new fire seal fitted along the edges along with a new closer. We will be fitting new safety lighting and fire exit lighting soon.

Sandbach Community Church (Pete Howard)

We launched SCC on 17th March 2024, in equal partnership with Middlewich Community Church and this was the only Church Plant in AoG, which was a partnership initiative of its kind.

Since the launch we have met consistently at 4pm every Sunday including over the Christmas periods. We have sought to keep things simple, with a single musician or use of 'ising' when this is not possible. Preaching is run on a rota (as with both ACC and MCC) and followed by refreshments.

In our last report, the vision for year 2 was identified as probably being to seek to see...

- Establish local leadership including possibly a primary leader (Pastor)

Alsager Community Church

- See some families come into the church (as well as others)
- See our first salvations
- Begin a regular outreach project of some kind and possibly run an Alpha.
- ACC take responsibility for managing SCC's finances

However, since that time the basis upon which Sandbach (SCC) operates has changed completely. Following some complications with Church Annual registrations, AoG expressed a desire for us to place SCC under one of the two churches as a campus. This may have been intended to be informally, but it was felt that this wasn't something that could be done without being official.

In addition, it was felt by some, that this was the right course of action and so the decision was taken to change the basis of the partnership. As each church considered whether they should be the ones to take on this responsibility, it was decided that Middlewich was in the strongest position to do this and so from October this year MCC have taken full responsibility for the church plant and Alsager has moved into a supporting, non-decision-making role.

MCC has rebranded as Mid-Cheshire Community Church with Middlewich and Sandbach locations. Some from Alsager still attend and may have some leading, preaching or other roles.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council and Trustees

Laura Smith

Laura Smith, Associate Pastor

Dated: 1st April 2026

Alsager Community Church

Independent Examiners Report on the Receipts and Payment Accounts

To the Trustees/Members of Alsager Community Church, Registered Charity 1052554, on the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2025, set out on pages 17 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (as per Act Accounts and Audit Order 2015 SI 2015 No.321) so that an independent examination is needed and the accounts are to be prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act; and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the independent examiner's report

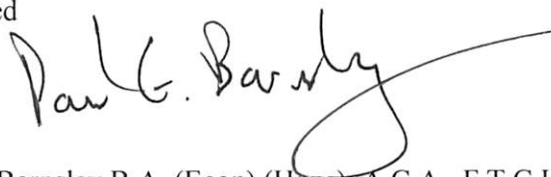
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities Financial Reporting Standard FRS102 have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date 1st April 2026

Paul Barnsley B.A. (Econ) (Hons), A.C.A., F.T.C.L. (Chartered Accountant)

Heart Notes Ministries, 125 Crossefield Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Cheshire, SK8 5PF

Telephone 0161 485 3088 paul@heartnotes.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1052554

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Alsager Community Church

<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2025</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>
Church Income						
Offerings		18,405.42	0.00	7,896.72	26,302.14	20,615.04
Gift Aid Offerings		30,198.00	0.00	450.00	30,648.00	24,037.00
Tax Recovered Gift Aid		9,543.19	0.00	202.80	9,745.99	7,963.47
Accounts Interest		416.51	0.00	0.00	416.51	378.59
Other Income	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,359.23
Room Hire	2	11,703.50	0.00	0.00	11,703.50	11,112.00
Subtotal Church Income		70,266.62	0.00	8,549.52	78,816.14	66,465.33
Coffee Shop						
Total Takings		13,290.24	0.00	0.00	13,290.24	9,866.26
Cost of Goods for resale		(3,589.48)	0.00	0.00	(3,589.48)	(3,938.65)
General Expenses		(257.72)	0.00	0.00	(257.72)	(200.25)
Subtotal Coffee Shop Net		9,443.04	0.00	0.00	9,443.04	5,727.36
NET INCOME church and coffee shop		79,709.66	0.00	8,549.52	88,259.18	72,192.69
Church Expenditure						
Pastors Salary		(35,772.48)	0.00	0.00	(35,772.48)	(35,439.08)
Church Ministry Costs	3	(15,862.09)	0.00	(1,957.42)	(17,819.51)	(17,521.51)
Missions	4	(3,583.22)	0.00	0.00	(3,583.22)	(4,228.22)
Building Running Costs	5	(20,098.61)	0.00	(1,875.00)	(21,973.61)	(19,567.62)
Building Capital Costs/Refurbishment	6	(1,224.99)	0.00	(491.00)	(1,715.99)	(1,584.99)
Subtotal church expenditure		(76,541.39)	0.00	(4,323.42)	(80,864.81)	(78,341.42)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for church		3,168.27	0.00	4,226.10	7,394.37	(6,148.73)
ALSAGER FOODBANK						
Foodbank Income						
Donations - regular		0.00	0.00	12,041.61	12,041.61	12,845.49
Donations - irregular		0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	1,460.75
Donations - gift aid foodbank		0.00	0.00	1,635.00	1,635.00	1,135.00
Tax reclaim Gift aid claim foodbank		0.00	0.00	384.22	384.22	266.73
Subtotal Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	14,360.83	14,360.83	15,707.97
Foodbank Expenses						
Food Purchases		0.00	0.00	(12,268.35)	(12,268.35)	(34,415.26)
ACSC Rent		0.00	0.00	(600.00)	(600.00)	(600.00)
Mobile Phone Costs		0.00	0.00	(93.56)	(93.56)	(97.59)
Subtotal Foodbank Expenses		0.00	0.00	(12,961.91)	(12,961.91)	(35,112.85)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Foodbank		0.00	0.00	1,398.92	1,398.92	(19,404.88)
ALSAGER SUPPORT CENTRE						
Receipt/(Repayment) of funds ex ASC		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	233.12
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Support Centre		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	233.12
GRAND TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		3,168.27	0.00	5,625.02	8,793.29	(25,320.49)

Alsager Community Church

	Note	Unrestricted 2025	Designated 2025	Restricted 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
STATEMENT OF INCOME						
Sunday Offering & Donations		18,405.42	0.00	7,896.72	26,302.14	20,615.04
Gift Aid Offerings		30,198.00	0.00	450.00	30,648.00	24,037.00
Tax Recovered - Gift Aids		9,543.19	0.00	202.80	9,745.99	7,963.47
Accounts Interest		416.51	0.00	0.00	416.51	378.59
Room Hire		11,703.50	0.00	0.00	11,703.50	11,112.00
Other Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	359.23
Coffee Shop Takings		13,290.24	0.00	0.00	13,290.24	9,866.26
Alsager Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	14,360.83	14,360.83	15,707.97
Grants		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		83,556.86	0.00	22,910.35	106,467.21	92,039.56
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE						
Pastor/Administrators Salary Costs		(35,772.48)	0.00	0.00	(35,772.48)	(35,439.08)
Church Ministry Costs		(15,862.09)	0.00	(1,957.42)	(17,819.51)	(17,521.51)
Missions		(3,583.22)	0.00	0.00	(3,583.22)	(4,228.22)
Building Running Costs		(20,098.61)	0.00	(1,875.00)	(21,973.61)	(19,567.62)
Building Capital/Refrubishment Costs		(1,224.99)	0.00	(491.00)	(1,715.99)	(1,584.99)
Alsager Support Centre Costs						
Running cost		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	233.12
Coffee Shop						
Cost of Goods for resale		(3,589.48)	0.00	0.00	(3,589.48)	(3,938.65)
General Expenses		(257.72)	0.00	0.00	(257.72)	(200.25)
Alsager Foodbank Expenditure		0.00	0.00	(12,961.91)	(12,961.91)	(35,112.85)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(80,388.59)	0.00	(17,285.33)	(97,673.92)	(117,360.05)
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for year		3,168.27	0.00	5,625.02	8,793.29	(25,320.49)
Opening Funds		18,994.22	36,000.00	22,149.90	77,144.12	102,464.61
Transfers in/(out)		101.00	0.00	(101.00)	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CLOSING NET FUNDS	7	22,263.49	36,000.00	27,673.92	85,937.41	77,144.12
Breakdown of Fund balances						
General Reserves		22,263.49	0.00	0.00	22,263.49	18,994.22
Stardust		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	491.00
Sandbach church		0.00	0.00	5,399.13	5,399.13	1,147.12
Unforseen cost Reserve		0.00	36,000.00	0.00	36,000.00	36,000.00
CRASH time		0.00	0.00	2,310.66	2,310.66	2,396.57
Alsager Food Bank		0.00	0.00	19,964.13	19,964.13	18,115.21
Total Fund balances		22,263.49	36,000.00	27,673.92	85,937.41	77,144.12
REPRESENTED BY						
Cash in Hand					436.85	368.90
Current Account					50,610.38	42,301.55
Savings Account					34,890.18	34,473.67
Total Net Assets					85,937.41	77,144.12

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Unrestricted 2025	Designated 2025	Restricted 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
1. Other Income					
Contributions from Middlewich church for Sandbach	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	209.23
Grants - Cooker ex Sainsburys	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Sundry Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Subtotal Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,359.23
2. Room Hire					
Slimming World	8,310.00	0.00	0.00	8,310.00	6,510.00
U3A	1,200.50	0.00	0.00	1,200.50	1,862.00
Rhythm Time	1,128.00	0.00	0.00	1,128.00	2,269.00
Sundry Hires	135.00	0.00	0.00	135.00	75.00
Guild of Spinners & Weavers	690.00	0.00	0.00	690.00	156.00
Cheshire East Polling Station	240.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	240.00
Subtotal Room Hire	11,703.50	0.00	0.00	11,703.50	11,112.00
3. Church Ministry Costs					
Ministry Gifts - Visiting Speakers	20.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	1,400.00
Ministry Expenses	2,211.92	0.00	0.00	2,211.92	948.22
Ministry Resources	136.92	0.00	0.00	136.92	273.58
Administration Salaries	12,813.94	0.00	0.00	12,813.94	12,812.48
Communion Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.67
Copyright Licence	577.86	0.00	0.00	577.86	552.72
Childrens Church	38.97	0.00	0.00	38.97	52.20
Child Protection Advisory Services	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	235.48
Website Costs	148.75	0.00	0.00	148.75	22.00
Christmas costs	24.49	0.00	0.00	24.49	0.00
Alpha	65.95	0.00	0.00	65.95	160.28
CRASH Time (Messy Church)	0.00	0.00	85.91	85.91	0.00
Flowers, Gifts and Presentations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Publicity and Advertising	22.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	224.30
Data Protection Registration	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	35.00
Sandbach Community Church expenses	(383.71)	0.00	1,871.51	1,487.80	763.58
Subtotal Church Ministry Costs	15,862.09	0.00	1,957.42	17,819.51	17,521.51
4. Missions					
Hope Uganda (HDCC)	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
AOG Annual Offering	1,200.72	0.00	0.00	1,200.72	1,200.72
Living Hope Ministries	812.50	0.00	0.00	812.50	1,287.50
Andy Cannon	600.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	750.00
UCB	220.00	0.00	0.00	220.00	240.00
Subtotal Missions	3,583.22	0.00	0.00	3,583.22	4,228.22

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

	Unrestricted 2025	Designated 2025	Restricted 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
5. Building Running Costs					
Caretaker/Cleaners Pay	7,096.55	0.00	0.00	7,096.55	6,770.40
Cleaning Materials and Window Cleaning	58.94	0.00	0.00	58.94	0.00
Office Telephone and Broadband	788.57	0.00	0.00	788.57	623.62
Computer Software and consumables	302.99	0.00	0.00	302.99	408.74
Office Printer/Copier	965.60	0.00	0.00	965.60	515.10
Postage and Stationery	52.49	0.00	0.00	52.49	17.36
Insurance	1,983.09	0.00	0.00	1,983.09	0.00
Gas	1,998.45	0.00	0.00	1,998.45	1,454.20
Electricity	2,999.31	0.00	0.00	2,999.31	3,215.64
Water Rates	767.35	0.00	0.00	767.35	721.97
SITA Wheely Bin Charges	1,424.21	0.00	0.00	1,424.21	1,221.45
Accountant (Independent examination)	702.00	0.00	0.00	702.00	1,450.00
Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,181.90
Sundry Admin expenses	30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	9.95
General Maintenance	814.06	0.00	0.00	814.06	964.49
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	360.00	0.00	0.00	360.00	75.60
Repairs to Heating System	355.00	0.00	0.00	355.00	0.00
Gas Boiler Servicing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	115.00
Legal and Professional fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,042.20
Hire of Premises for Sandbach Church	0.00	0.00	1,875.00	1,875.00	380.00
Recovery of heating costs from Foodbank	(600.00)	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	(600.00)
Subtotal Building Running Costs	20,098.61	0.00	1,875.00	21,973.61	19,567.62

6. Building Capital Costs/Refurbishment

Café Refurbishment	1,224.99	0.00	491.00	1,715.99	1,584.99
Subtotal Building Capital Costs/Refurbishment	1,224.99	0.00	491.00	1,715.99	1,584.99

7. Fund Movements

	Balance C/fwd	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers
General	22,263.49	18,994.22	83,556.86	(80,388.59)	101.00
Subtotal Unrestricted funds	22,263.49	18,994.22	83,556.86	(80,388.59)	101.00
Unforeseen cost Reserve	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Designated funds	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sandbach Church	5,399.13	1,147.12	8,099.52	(3,746.51)	(101.00)
CRASH time (Messy Church)	2,310.66	2,396.57	0.00	(85.91)	0.00
Alsager Food Bank	19,964.13	18,115.21	14,810.83	(12,961.91)	0.00
Subtotal Restricted funds	27,673.92	22,149.90	22,910.35	(17,285.33)	(101.00)
Grand Total All Funds	85,937.41	77,144.12	106,467.21	(97,673.92)	0.00

Accounts

Alsager Community Church
5 Lawton Road
Alsager
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST7 2AA



Registered Charity : 1052554

www.alsagercommunitychurch.org.uk

**Report and Accounts
For the Year ending
31st August 2024**

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Alsager Community Church

Report of the Trustees and Activities Review

The Financial results are set out in the enclosed accounts on pages 17 to 18.

The Principal activities throughout the year under review were

- 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:
- 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:
- To relieve sickness and financial hardship and promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods, 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 may think fit.

CHURCH TRUSTEES

Rev Peter Howard (appointed 28th August 2013), 27 Woodside Avenue, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2DL
Contact via Church office Telephone 01270 873859

+ **Andrew Collet (appointed 17th January 2023)**, 5 Elanor Road, Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 3FZ

+ **Sarah Humpries (appointed 17th October 2022)**, 28 Shady Grove, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2NQ

+ **Ian Tideswell (appointed 10th September 2022)**, 57 The Bank, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3LF

+ **Michael Keenan (appointed 4th September 2022)**, 45 Sydney Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4HQ

+ **Alan Roper (appointed 4th September 2022)**, 16 Kingfisher Court, Thwaite Street, Cottingham, HU16 4QA

+ **Mrs Laura Smith (appointed 9th November 2020)**, 36 Alfred Moseley Place, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2ZL

Wendy Walker (resigned 15 January 2024), **Ben Cade-Hughes (resigned 16th January 2024)**, **Vicki Dent (resigned 12th March 2024)**, **Chris Preston (removed 20th May 2024)**, and **Lynn Prestley (resigned 12th June 2024)** also served as Trustees during this financial period.

The Holding Trustee of the churches property from 2nd August 2023 is the Official Custodian for Charities.

Due to large changes in trustees, the elders marked + serve will initially serve one year in office which may be extended to 2 years to facilitate continuity, and subsequently normally 2 years. The Rev Howard's term continues until he ceases to be Minister of the church. The Data Protection Officer continues to be Mrs Vanessa Howard.

Alsager Community Church

Report of the Trustees and Activities Review - continued

RESERVES AND OTHER POLICES

The trustees have recently reviewed their reserves policy on Organisational Risk to ensure that adequate funding is available to allow the church to deal with unforeseen expenditure, replacement or repair of equipment and six months building and staff running costs. Other policies in place and approved are Building Hire Terms, Complaints Management, Data Protection Equality and Diversity, Pastoral Care, Prayer, Staff Handbook, Safeguarding, and 3 Trustee conflict of interest.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ACCOUNTS

We certify that the books, vouchers and information produced to enable the independent examination of our accounts to be conducted contain a full and accurate record of our financial transactions and the activities to the best of our knowledge and belief. In view of the scale of the charities activities, the Trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council and Trustees



Michael Keenan

Dated: 14th April 2025



Pastor's and Trustees church activity review

Introduction

The material included below is taken from the Vision Sunday meeting reports presented by the various groups.

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Leadership Team and Trustees (Pete Howard)

In the second half of 2022, circumstances led us to make the decision to separate the Leadership Team and Trustees, which we up until that point one group, into two: a Leadership team and a Trustees Team. The former would be responsible for vision, ministry and mission, whilst the latter would take responsibility for more practical matters and therefore, support them. We have made the decision to continue with that arrangement as it seems to be working well, and we are continuing to learn how to effective with it. We are still learning about what roles belong to which but are making good progress.

The Leadership Team currently consists of Nessie Howard, Laura Smith, Peter and Janice Bird, Wendy Walker and myself and may be further expanded in the future as God gifts us with the right people.

When we began with the new structure, nine trustees were appointed initially for a year. This was practically to keep the church in a legal quorate position at all times. The team has functioned well and taken responsibility for scrutinising the finances and discussing practical matters. Whilst vision is not their responsibility, we nonetheless are open to thoughts and ideas coming from this group and are pleased that this has happened.

At the same time, different trustees have, for different reasons, stepped down and so we are now seeking to recruit additional trustees.

Laura Smith

We have appreciated Laura's input into the life and leadership of the church both before and since we employed her first as Assistant and then as Associate Pastor on Staff. Alongside this, she has been completing the AoG Minister's in Training programme. Laura completes this course in May, gaining her full status as an AoG Minister and will of course, continue working with us. She would like to that all in the church for their support and help whoile she has completed the MIT.

Holding Trustees

At the time of the last report, we were in the process of making the Charity Commission official custodian our Holding Trustees. We took the decision to do this as we needed to replace most of our Holding trustees for varying reasons and this would not only be a permanent change but also a cost-effective one. Holding Trustees do not have any power but simply 'hold' the deeds to the building for us as required by law.

This process, which was a legal and involved getting the building revalued, has now been completed.

Worship

I include worship in this report because while we are privileged to have lots of people involved, there is no single designated department leader for this group. Currently Graeme Smith takes responsibility for the first Sunday of the month and also leads our monthly worship practice, and Darren and Veronica Spencer take responsibility for the last Sunday.

This is a standard pattern unless it is changed for particular purpose. I generally take responsibility for all other Sundays, with Graeme and Darren and Vron leading additional weeks when needed. We are supported by a good group of musicians, many of whom now play most weeks.

I believe that worship has gone from strength to strength over the last 15 months with new members joining the team and a real sense of unity and connection between members. The monthly practices are fun, and team

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members are learning each other's styles and learning to play together well. As a church we are also getting better at worship and have experienced some beautiful times in the presence of God.

New Milton House

I have included this update as there is no one leader for New Milton House, although Eric and Miriam and Anne often take the lead other than Laura and myself. There are also others who wonderfully support us each month.

Our turn for the service at New Milton House happens on the 1st Sunday of the month with other churches taking the other weeks, although sadly, one of the other churches has had to come off the rota recently.

This is in part due to what has been a frustrating time with this ministry as we were moved from the lounge to the 'activities room', which effectively resulted in no one coming as the staff didn't have the capacity to bring the residents up to the meeting. That the meeting happened at change-over time did not help.

This has largely now been resolved now with a move in time from 3pm to 1:30pm and a change in venue to the Dining Room, so that residents can choose to stay after lunch.

The Annexe

Following Alsager Community Support becoming independent and finding new premises back in 2023, we renamed the building 'THE ANNEXE.' New signage was made, and it was hoped that 2024 would see us deciding on new purpose and vision for the building. Unfortunately, due to pressures including financial, time and logistical ones, we have not been able to have those discussions. We hope to do so in 2025.

In the meantime, the Foodbank has been able to use the larger area available and the space has also been used for prayer and other meetings. We have also been able to increase the number of items we keep in the storeroom since there is now no property in there belonging to ACS.

Funerals

This year saw the loss of two respected and highly loved pillars of the church Mike Collett and Roy Pitcher. Both of these men made long term significant contribution to the life and ministry for the church over many years and we will continue to miss them. We honour them in this report. Pete led both funerals with Mike's held at ACC and Roy's held at Wesley Place.

In addition, Pete led the funeral of Tom and Richie Parry, father and son who were tragically killed in an accident in the Scottish Highlands. The funeral was held at St Marys, jointly led by Rev. Michelle Goodrich and the wake was held at ACC.

We supported other church members through loss of close family members.

Other activities and matters arising

There are separate reports included below for some of these activities and matters.

- Ran Special events including 2 Kids weekends with Safari and Space themes, Pilgrims Progress film, Unsuccessful Course by 24/7 Prayer.
- Continued with our Life Groups, weekly prayer meetings and monthly Reflective Prayer sessions and in addition, prayer days and weeks of prayer and fasting.

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- Continued to run our coffee shop 4 days a week.
- Repurposed our monthly Café Church to play Church with a different format.
- We ran a successful Alpha in the Autumn term.
- We launched regular Men's Breakfast events and a Men's ministry.
- Continued with our monthly after church fellowship lunches on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Continued with our involvement in local schools with assemblies and occasional lessons.
- Along with the other Alsager Churches, we distributed Hot Cross Buns at Easter on Holy Saturday.
- Along with the other Alsager Churches, we have continued to take a service in New Milton House once a month.
- We have continued to hire our premises to local organisations: U3A, Slimming World, Rhythm Time, Alsager Spinners and Weavers, Polling Station and others.
- We again held a stall at the Alsager Carnival distributing hundreds of poppet toys to the children and advertising the presence of the church.
- We have had guest speakers: Anthony Bhunu, Andrew Cannon and Richard Brunton
- We have continued to work with Christchurch and Wesley Place Methodist Church to run a youth group on Thursday evenings and took young people to the 3generate youth event.
- We held 2 annual Leadership Seminar Days with Middlewich Community Church and Sandbach Community Church

Church Manager's Report (Nessie Howard)

The church building continues to be a busy place whilst trying to remain a welcoming and God filled space.

We employ Sue who works as our cleaner for 12 hours a week and Rob, Phil and David have continued to provide a level of maintenance and care for our building as well as completing our 6 monthly H&S reviews. We are needing some DIY/decorating doing soon and I'm sure they would appreciate the offers of help.

We have 3 groups who regularly use and hire the building, as well as some that use us occasionally. We are currently looking to increase this back to previous levels as a revenue stream.

Kids church/Ablaze on Sundays (Nessie Howard)

We currently have 4 children and 5 young people who regularly attend church. It is a wide age range, but the children care for and support each other well.

Once a month we have Ablaze on Sundays where we connect with the young people from Christchurch, alternating between meeting at our venue or at there's. On that Sunday Kids church has a different feel as we make the session bespoke for a younger age which the children have enjoyed as much as the youth have.

On Sundays we use the TV for worship songs, have access to craft activities, have bible studies, play games, share and care for each other, provide space for faith to deepen and meet with God. All whilst having fun. Our curriculum has been adaptable and bespoke this past year as we have responded to a wide age range and a

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smaller number of children. We are currently deciding whether to go with a new scheme or whether to follow the church's curriculum in the main meetings and continue to design our own sessions.

We have a great team of teachers who love both God and our youngsters. They lead with compassion, laughter and skill.

Pastoral Team (Pete Bird/John Hammond/Anita Wilson)

The Pastoral Team has been set up recently in order to give support to Pete and Nessie in the church's pastoral ministry. If you have a need and would like someone to pray for you over the phone, or you would like someone to pay you a visit, then please ring one of the team.

The Meeting Place Coffee Shop (Nessie Howard)

This continues to be open Tuesday to Friday mornings between 9am and 1.30pm. Some days are quieter than others, but this has given the opportunity to get to know people better. 'The Meeting Place' is a place we hope that people will meet and connect with each other and perhaps more significantly, where they might meet Jesus. There have been opportunities for prayer and conversation, and we pray this might happen more and more.

Phil D is organising the 'help yourself' bookshelf with second hand/donated Christian books which has continued to be popular. We also have two people who produce cards for us to sell as a way of fundraising.

We are so grateful for the volunteers who serve each week, with two new volunteers coming on board this year, and are also grateful for the kind volunteers who bake/bring us cakes. They are always so popular and add something special to our menu. We are desperately in need of more cake volunteers and if you can help us with this, please speak to me. We would also appreciate help with washing tea towels, shopping and even having you as customers!

The car parking charges have affected the footfall coming into the Meeting Place, so we have produced some vouchers for Little Treasures parents to use in an attempt to attract new customers. Our play area is a brilliant, yet under used attraction. We have also introduced a card payment system.

We received a 'Stardust' grant from Sainsbury's via Neighbourly to purchase a new oven and contribute towards replacing the dishwasher which has greatly helped the work of the coffee shop as well as the wider church activities.

Finally, we are really pleased to report that we have once again achieved a level 5 in our food safety inspection. This is something we have consistently done but it is always a source of celebration for us to feel we are doing things well and this is recognised. Here are some quotes from some of our customers...

- 'Family atmosphere!'
- 'The highlight of the week!'
- 'A place of friendship.'
- 'An important part of our weekly routine...come from Newcastle every week because it is an Oasis and as place of fun!'

And we thought you might also enjoy this little poem written by one of our Wednesday volunteer staff...

*'There is a café, across the road. It is so very cosy,
When you go in, it's nice and warm and everyone is rosy.'*

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The food is good, the price is low, It's everybody's pocket.

Just sit down and have a chat, we'll make it like a rocket!

We have a little kitchen, which serves up pretty well,

With chocolate cake and nice mince pies, that will make your belly swell!

Cup of coffee, cup of tea. Nothing's too much trouble,

Just give us your drinks order, And we'll make it on the double!

'When we've finished for the day, we grab our bags and coats.

We say goodbye to one and all and set off, with scarves around our throats.

And when next week comes around, we'll start it off all over,

And all the clients and the staff, think they live in clover!

Sally, Richard and myself, we get on pretty good.

We share the jobs quite happily, but Sally does the food.

So please come in when you pop by, we'll give you a big smile.

And when you put your order in, we'll go the extra mile.

What next? It would be fantastic to have a manager of the coffee shop again- someone who could lead it forward! We always try to have a church rep on each shift too.

Foodbank (Nessie Howard)

We were able to help feed and support 168 referred households during 2024 consisting of:-

251 Individual Adults and 205 Individual Children in 2024

To fulfil the needs of these households in 2024 we issued:-

1638 Adult units and 1557 Children units (1 unit = 1 weeks' worth of food) in 2024 and gave out 50 Christmas hampers. This has been our busiest year to date.

We provided food for an average of:- 6.5 weeks to each adult/ 7.6 weeks to each child. This year we saw a swing to supporting more families than single people though we have seen a significant increase in the amount of people needing support due to medical conditions.

We have been blessed with many donations – both monetary and goods. These donations come from individuals, churches, schools, charities and businesses in our area. One of our biggest challenges was physically stocking the shelves but we have seen many groups not only raising funds for us but also actively shopping on our behalf. We continue to be very grateful for the community support we receive.

We continue to work in partnership with other organisations, referring people on to other organisations if appropriate. We still operate on a referral basis which means people receive help from ourselves as a result of them being referred to us. This can be from schools, medical or welfare teams, housing associations and churches to name but a few.

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We continue to give fresh fruit and/or vegetables, bread, cheese and eggs when we can. We are enrolled with Neighbourly, so Sainsburys give us their surplus bakery most days and occasionally fresh fruit and veg. We have also enrolled with Olio, a scheme used to reduce waste from shops which has helped on an ad hoc basis with bread, potatoes and vegetables.

We currently have 4 Coordinators, all taking a week at a time to run the foodbank and we have 13 volunteers helping to pack and sort stock on a rota basis. We have continued to have 4 people who will deliver, a few folks we can call on to help sort stock and others who have offered to shop for us.

We have also continued to give out vouchers for drinks and food at the Meeting Place and for the Big Breakfast at Christchurch. We also give vouchers to those with preschool children so that they can come along to our Little Treasures on Thursdays.

Prayer (Wendy Walker)

Over the past 12 months we have had an average of 12 attending Thursday evening intercessory prayer, which is slightly down from last year. I took the decision in the middle of the year to stop the Zoom connections, as we were getting very few people logging on [all of whom now attend in person].

Prayer and Fasting. We have had 3 periods of prayer and fasting since July. The first of which was as a result of a significant word from God, which required focused prayer. Having periods of 7-4-7 prayer along with fasting can only enhance our corporate prayer life.

Prayer day in November – this was a wake up call to be ready for the times ahead.

Looking forward. [Anne and I intend to continue going away on retreats, roughly quarterly, to seek the Lord's guidance for us as individuals, and for ACC.] Our next retreat is 3 – 6 February.

15th February – 'How to be Un-successful' course. A 24/7 Prayer International course.

15th March – the first Ladies Prayer breakfast. This is a new initiative which I trust will be a really blessed time where we as ladies can pray for a move of God in ACC and Alsager.

31st March to 4th April – 7-2-7 prayer and fast, culminating in a time of worship. 5th April – prayer day. The content of this will become clear nearer the time.

I am always listening out for new ways to encourage our folks to engage in corporate intercessory prayer. The boiler house of the church needs to be continually stoked, so that we keep moving forward.

Wendy Walkers's Life Group

Over the last 12 months our numbers have decreased a little from 15 to 12. We are a diverse group and are very much a family. Our Whatsapp group is a place for us all to share and reach out.

Leadership of a small group of believers is an incredibly humbling and privileged thing, the responsibility of which I do not carry lightly.

Currently [as of January 2025], we have just completed a 7-session series on Nehemiah, using Selwyn Hughes study guide. All have enjoyed the discussions and have been blessed by them.

While we wait to hear what the Lord would like us to do next, we are going to learn about and pray for the persecuted church [using Open Doors World Watch List].

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AND we still have cake on birthdays – most of which are baked by Rob and are yummy!! The following was on last years' report and still very much stands:

At the beginning of my 'tenure' as leader of this group, I declared Ephesians 2:22 over us all. '....in Him you too [as a group] are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit'. I also gave a promise, to God, to myself and to the group. "to be a leader who doesn't seek to 'climb the ladder', but who digs deeper; to be a servant to all". The declaration and promise are still and always will be at the very heart of the wonderful group of brothers and sisters I have the awesome job of leading. We will encourage one another; grow together; and praise our Heavenly Father for all His blessings.

Anne Beard's Daytime Life Group

Our Friday Life-group meets in ACC every two weeks 10.30 - 12.30...or whenever we finish. Six to ten people gather in fellowship, prayer and worship as we study God's word.

Recent studies have included "The Lord's Prayer" and Contemplative worship relating to Easter and Christmas.

Our current study is following a book called "Golden Bowls of Incense." The author describes the purpose of this book, is mainly to inspire more fervent intercession for our nation and encourage us all to pray without ceasing. Also to encourage house groups in their role in revival of this nation.

The contents cover asking, seeking and loud persistent prayers and draws us to meditate on.....

Elijah; Hezekiah; Nehemiah; Abraham; Ananias; Cornelius; Habakkuk and Paul.

An exciting and challenging journey through the scriptures. How applicable to our broken world we live in today.

We support and care for one another in listening to and praying for our needs as we meet in our life-group and within our WhatsApp group.

"Best thing I ever did was coming to ACC and joining a life-group. Learn something each time and will forever be grateful for my church family."

"It is incredible the support you all give..."

"We are sharing a journey together. I'm learning all the time, and the love, friendship and support of the group is incredible. The Holy Spirit is guiding us on a journey and there is more to come!"

"Life-group has helped me feel a sense of belonging. The Lord has been my only helper in my life, and my brothers and sisters in Christ are very important to me. I'm so grateful that the Lord led us to ACC."

"Thank you, Lord, we can meet in freedom to study your living word and encourage one another."

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness and your blessings each and every day.

Graeme Smith's Life Group

The last year has seen several changes to our group. Alan, one of our long-standing members, moved away, but we have been joined by new members.

We have moved our meetings from church to a home (thanks Tony and Laura!) And we temporarily moved to Monday evenings during Alpha. But our format has stayed the same - fellowship, fun (weird and wonderful

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quizzes), study, sharing and prayer. We have worked through a course on Romans by Andrew Ollerton and the Blessings course by Roy Godwin and have just started Max Lucado's "anxious for nothing" course based on Philippians 4:4-9.

Mike Keenan's Life Group

We meet in Crewe on alternate Wed. mornings commencing 10.30.

The emphasis of the group is fellowship, sharing and prayer so as to encourage each other and build up our faith without being too formal. Also, if a member of the group has a problem or burden, we are free to share and pray about it. We also spend time in worship with my keyboard as accompaniment. Therefore, we often each bring a passage of scripture to present to the group to study and discuss which always works very well.

We have covered a series on the Beatitudes, also several studies on the life of David based on an old classic book by Alan Redpath. We have also looked at some of the parables of Jesus from the Gospels.

We have also had teaching from Dr John Barnett of Calvary Bible Church on YouTube who I can recommend as a sound bible teacher. Other teaching we have had from David Pawson and Brian Broderson.

Also, on YouTube we have looked at the Welsh Revival of the early 20th Century and the effect it had on the communities throughout Wales.

Alpha (Janice Bird)

Alpha ran from 18th September to 27th November 2024, every Wednesday evening for 11 weeks and included an Away Day early November, where we focused on the Holy Spirit. The Away Day was opened up for any members of the congregation who wanted to know more about the Holy Spirit and perhaps experience the Holy Spirit's infilling. One person took advantage of the invitation and reported that they had a wonderful experience.

Each Alpha session started with a hot meal which, the guests and team shared together. This enabled us to quickly build up relationship with the guests and likewise enabled the guests to get to know the team better. Various members of the congregation provided meals and some donated cash for the meals which was amazing.

Initially there were nine guests signed up for the course but sadly four chose not to continue and one was unable to continue due to ill health. We finished the course with four guests who all gave very positive feedback and said they would recommend the course to others. Three of the guests made a commitment to Jesus and one was baptised with the Holy Spirit.

There were nine on the Alpha Team, all amazing and fully committed to making the course happen. We were particularly helped by the prayer team led by Wendy, who met to pray at church during the Alpha sessions. This prayer made a huge difference to the success of the course.

A De-brief for the team was held shortly after the course finished and all of the team felt that it was a positive experience and running it again in the future should be a strong consideration.

Outreach in the Town (Phil Dabbs)

We went out several times during 2024. The first was before Valentine's Day when we gave out chocolate hearts and a credit sized "God loves you" card. We also went out before Easter with several other churches for the annual giving out hot cross buns and where we could, sharing something of the meaning of Easter.

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We then went out before Christmas, giving out chocolates, “Jesus is the Greatest Gift” cards and invitations to our services. On all these occasions we spoke to many people on the streets and visited the local shops and had a great response with very few declining.

Praise God that we had many good conversations with people and had the opportunity to discuss faith and pray with some when it was appropriate. Thank you to the team who supported this: Anne, Graeme, John, Peter B and Rob (apologies if I've missed anyone). Thanks also to those who couldn't come but prayed for us.

Little Treasures Playgroup (Sarah Humpreys)

Firstly, I would like to thank Suzanne for her many years of commitment and dedication to Little treasures. Through Suzanne's hard work, Little Treasures is known as a well-recognised, well established and above all a well-loved asset of the church and community. We are extremely grateful for all that Suzanne has done over the years and respect that it was a difficult decision to step down from Little Treasures, as she has been such an integral part of every Thursday morning.

Over the last year Little Treasures has gone through a transition, whilst the structure of the morning remains the same it has naturally evolved. Gina, Gemma and I, with additional support from Pete, Nessie, Phil and Andrew work together to ensure the smooth running of Little Treasures. In the summer we were concerned that many of our wonderful children were leaving to go to preschool, parents were returning to work and that this would impact on our numbers. However, come September recommendations from our parents ensured we had a full house and before Christmas had 25 children and 30 parents.

We have parents and Grandparents, who join us weekly, and it is a lovely safe space for children to flourish and thrive, make lasting friendships and for adults to have a welcoming place where they can recharge, share, have a laugh and a chat and make friends. Together we lovingly create a special environment, we spend time with the adults, the children and getting to know the families better. We tailor and adapt our activities, each week to the children we have and make sure the families feel they can talk to us and tell us if there is anything they need. We have parents who share with us about their children's physically and sensory needs, dietary requirements and we ensure that we incorporate support and that their needs are met. Our parents and grandparents regularly share with us how much they love Little Treasures. They say in their words it is 'loving and holistic, a very special place which makes sure all children are included and a treat that they would not miss.' We have families coming to join us from Bradwell, Kidsgrove, and Nantwich as well as Alsager and the local area, and tell us there is nothing else like it. We have had parents express their love of Little Treasures on Facebook and we now have several families which come as a whole family children, Mum and Dad. It is lovely to see that all parents and grandparents feel so welcome. Many that live in Alsager, will stop us and talk in the street and share their experiences not just of Little Treasures but the joys, and their ups and downs. It is a privilege to be a part of this group.

Little treasures enable friendships between adults, as well as children grow, we have grandparents that have started to meet up regularly, parents that also attend other play groups together now, share lunch and play dates and it is lovely to see that parents are now meeting at the church coffee shop. The availability of the card machine has made a difference and also providing our parents with vouchers will hopefully encourage visits to the coffee shop

We also frequently provide support to parents on a 1:1 basis, as we are part of the church, the food bank and have links throughout our community ensures we are able to connect parents to relevant support swiftly, in a caring manner. Initially, the new car parking charges impacted our attendance, but this seems to have been resolved.

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We are confident that the relationship between ourselves and with those that come to Little Treasures will continue to grow. We look forward to an exciting year ahead which as well as providing for our community, Little Treasures continues to lovingly provide a special place for our team. Gina, Gemma and I feel truly blessed that we can be apart of this wonderful service, it brings such joy and allows us to personally share and develop our relationships with each other, within the church and our community.

Below are some comments our parents and grandparents have shared about Little Treasures, 30.01.2025.

‘A great place for both the children & mums to meet, chat and play. The story time and snack time is always a hit with the children. When the guitar comes out for song time, the kids love that!’

‘Lovely group and kind to provide toast and a drink.’

‘Everyone is very welcoming, lovely group.’

‘Very welcoming and friendly, the children make friends, cater for all ages. Lovely story time and toast and juice time, for parents and nanny’s to catch up on news. Nicely structured and set up craft table, staff are very friendly.’

‘Little Treasures is a very friendly playgroup. They are always very welcoming. And are happy to help. Always there for a good chat. And my little girls have all loved playing here and meeting new friends.’

‘Both of my children have attended Little Treasures, and it has been a great place for them to gain confidence and make new friends.’

‘Lovely friendly playgroup with lots to keep the children entertained and engaged.’

‘Little treasures is a friendly environment where children can play safely. The staff are kind and lovely, I’ve been coming for years.. I am grateful I can come and go as I please, Thank you’

‘We love the range of activities little treasures each week and the toast and snacks’

Ablaze Youth-Group (Pete Howard)

We work with Christchurch and Wesley Place, two other churches in the town to run a youth group. The group meets at Wesley Place and is very much one youth group among 3 churches. This last 15 months we have seen the group continue to grow, with a programme which includes games, interaction, Biblical teaching and is interspersed with social activities. The programme also regular includes eating meals together and we ran Youth Alpha in the last year and are considering running another this year. Last term we looked at Spiritual disciplines from the same book we are currently using for our notices devotions.

We are encouraged that some of these young people continue to attend ACC on Sundays and others attend other churches. This year we expanded with a monthly Sunday morning programme called ‘Ablaze on Sundays.’ This meeting either at ACC or Christchurch and aims to go deeper than is possible Thursday nights. We are currently looking at the subjects from the Freedom in Christ course.

We hope to play a video in our service which was made by the youth speaking about why they enjoy Ablaze and what they get from it.

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Men's Breakfast Group

The first Men's breakfast was held in October and saw 11 men join together for fellowship and an introduction to the vision for the group. Meeting every six weeks, we've now held three breakfasts in total with around 18 different men attending across the three, both from ACC and outside.

The vision for the breakfast and broader men's work is two-fold. To build up men in their faith and then to see that spill out with those men sharing their faith with their friends. To do this we:

- Use resources from Christian Vision for Men to help encourage men in their own personal journeys with Christ
- Provide a safe environment with time for men to generally share how they're feeling with those they trust and share opportunities to pray together
- Encourage each other to share our faith with our friends and colleagues and broaden our meetings to include social evenings which will be suitable for inviting friends along to

Whilst this is a fairly new group we have been encouraged by the number of men that have attended, including those that would rather be having a lie in! It has been such a joy to see men come along who took part in the Alpha course, allowing them to mix with other Christian men in an informal environment right at the start of their faith journey.

Our prayer for the year ahead is that God will unite a strong group of men who feel encouraged through fellowship, are more passionate about their relationship with Jesus and feel more empowered to share that faith with others.

Play Church (Pete Howard)

From September this year we rebranded and revamped Café Church to create Play Church. This event contained many of the same attributes as Café Church such as craft, worship, teaching and food, but increased the play element and made it less formally structured. We began to have activities in both halls and centred our teaching and worship time around the stage which made it more manageable and focused.

The reason for this change is a combination of the fact that a) we didn't think Café Church was really working in its then current format and b) Christchurch launched their own version of a family-based Café Church and we didn't want to create confusion. There was no clash as Christchurch's event ran on a Sunday morning, and although it is now moving to an afternoon slot, it will still be on a different day. Nevertheless, we felt two events of the same name would be confusing for people.

The change has been altogether positive with numbers increasing and a great vibe. We have seen this particularly in the last two months (December and January) and we are hoping to build relationships and present the gospel so as to see these families find Jesus and even become part of the church family.

Sandbach Community Church (Pete Howard)

The largest vision action taken by the church since December 2023 has been the establishment of a new church plant in Sandbach working in partnership with Middlewich Community Church. This is the fulfilment of a dream held since my arrival as Pastor of ACC and something we made plans for in our 5-year vision presentation back in 2019. The process towards this has not been the same as we envisaged for a number of reasons, not least Covid 19, but has been realised within the time frame.

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SCC is potentially still the only AoG church, we are aware of, being planted as an equal partnership between two churches, although that may not be correct, as Antony Bhunu (Pastor of Middlewich Community Church) and I, featured heavily at this last year's National Conference (2024) Church Planting presentations where we were interviewed and profiled, in the hopes others may also explore this model. Interestingly, this has also resulted in our picture being included in the book AoG has published to celebrate its centenary.

We launched SCC on 17th March 2024. The launch service was very well attended with over 80 people there. Since then, services have had anything between 14 and 40 in attendance, more recently settling around 20-25. This includes people who would consider Middlewich or Alsager as their primary church but regularly attend to support the work. Some of these live in Sandbach themselves. Most exciting however, is that there is a small group of people (around 8) who now consider SCC to be their home church and who are beginning to take responsibility for the life of the church.

Since our launch we have met consistently at 4pm every Sunday including over the Christmas period. We continue to keep things simple, with a single musician or use of 'ising' when this is not possible. Preaching is run on a rota (as with both ACC and MCC) and followed by refreshments. In addition, we have started a small group (Life-group) meeting fortnightly and at time of writing are establishing a prayer chain by email. Over this year, we have also run a church outreach picnic, opened the venue for coffee and connection on the Sunday during the town transport festival (the main community event), and held our carol service.

At time of writing, the vision for year 2 is still in prayer and discussion but we may well be looking to the Lord to help us...

- Establish local leadership including possibly a primary leader (Pastor)
- See some families come into the church (as well as others)
- See our first salvations
- Begin a regular outreach project of some kind and possibly run an Alpha.

ACC take responsibility for managing SCC's finances

Signed on behalf of the Church Council and Trustees

P Howard. REV PETE HOWARD

Dated: 14th April 2025

Alsager Community Church

Independent Examiners Report on the Receipts and Payment Accounts

To the Trustees/Members of Alsager Community Church, Registered Charity 1052554, on the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2024, set out on pages 17 to 18.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (as per Act Accounts and Audit Order 2015 SI 2015 No.321) so that an independent examination is needed and the accounts are to be prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act; and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities Financial Reporting Standard FRS102have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Date 14th April 2025



Paul Barnsley B.A. (Econ) (Hons), A.C.A., F.T.C.L. (Chartered Accountant)

Heart Notes Ministries, 125 Crossefield Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Cheshire, SK8 5PF

Telephone 0161 485 3088 paul@heartnotes.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1052554

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Alsager Community Church

<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>Total Funds</u> <u>2023</u>
Church Income						
Offerings		19,267.15	0.00	1,347.89	20,615.04	14,068.99
Gift Aid Offerings		24,037.00	0.00	0.00	24,037.00	30,519.00
Tax Recovered Gift Aid		7,963.47	0.00	0.00	7,963.47	7,981.55
Accounts Interest		378.59	0.00	0.00	378.59	38.24
Other Income	1	150.00	0.00	2,209.23	2,359.23	8,476.15
Room Hire	2	11,112.00	0.00	0.00	11,112.00	10,655.50
Subtotal Church Income		62,908.21	0.00	3,557.12	66,465.33	71,739.43
Coffee Shop						
Total Takings		9,866.26	0.00	0.00	9,866.26	13,368.12
Cost of Goods for resale		(3,938.65)	0.00	0.00	(3,938.65)	(4,208.34)
General Expenses		(200.25)	0.00	0.00	(200.25)	(24.35)
Subtotal Coffee Shop Net		5,727.36	0.00	0.00	5,727.36	9,135.43
NET INCOME church and coffee shop		68,635.57	0.00	3,557.12	72,192.69	80,874.86
Church Expenditure						
Pastors Salary		(35,439.08)	0.00	0.00	(35,439.08)	(34,356.58)
Church Ministry Costs	3	(17,491.51)	0.00	(30.00)	(17,521.51)	(17,653.88)
Missions	4	(4,228.22)	0.00	0.00	(4,228.22)	(6,890.11)
Building Running Costs	5	(19,187.62)	0.00	(380.00)	(19,567.62)	(17,600.25)
Building Capital Costs/Refurbishment	6	(75.99)	0.00	(1,509.00)	(1,584.99)	0.00
Subtotal church expenditure		(76,422.42)	0.00	(1,919.00)	(78,341.42)	(76,500.82)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for church		(7,786.85)	0.00	1,638.12	(6,148.73)	4,374.04
ALSAGER FOODBANK						
Foodbank Income						
Donations - regular		0.00	0.00	12,845.49	12,845.49	10,669.00
Donations - irregular		0.00	0.00	1,460.75	1,460.75	3,007.00
Donations - gift aid foodbank		0.00	0.00	1,135.00	1,135.00	1,960.00
Tax reclaim Gift aid claim foodbank		0.00	0.00	266.73	266.73	170.37
Subtotal Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	15,707.97	15,707.97	15,806.37
Foodbank Expenses						
Food Purchases		0.00	0.00	(34,415.26)	(34,415.26)	(17,382.57)
ACSC Rent		0.00	0.00	(600.00)	(600.00)	0.00
Mobile Phone Costs		0.00	0.00	(97.59)	(97.59)	(110.21)
Subtotal Foodbank Expenses		0.00	0.00	(35,112.85)	(35,112.85)	(17,492.78)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Foodbank		0.00	0.00	(19,404.88)	(19,404.88)	(1,686.41)
ALSAGER SUPPORT CENTRE						
Donations		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	415.00
Tax claimed on gift aid		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.10
Administration Salaries		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(3,797.00)
Administration Pensions		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(195.79)
Hardship fund payments		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,971.00)
Building running - other costs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.40
Receipt/(Repayment) of funds ex ASC		0.00	0.00	233.12	233.12	(17,678.05)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Support Centre		0.00	0.00	233.12	233.12	(26,102.34)
GRAND TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(7,786.85)	0.00	(17,533.64)	(25,320.49)	(23,414.71)

Alsager Community Church

	Note	Unrestricted 2024	Designated 2024	Restricted 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
STATEMENT OF INCOME						
Sunday Offering & Donations		19,267.15	0.00	1,347.89	20,615.04	14,068.99
Gift Aid Offerings		24,037.00	0.00	0.00	24,037.00	30,519.00
Tax Recovered - Gift Aids		7,963.47	0.00	0.00	7,963.47	7,981.55
Accounts Interest		378.59	0.00	0.00	378.59	38.24
Room Hire		11,112.00	0.00	0.00	11,112.00	10,655.50
Other Income		150.00	0.00	209.23	359.23	8,476.15
Coffee Shop Takings		9,866.26	0.00	0.00	9,866.26	13,368.12
Alsager Support Centre Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	476.10
Alsager Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	15,707.97	15,707.97	15,806.37
Grants		0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME		72,774.47	0.00	19,265.09	92,039.56	101,390.02
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE						
Pastor/Administrators Salary Costs		(35,439.08)	0.00	0.00	(35,439.08)	(34,356.58)
Church Ministry Costs		(17,491.51)	0.00	(30.00)	(17,521.51)	(17,653.88)
Missions		(4,228.22)	0.00	0.00	(4,228.22)	(6,890.11)
Building Running Costs		(19,187.62)	0.00	(380.00)	(19,567.62)	(17,600.25)
Building Capital/Refrubishment Costs		(75.99)	0.00	(1,509.00)	(1,584.99)	0.00
Alsager Support Centre Costs						
Running cost		0.00	0.00	233.12	233.12	(26,578.44)
Coffee Shop						
Cost of Goods for resale		(3,938.65)	0.00	0.00	(3,938.65)	(4,208.34)
General Expenses		(200.25)	0.00	0.00	(200.25)	(24.35)
Alsager Foodbank Expenditure		0.00	0.00	(35,112.85)	(35,112.85)	(17,492.78)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(80,561.32)	0.00	(36,798.73)	(117,360.05)	(124,804.73)
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for year		(7,786.85)	0.00	(17,533.64)	(25,320.49)	(23,414.71)
Opening Funds		26,781.07	36,000.00	39,683.54	102,464.61	125,879.32
Transfers in/(out)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CLOSING NET FUNDS	7	18,994.22	36,000.00	22,149.90	77,144.12	102,464.61
Breakdown of Fund balances						
General Reserves		18,994.22	0.00	0.00	18,994.22	26,781.07
Stardust		0.00	0.00	491.00	491.00	0.00
Sandbach church		0.00	0.00	1,147.12	1,147.12	0.00
Alsager Support Centre		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(233.12)
Unforeseen cost Reserve		0.00	36,000.00	0.00	36,000.00	36,000.00
CRASH time		0.00	0.00	2,396.57	2,396.57	2,396.57
Alsager Food Bank		0.00	0.00	18,115.21	18,115.21	37,520.09
Total Fund balances		18,994.22	36,000.00	22,149.90	77,144.12	102,464.61
REPRESENTED BY						
Cash in Hand					368.90	291.12
Current Account					42,301.55	68,078.41
Savings Account					34,473.67	34,095.08
Total Net Assets					77,144.12	102,464.61

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Unrestricted 2024	Designated 2024	Restricted 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
1. Other Income					
Funeral contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	206.00
Little Treasures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.95
Contributions for pastor in training	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
AOG Ukraine & Earthquake Appeals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,050.00
Contributions from Middlewich church for Sandbach	0.00	0.00	209.23	209.23	0.00
Grants - Cooker ex Sainsburys	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Sundry Other Income	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	174.20
Subtotal Other Income	150.00	0.00	2,209.23	2,359.23	8,476.15
2. Room Hire					
Slimming World	6,510.00	0.00	0.00	6,510.00	6,160.00
U3A	1,862.00	0.00	0.00	1,862.00	1,957.50
Rhythm Time	2,269.00	0.00	0.00	2,269.00	638.00
Sundry Hires	75.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00
Guild of Spinners & Weavers	156.00	0.00	0.00	156.00	492.00
Cheshire Carers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	208.00
Overheads Charge Support Centre	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
Cheshire East Polling Station	240.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	0.00
Subtotal Room Hire	11,112.00	0.00	0.00	11,112.00	10,655.50
3. Church Ministry Costs					
Ministry Gifts - Visiting Speakers	1,400.00	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	1,000.00
Ministry Expenses	948.22	0.00	0.00	948.22	1,814.60
Ministry Resources	273.58	0.00	0.00	273.58	436.61
Administration Salaries	12,812.48	0.00	0.00	12,812.48	12,962.38
Communion Expenses	31.67	0.00	0.00	31.67	0.00
Copyright Licence	552.72	0.00	0.00	552.72	454.05
Childrens Church	52.20	0.00	0.00	52.20	172.58
Child Protection Advisory Services	235.48	0.00	0.00	235.48	240.40
Website Costs	22.00	0.00	0.00	22.00	0.00
Christmas costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
Alpha	160.28	0.00	0.00	160.28	0.00
Youth Group	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.40
CRASH Time (Messy Church)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.41
Flowers, Gifts and Presentations	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	2.99
Publicity and Advertising	224.30	0.00	0.00	224.30	326.59
CVS Cheshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.87
Pastoral Team Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Data Protection Registration	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	35.00
Sandbach Community Church expenses	733.58	0.00	30.00	763.58	0.00
Subtotal Church Ministry Costs	17,491.51	0.00	30.00	17,521.51	17,653.88
4. Missions					
Hope Uganda (HDCC)	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
AOG Annual Offering	1,200.72	0.00	0.00	1,200.72	1,200.72
AOG NW & M Region	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
AOG Ukraine Appeal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,049.39
Living Hope Ministries	1,287.50	0.00	0.00	1,287.50	900.00
Andy Cannon	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
UCB	240.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	240.00
Subtotal Missions	4,228.22	0.00	0.00	4,228.22	6,890.11

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

	Unrestricted 2024	Designated 2024	Restricted 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
5. Building Running Costs					
Caretaker/Cleaners Pay	6,770.40	0.00	0.00	6,770.40	6,188.00
Carpet Cleaning	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.99
Cleaning Materials and Window Cleaning	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.72
Office Telephone and Broadband	623.62	0.00	0.00	623.62	409.26
Computer Software and consumables	408.74	0.00	0.00	408.74	426.74
Office Printer/Copier	515.10	0.00	0.00	515.10	409.21
Postage and Stationery	17.36	0.00	0.00	17.36	85.68
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,192.35
Gas	1,454.20	0.00	0.00	1,454.20	997.42
Electricity	3,215.64	0.00	0.00	3,215.64	3,144.15
Water Rates	721.97	0.00	0.00	721.97	609.14
SITA Wheely Bin Charges	1,221.45	0.00	0.00	1,221.45	1,054.55
Accountant (Independent examination)	1,450.00	0.00	0.00	1,450.00	796.50
Equipment Purchases	1,181.90	0.00	0.00	1,181.90	578.07
Sundry Admin expenses	9.95	0.00	0.00	9.95	61.16
General Maintenance	964.49	0.00	0.00	964.49	530.31
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	75.60	0.00	0.00	75.60	0.00
Gas Boiler Servicing	115.00	0.00	0.00	115.00	0.00
Legal and Professional fees	1,042.20	0.00	0.00	1,042.20	0.00
Hire of Premises for Sandbach Church	0.00	0.00	380.00	380.00	0.00
Recovery of heating costs from Foodbank	(600.00)	0.00	0.00	(600.00)	0.00
Subtotal Building Running Costs	19,187.62	0.00	380.00	19,567.62	17,600.25

6. Building Capital Costs/Refurbishment

Café Refurbishment	75.99	0.00	1,509.00	1,584.99	0.00
Subtotal Building Capital Costs/Refurbishment	75.99	0.00	1,509.00	1,584.99	0.00

6. Fund Movements

	Balance C/fwd	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers
General	18,994.22	26,781.07	73,374.47	(81,161.32)	0.00
Subtotal Unrestricted funds	18,994.22	26,781.07	73,374.47	(81,161.32)	0.00
Hardship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Toilets Renovation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unforeseen cost Reserve	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Designated funds	36,000.00	36,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Treasures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Building	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church refurbishment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stardust	491.00	0.00	2,000.00	(1,509.00)	0.00
Sandbach Church	1,147.12	0.00	1,557.12	(410.00)	0.00
Alsager Support Centre	0.00	(233.12)	0.00	233.12	0.00
CRASH time (Messy Church)	2,396.57	2,396.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
Give-Back Grant	(0.00)	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alsager Food Bank	18,115.21	37,520.09	15,707.97	(35,112.85)	0.00
Subtotal Restricted funds	22,149.90	39,683.54	19,265.09	(36,798.73)	0.00
Grand Total All Funds	77,144.12	102,464.61	92,639.56	(117,960.05)	0.00

Accounts

Alsager Community Church
5 Lawton Road
Alsager
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST7 2AA



Registered Charity : 1052554

www.alsagercommunitychurch.org.uk

**Report and Accounts
For the Year ending
31st August 2023**

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Alsager Community Church

Report of the Trustees and Activities Review

The Financial results are set out in the enclosed accounts on pages 8 to 9.

The Principal activities throughout the year under review were

- 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:
- 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:
- To relieve sickness and financial hardship and promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods, 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 may think fit.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

Rev Peter Howard (appointed 28th August 2013), 27 Woodside Avenue, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2DL
Contact via Church office Telephone 01270 873859

+ **Andrew Collet (appointed 17th January 2023), 5 Elanor Road, Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 3FZ**

+ **Christopher Preston (appointed 7th November 2022), 33 Liverpool Road West, Church Lawton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST7 3DG**

+ **Sarah Humpries (appointed 17th October 2022), 28 Shady Grove, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2NQ**

+ **Ian Tideswell (appointed 10th September 2022), 57 The Bank, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3LF**

+ **Michael Keenan (appointed 4th September 2022), 45 Sydney Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4HQ**

+ **Alan Roper (appointed 4th September 2022), 16 Kingfisher Court, Thwaite Street, Cottingham, HU16 4QA**

+ **Mrs Laura Smith (appointed 9th November 2020), 36 Alfred Moseley Place, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2ZL**

+ **Lynn Prestley (appointed 12th March 2024), 20 Heathwood, 115 Sandbach Road, Rode Heath, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3RT**

Mrs Sarah Francis (resigned 4th September 2022), Mr Darren Spencer (resigned 30th September 2022), Mr John Hammond (resigned 20th April 2022), Mr Alan Moore (resigned 21st February 2022), Wendy Walker (resigned 15 January 2024), Ben Cade-Hughes (resigned 16th January 2024) and Vicki Dent (resigned 12th March 2024) also served as Trustees during this financial period.

The Holding Trustees of the churches property are Michael Collet, John Hammond, Mark Hampton (deceased) and Harold Pinkney and the church is exploring changing this to the Charities Commision.

Due to large changes in trustees, the elders marked + serve will initially serve one year in office which may be extended to 2 years to facilitate continuity, and subsequently normally 2 years. The Rev Howard's term continues until he ceases to be Minister of the church. The Data Protection Officer continues to be Mrs Vanessa Howard.

Alsager Community Church

Report of the Trustees and Activities Review - continued

RESERVES AND OTHER POLICES

The trustees have recently reviewed their reserves policy to ensure that adequate funding is available to allow the church to deal with unforeseen expenditure, replacement or repair of equipment and six months building and staff running costs. Other policies in place and approved are Equality and Diversity, Staff Handbook, Safeguarding and Data Protection.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ACCOUNTS

We certify that the books, vouchers and information produced to enable the independent examination of our accounts to be conducted contain a full and accurate record of our financial transactions and the activities to the best of our knowledge and belief. In view of the scale of the charities activities, the Trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council



Michael Keenan

Dated: 14th May 2024



Pastor's and Trustees church activity review

Introduction

This year we have chosen not to have our usual accompanying Vision Sunday alongside our AGM as the main visionary project of the year is our Church Plant in Sandbach, due to launch in March next year. Because this has already been presented in detail on a previous occasion and updated regularly since, a simple AGM where we will present accounts and this report will suffice. A copy of the power-point handout from the Church plant presentation will be included in this report.

Alsager Community Church

A few individual reports from departments are included at the end but due to short notice, the proximity of Christmas and the pressures individuals are facing, we understand that not every group and department were able to provide them.

Therefore, in this Pastor's/Trustees report, we will seek to include updates from the different ministries and departments as far as possible and will cover the time period of the previously submitted accounts (September 22) up to the present.

Leadership Team and Trustees

The second half of 2022 saw us introducing the idea of an evaluation of our leadership team and also an intention to complete some general leadership training. In actual fact, what happened was that members of the leadership team felt that they could not continue and so we introduced a separate board of trustees and our staff team (Nessie Howard, Laura Smith, and myself) became the 'Leadership Team'. This team was then expanded recently when Peter and Janice Bird joined as Associate Pastors and may be further expanded in the future.

Nine trustees were appointed initially for a year. This was practically to keep the church in a legal position as the resignation of the aforementioned leadership team member (leadership team members were the trustees), meant we would no longer be quorate. Our decision to appoint separate trustees was, however, not merely a practical crisis decision but a strategic one, with the hope that moving forward it would free the leadership team to concentrate on vision and spiritual leadership.

We planned to review the new arrangement after 12 months and have decided to continue with it. At time of writing, trustees have been given the opportunity to choose whether they wish to continue in the role, after which, they will be appointed either for a one- or two-year term, to avoid all trustees terms coming to an end at the same time.

Alongside this we have for 2023, been running CALM (Conversation about Leadership and Ministry), an informal discussion based 'training' programme with those who were interested in taking part.

Nessie Howard and Laura Smith

Laura has continued to work in the church first as Assistant Pastor and then following the appointment on our leadership team of Peter and Janice Bird as Associate Pastors, Associate Pastor on Staff. She is successfully making more and more impact in her role and continues to successfully undergo the AoG Minister in Training programme.

Nessie has continued in her role of Church Manager, oversee the day-to-day operations and providing a joined-up perspective on the different areas of church activity. Between them they continue to oversee Safeguarding and take part in significant pastoral and other ministry.

Holding Trustees

Laura has been working through the church policies, updating them, and presenting them to the trustees for approval. In addition, she has overseen the still ongoing process of making the Charity Commission official custodian our Holding Trustees. We took the decision to do this as we needed to replace most of our Holding trustees for varying reasons and this would not only be a permanent change but also a cost-effective one. Holding Trustees do not have any power but simply 'hold' the deeds to the building for us as required by law.

Alsager Community Church

This is a legal process and has involved getting the building valued. This has been done and the process is now well under way, but we have been informed that it can take up to 6 months to complete.

In addition, since September 2022 we have...

- Run 4 Kids weekends with Sweet Factory, Seaside and Dinosaur themes.
- Held 2 baptism services and supported Rosalie's elsewhere.
- Held 2 comedy evenings with Andy Kind, one of which was a fundraiser for Hope Uganda.
- Continued with our Life Groups (formally known as Home-groups), weekly prayer meetings and monthly Reflective Prayer sessions and in addition, run prayer courses, held Prayer Events including 24 hours and full day events, and a breakfast book club.
- Continued to run our coffee shop 4 days a week.
- Launched a monthly Café Church
- Held the funeral of Graham Slinger and supported the funerals of others.
- Continued with our monthly after church fellowship lunches on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Continued with our involvement in local schools with assemblies and occasional lessons.
- Along with the other Alsager Churches, we distributed Hot Cross Buns at Easter on Holy Saturday.
- Along with the other Alsager Churches, we have continued to take a service in New Milton House once a month.
- We again held a stall at the Alsager Carnival distributing over 1100 balloons.
- We have conducted a Prayer Walk initiative, walking the boundaries of Alsager and individual areas of streets.
- We have had guest speakers: Andrew Cannon, Richard Brunton and Keith Davies from CSW.
- We have taken youth to youth events: 3generate and Limitless (one day).
- We have started working with Wesley Place and Christchurch to run a weekly youth group.

Sandbach Church Plant

We have presented and begun to work towards a church plant in Sandbach (see attached slides handouts from the presentation. We are working in partnership with Middlewich Community Church and are currently the only AoG church to be planting this way. Our intention is to keep things simple and to launch an afternoon meeting (4-6pm) from 17th March 2024.

To this end we have so far began praying monthly with Middlewich as well as establishing a planning team made up of the two leadership teams, found a venue, launched a website and social media, made contact by writing and meeting with leaders of the existing churches, begun to develop policies, etc and held an online information evening on Zoom.

For us this represents the fulfilment (early days obviously), of a vision Pete has had since first coming to Alsager and Middlewich have also received a vision for this independently. We are amazed and excited by the way God has brought us together on this and believe that our connection will prove even more significant long term than the church plant initiative.

This forms a major part of our immediate vision and therefore, as stated before, having presented this in depth before, we have settled for a simple AGM this time.

Alsager Community Church

Alsager Community Support and the Annexe

Following their decision to become an independent charity, ACS have found new premises and have moved from the building formally known as the Support Centre. The Foodbank continues to operate from the centre and the building itself, will be renamed THE ANNEXE. New signage should already be in place by the AGM. All monies belonging to ACS have been transferred to their bank account.

For the remainder of 2023, the whole building will be used by the Foodbank to help cover the busier programme of activity including Christmas hampers, etc. In the new year, decisions will be taken as to the ongoing use of The Annexe.

Alsager Foodbank

The Alsager & District Foodbank remains a part of the church and will continue to operate from the Annexe. Since ACS have moved out, the Foodbank have bought new noticeboards designed to provide information, which have been mounted on the side of the building.

The Foodbank has found itself in more demand than ever, with our number of clients far surpassing any previous years. It would appear that this is what we can expect to continue to happen into the near future.

Youth-Group

As mentioned before, we have begun to work with two other churches in the town to run a youth group, which many of our own young people are participating in. This group has actually been in existence for a number of years, and we were involved with it towards the beginning, but stopped both because of covid and also because our own youth had not at that time engaged with it. We are now pleased to report that a number of what we might call our own youth (i.e., those that attend on Sundays), are engaged in the group and we have been welcomed back onto the team.

This is very much one youth group among 3 churches and continues to grow. The intention is to run Youth Alpha in the new year.

Other

Church life continues as, is often the case with people moving on and new people coming. We are excited about what God is doing and trusting Him that we are the verge of seeing God move in a great way.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council and Trustees

P Howard REV PETE HOWARD

Dated: 14th May 2024

Alsager Community Church

Independent Examiners Report on the Receipts and Payment Accounts

To the Trustees/Members of Alsager Community Church, Registered Charity 1052554, on the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2023, set out on pages 8 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (as per Act Accounts and Audit Order 2015 SI 2015 No.321) so that an independent examination is needed and the accounts are to be prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act; and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

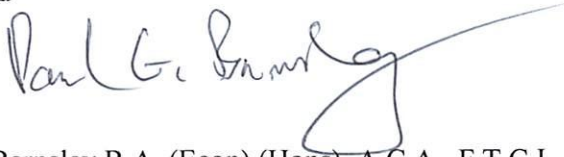
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities Financial Reporting Standard FRS102 have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Date 14th May 2024



Paul Barnsley B.A. (Econ) (Hons), A.C.A., F.T.C.L. (Chartered Accountant)

Heart Notes Ministries, 125 Crossefield Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Cheshire, SK8 5PF

Telephone 0161 485 3088 paul@heartnotes.org.uk

Alsager Community Church

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Note	Unrestricted 2023	Designated 2023	Restricted 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
Church Income						
Offerings		14,068.99	0.00	0.00	14,068.99	12,372.03
Gift Aid Offerings		30,519.00	0.00	0.00	30,519.00	27,360.00
Tax Recovered Gift Aid		7,981.55	0.00	0.00	7,981.55	4,721.29
Accounts Interest		38.24	0.00	0.00	38.24	3.41
Other Income	1	8,476.15	0.00	0.00	8,476.15	1,433.20
Room Hire	2	10,655.50	0.00	0.00	10,655.50	9,172.56
Subtotal Church Income		71,739.43	0.00	0.00	71,739.43	55,062.49
Coffee Shop						
Total Takings		13,368.12	0.00	0.00	13,368.12	9,108.39
Cost of Goods for resale		(4,208.34)	0.00	0.00	(4,208.34)	(2,594.47)
General Expenses		(24.35)	0.00	0.00	(24.35)	(573.55)
Subtotal Coffee Shop Net		9,135.43	0.00	0.00	9,135.43	5,940.37
NET INCOME church and coffee shop		80,874.86	0.00	0.00	80,874.86	61,002.86
Church Expenditure						
Pastors Salary		(34,356.58)	0.00	0.00	(34,356.58)	(29,745.36)
Church Ministry Costs	3	(17,589.47)	0.00	(64.41)	(17,653.88)	(9,745.31)
Missions	4	(6,890.11)	0.00	0.00	(6,890.11)	(3,884.42)
Building Running Costs	5	(17,600.25)	0.00	0.00	(17,600.25)	(18,748.06)
Subtotal church expenditure		(76,436.41)	0.00	(64.41)	(76,500.82)	(62,123.15)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for church		4,438.45	0.00	(64.41)	4,374.04	(1,120.29)
ALSAGER FOODBANK						
Foodbank Income						
Donations - regular		0.00	0.00	10,669.00	10,669.00	11,473.00
Donations - irregular		0.00	0.00	3,007.00	3,007.00	7,342.42
Donations - gift aid foodbank		0.00	0.00	1,960.00	1,960.00	835.00
Tax reclaim Gift aid claim foodbank		0.00	0.00	170.37	170.37	111.05
Subtotal Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	15,806.37	15,806.37	19,761.47
Foodbank Expenses						
Food Purchases		0.00	0.00	(17,382.57)	(17,382.57)	(10,514.16)
ACSC Rent		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(600.00)
Mobile Phone Costs		0.00	0.00	(110.21)	(110.21)	(92.38)
Subtotal Foodbank Expenses		0.00	0.00	(17,492.78)	(17,492.78)	(11,206.54)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Foodbank		0.00	0.00	(1,686.41)	(1,686.41)	8,554.93
ALSAGER SUPPORT CENTRE						
Sale of uniforms		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,262.21
Cheshire East Council - Community grant		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00
Donations and Grants Xmas Toy appeal		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,450.00
Donations		0.00	0.00	415.00	415.00	6,006.83
Tax claimed on gift aid		0.00	0.00	61.10	61.10	126.10
Recharges in from Food Bank cost recovery		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Administration Salaries		0.00	0.00	(3,797.00)	(3,797.00)	(24,221.02)
Administration Pensions		0.00	0.00	(195.79)	(195.79)	(772.54)
Hardship fund payments		0.00	(4,971.00)	0.00	(4,971.00)	(656.13)
Toys and Gifts for Xmas appeal		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(149.38)
Building running - Broadband and phone		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(878.56)
Building running - other costs		0.00	0.00	63.40	63.40	(2,984.67)
Building running - recharges from church		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,160.00)
Repayment of funds ex ASC		0.00	0.00	(17,678.05)	(17,678.05)	0.00
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Support Centre		0.00	(4,971.00)	(21,131.34)	(26,102.34)	(8,877.16)
GRAND TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		4,438.45	(4,971.00)	(22,882.16)	(23,414.71)	(1,442.52)

Alsager Community Church

	Note	Unrestricted 2023	Designated 2023	Restricted 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
STATEMENT OF INCOME						
Sunday Offering & Donations		14,068.99	0.00	0.00	14,068.99	12,372.03
Gift Aid Offerings		30,519.00	0.00	0.00	30,519.00	27,360.00
Tax Recovered - Gift Aids		7,981.55	0.00	0.00	7,981.55	4,721.29
Accounts Interest		38.24	0.00	0.00	38.24	3.41
Room Hire		10,655.50	0.00	0.00	10,655.50	9,172.56
Other Income		8,476.15	0.00	0.00	8,476.15	1,433.20
Coffee Shop Takings		13,368.12	0.00	0.00	13,368.12	9,108.39
Alsager Support Centre Income		0.00	0.00	476.10	476.10	21,945.14
Alsager Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	15,806.37	15,806.37	19,761.47
TOTAL INCOME		85,107.55	0.00	16,282.47	101,390.02	105,877.49
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE						
Pastor/Administrators Salary Costs		(34,356.58)	0.00	0.00	(34,356.58)	(29,745.36)
Church Ministry Costs		(17,589.47)	0.00	(64.41)	(17,653.88)	(9,745.31)
Missions		(6,890.11)	0.00	0.00	(6,890.11)	(3,884.42)
Building Running Costs		(17,600.25)	0.00	0.00	(17,600.25)	(18,748.06)
Alsager Support Centre Costs						
Running cost		0.00	(4,971.00)	(21,607.44)	(26,578.44)	(30,822.30)
Coffee Shop						
Cost of Goods for resale		(4,208.34)	0.00	0.00	(4,208.34)	(2,594.47)
General Expenses		(24.35)	0.00	0.00	(24.35)	(573.55)
Alsager Foodbank Expenditure		0.00	0.00	(17,492.78)	(17,492.78)	(11,206.54)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(80,669.10)	(4,971.00)	(39,164.63)	(124,804.73)	(107,320.01)
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for year		4,438.45	(4,971.00)	(22,882.16)	(23,414.71)	(1,442.52)
Opening Funds		25,317.62	37,971.00	62,590.70	125,879.32	127,321.84
Transfers in/(out)		(2,975.00)	3,000.00	(25.00)	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CLOSING NET FUNDS	6	26,781.07	36,000.00	39,683.54	102,464.61	125,879.32
Breakdown of Fund balances						
General Reserves		26,781.07	0.00	0.00	26,781.07	25,317.62
Special Treasures		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Alsager Support Centre		0.00	0.00	(233.12)	(233.12)	20,898.22
Hardship		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,971.00
Unforeseen cost Reserve		0.00	36,000.00	0.00	36,000.00	33,000.00
CRASH time		0.00	0.00	2,396.57	2,396.57	2,460.98
Alsager Food Bank		0.00	0.00	37,520.09	37,520.09	39,206.50
Total Fund balances		26,781.07	36,000.00	39,683.54	102,464.61	125,879.32
REPRESENTED BY						
Cash in Hand					291.12	266.94
Current Account					68,078.41	91,555.54
Savings Account					34,095.08	34,056.84
Total Net Assets					102,464.61	125,879.32

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Unrestricted 2023	Designated 2023	Restricted 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
1. Other Income					
Funeral contributions	206.00	0.00	0.00	206.00	0.00
Little Treasures	45.95	0.00	0.00	45.95	9.50
Contributions for pastor in training	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	200.00
AOG Ukraine & Earthquake Appeals	2,050.00	0.00	0.00	2,050.00	193.70
Sundry Other Income	174.20	0.00	0.00	174.20	30.00
Gift Aid contributions pastor in training	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Subtotal Other Income	8,476.15	0.00	0.00	8,476.15	1,433.20
2. Room Hire					
Slimming World	6,160.00	0.00	0.00	6,160.00	6,030.56
U3A	1,957.50	0.00	0.00	1,957.50	882.00
Rhythm Time	638.00	0.00	0.00	638.00	780.00
Sundry Hires	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Guild of Spinners & Weavers	492.00	0.00	0.00	492.00	270.00
Cheshire Carers	208.00	0.00	0.00	208.00	0.00
Overheads Charge Support Centre	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,160.00
Subtotal Room Hire	10,655.50	0.00	0.00	10,655.50	9,172.56
3. Church Ministry Costs					
Ministry Gifts - Visiting Speakers	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,040.00
Ministry Expenses	1,814.60	0.00	0.00	1,814.60	241.96
Ministry Resources	436.61	0.00	0.00	436.61	508.52
Administration Salaries	12,962.38	0.00	0.00	12,962.38	6,859.66
Communion Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.99
Copyright Licence	454.05	0.00	0.00	454.05	382.89
Worship Team Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52
Childrens Church	172.58	0.00	0.00	172.58	127.63
Child Protection Advisory Services	240.40	0.00	0.00	240.40	59.99
Christmas costs	40.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00
Youth Group	19.40	0.00	0.00	19.40	37.33
Little Treasures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.78
CRASH Time (Messy Church)	0.00	0.00	64.41	64.41	25.00
Flowers, Gifts and Presentations	2.99	0.00	0.00	2.99	188.98
Publicity and Advertising	326.59	0.00	0.00	326.59	100.88
CVS Cheshire	34.87	0.00	0.00	34.87	71.18
Pastoral Team Costs	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Data Protection Registration	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	35.00
Subtotal Church Ministry Costs	17,589.47	0.00	64.41	17,653.88	9,745.31
4. Missions					
Hope Uganda (HDCC)	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	812.50
AOG Annual Offering	1,200.72	0.00	0.00	1,200.72	1,200.72
AOG NW & M Region	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
AOG Ukraine Appeal	2,049.39	0.00	0.00	2,049.39	193.70
Living Hope Ministries	900.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	937.50
Andy Cannon	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	500.00
UCB	240.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	240.00
Subtotal Missions	6,890.11	0.00	0.00	6,890.11	3,884.42

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

	Unrestricted 2023	Designated 2023	Restricted 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
5. Building Running Costs					
Caretaker/Cleaners Pay	6,188.00	0.00	0.00	6,188.00	5,943.61
Carpet Cleaning	89.99	0.00	0.00	89.99	0.00
Cleaning Materials and Window Cleaning	27.72	0.00	0.00	27.72	0.00
Office Telephone and Broadband	409.26	0.00	0.00	409.26	394.61
Computer Software and consumables	426.74	0.00	0.00	426.74	408.74
Office Printer/Copier	409.21	0.00	0.00	409.21	373.82
Postage and Stationery	85.68	0.00	0.00	85.68	127.91
Insurance	2,192.35	0.00	0.00	2,192.35	1,111.62
Gas	997.42	0.00	0.00	997.42	1,102.61
Electricity	3,144.15	0.00	0.00	3,144.15	1,704.44
Water Rates	609.14	0.00	0.00	609.14	367.53
SITA Wheely Bin Charges	1,054.55	0.00	0.00	1,054.55	872.15
Accountant (Independent examination)	796.50	0.00	0.00	796.50	0.00
Equipment Purchases	578.07	0.00	0.00	578.07	682.94
Sundry Admin expenses	61.16	0.00	0.00	61.16	420.99
General Maintenance	530.31	0.00	0.00	530.31	1,522.09
Hire of Civic hall	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,715.00
Subtotal Building Running Costs	17,600.25	0.00	0.00	17,600.25	18,748.06

6. Fund Movements	Balance C/fwd	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers
General	26,781.07	25,317.62	85,107.55	(80,669.10)	(2,975.00)
Subtotal Unrestricted funds	26,781.07	25,317.62	85,107.55	(80,669.10)	(2,975.00)
Unforeseen cost Reserve	36,000.00	33,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
Subtotal Designated funds	36,000.00	37,971.00	0.00	(4,971.00)	3,000.00
Special Treasures	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	(25.00)
Alsager Support Centre	(233.12)	20,898.22	476.10	(21,607.44)	0.00
CRASH time (Messy Church)	2,396.57	2,460.98	0.00	(64.41)	0.00
Alsager Food Bank	37,520.09	39,206.50	15,806.37	(17,492.78)	0.00
Subtotal Restricted funds	39,683.54	62,590.70	16,282.47	(39,164.63)	(25.00)
Grand Total All Funds	102,464.61	125,879.32	101,390.02	(124,804.73)	0.00

Accounts

Alsager Community Church
5 Lawton Road
Alsager
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST7 2AA



Registered Charity : 1052554

www.alsagercommunitychurch.org.uk

**Report and Accounts
For the Year ending
31st August 2022**

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Alsager Community Church

Report of the Trustees and Activities Review

The Financial results are set out in the enclosed accounts on pages 16 to 17.

The Principal activities throughout the year under review were

- 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:
- 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:
- To relieve sickness and financial hardship and promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods, 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 may think fit.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

Rev Peter Howard (appointed 28th August 2013), 27 Woodside Avenue, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2DL
Contact via Church office Telephone 01270 873859

+ **Andrew Collet (appointed 17th January 2023)**, 5 Elanor Road, Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 3FZ

+ **Christopher Preston (appointed 7th November 2022)**, 33 Liverpool Road West, Church Lawton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST7 3DG

+ **Vicki Dent (appointed 17th October 2022)**, 15 St. Saviours Street, Talke, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 1LR

+ **Sarah Humpries (appointed 17th October 2022)**, 28 Shady Grove, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2NQ

+ **Ben Cade-Hughes (appointed 30th September 2022)**, 19 Tibb Street, Bignall End, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 8PT

+ **Ian Tideswell (appointed 10th September 2022)**, 57 The Bank, Scholar Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3LF

+ **Wendy Walker (appointed 4th September 2022)**, 2 Wheelock Close, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 2NY

+ **Michael Keenan (appointed 4th September 2022)**, 45 Sydney Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4HQ

+ **Alan Roper (appointed 4th September 2022)**, 74 Centre Court, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 2EB

+ **Mrs Laura Smith (appointed 9th November 2020)**, 3 Townfield Close, Talke, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 1NF.

Mrs Sarah Francis (resigned 4th September 2022), **Mr Darren Spencer (resigned 30th September 2022)**, **Mr John Hammond (resigned 20th April 2022)** and **Mr Alan Moore (resigned 21st February 2022)** also served as Trustees during this financial period.

The Holding Trustees of the churches property are Michael Collet, John Hammond, Mark Hampton and Harold Pinkney.

Due to large changes in trustees, the elders marked + serve will initially serve one year in office which may be extended to 2 years to facilitate continuity, and subsequently normally 2 years. The Rev Howard's term continues until he ceases to be Minister of the church. The Data Protection Officer continues to be Mrs Vanessa Howard.

Alsager Community Church

Report of the Trustees and Activities Review - continued

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have recently reviewed their reserves policy to ensure that adequate funding is available to allow the church to deal with unforeseen expenditure, replacement or repair of equipment and six months building and staff running costs.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ACCOUNTS

We certify that the books, vouchers and information produced to enable the independent examination of our accounts to be conducted contain a full and accurate record of our financial transactions and the activities to the best of our knowledge and belief. In view of the scale of the charities activities, the Trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council



Michael Keenan

Dated: 20th May 2023



Pastor's Report and church activity review

General comments

The context of this report is that restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic have largely ended, with only very minor ongoing effects still present in our society (for example, masks in hospitals or care homes and some missing work – or in our case church due to catching covid). It has been great to see some 'normality' in what we do again and to see most people having returned to in person services.

We would strongly encourage those who have not yet returned to church to do so, as now that better fellowship is possible, missing out is detrimental.

Alsager Community Church

Staffing

It is exciting to make the first point of this report about how we have employed Laura Smith as Pastor in Training/Assistant. Laura has a wonderful call of God on her life, and we look forward to seeing this gifting grow and for us to be blessed in it.

In addition, there has been a change to Nessie's role, although in practice much is carrying on as before. We have made Nessie the Church Manager and she is responsible for overseeing the church as an organisation, mirroring policies and day to day operation. In fact, this is what she has been doing for some time.

50th Anniversary

September 2021 was 50 years since the church was first planted and this has been our key focus since then. We have been celebrating this with 50 things at 50 and we have just about finished. The 50 things have been...

1. Church getting a bit more back to normal.
2. Visit of Andrew Cannon
3. New Home-group opened in Crewe
4. Reopening of Little Treasures Playgroup after Covid
5. Reopening of the Coffee Shop (renamed The Meeting Place) after Covid.
6. Prayer Day (around the cross).
7. Visit of Richard Brunton (Living Hope Ministries).
8. First assemblies back in local primary schools
9. First of new look Kids videos on YouTube
10. Baptism Service
11. Our '50 little acts of celebration and kindness' initiative.
12. Restarting of our-after church shared meals.
13. Visit of former church pastors Chris and Matthew Wright.
14. 411 disciple's training
15. Coffee Shop open at the Light Switch on and our Tree at the Wesley Place Christmas Tree Festival.
16. ACS Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Poole employed.
17. ACS Christmas Toy Appeal and Foodbank Christmas Hampers.
18. Our Christmas Carol Celebrations
19. Kids Christmas Movie party
20. Church winter walk.
21. 24 hours of prayer event
22. Visit of guest speaker from SASRA (Soldier's and Airman's Scripture Readers Association).
23. Alpha
24. Bouncy Castle Fun Afternoon.
25. Church Family Service.
26. Share and Prayer Day event.
27. Visit of AoG Zone Leader Steve Thomas.
28. Visit of church founding pastor Ray Holdcroft.
29. Ministry Fair
30. New Church cleaner Susan Ndagire employed.
31. Jungle theme Kids Weekend.
32. Mother's Day Service.
33. Easter Events.

Alsager Community Church

34. Visit of Andrew Cannon.
35. Launch of Our monthly Breakfast Book Club.
36. Superhero Kids Weekend.
37. HUG (Hope Uganda) Service.
38. Stall at the Alsager Carnival.
39. Father's Day Service.
40. Bouncy Castle Fun Afternoon.
41. Acceptance of Laura Smith into the AoG Minister's in Training programme and subsequent employment as Church Pastor in Training.
42. Church Summer Socials
43. Visit of Richard Brunton (Living Hope Ministries).
44. Training for our soon to be launched Café Church (course).
45. Baptism Service
46. Dinosaur theme Kids Weekend.
47. New look Website (still a work in progress).
48. Be Still 24/7 Prayer Quiet Time course.
49. Weekend with Christian Comedian Andy Kind.
50. Vision Sunday and AGM.
51. Church Party (due to happen on 12th November).

It would be hard to identify particular highlights from this list as so many of them have been big blessings. Seeing ministries reopen after so long following Covid was amazing and seeing them flourishing again is wonderful. Our prayer specials have seen some beautiful encounters with God, our kids' weekends and bouncy castle events have seen our hall full of children. Welcoming guest preachers and missions on special Sundays, particularly former leaders of our church were a real privilege and welcoming new staff in different capacities is exciting.

Don't forget our wonderful baptism services where Eileen, Phil and Ellie were baptised.

Sunday Church

In the light of Laura's appointment, as well as other factors such as the continuing pressure on individuals for set-up, etc, we have, as all will hopefully be aware, moved our Sunday services back to our own building. We have been grateful for the opportunity to use the Alsager Civic, which was particularly helpful during Covid, and we are also aware of the challenges this presents with our children's work, prayer, etc and that we may well, we trust, find ourselves again facing the issue of space as we grow.

At the same time, we know this decision has been welcomed by many and we have enjoyed the intimacy of recent weeks.

We will spend some time talking through the implications of our move back to the building at our Vision Sunday.

Regular Activities

With the exceptions of CRASH Zone (our monthly activity for families with special needs) and our Craft for Wellbeing group which have regrettably not reopened, all our regular ministries and activities which remained closed during Covid have started up again. Our coffee shop (renamed The Meeting Place) and our Little Treasures playgroup reopened in September 2021. As may be seen in any additional reports included, these have got off to a great start and have become established again with new volunteers coming on board in both.

Alsager Community Church

Home-groups and prayer

Home-groups and the weekly prayer meeting are back up and running with a new group having opened in Crewe and discussions beginning to happen about a potential new daytime group opening soon. Some groups have opted to continue to use the coffee shop to meet in. The prayer meeting has continued with its format of meeting in-person with the opportunity to also join in via zoom.

Alsager Community Support

Since the last report and as already announced in church, ACS (formally the Alsager Community Support Centre) has, at their request, become an independent and separate charity from the church. They have formally registered with the Charity Commission, gaining their own charity number and at time of writing, are working towards opening a bank account, which may well have been achieved by our AGM date.

As a church, we are seeking to assist with the transition, which includes continuing to manage staff and payroll on their behalf until they are registered for these. Nessie has become a trustee and will serve for a year in this capacity as part of her Church Manager role and it has been requested that we have someone from the church continue to serve in a trustee role into the future.

Alsager & District Foodbank

The Foodbank continues to serve the community with an ever-increasing demand. Please see the attached Foodbank report.

Weddings and Funerals

We were delighted to have held the wedding of Simon and Emma Felton on 25th September 2021 (Simon previously worked for us as our cleaner) and of Graham and Melanie Slinger more recently on 1st October 2022.

Pete has conducted the following funerals over this time...

Claire Skinner who was Phil and Cath's daughter, at Wesley Place on 15th October 2021; Pam Tomlinson who was Trevor Condliffe's daughter, at Crewe Crematorium on 25th February 2022; Brain Berrington (Verena and Doreen) at the church on 25th May 2022 and church members supported the funeral of Caroline Ramcharan's mother.

We continue to offer our deep respect and condolences to the families and continue to pray from them in their ongoing grief.

In addition, we hosted the ACS Presentation afternoon for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service on 28th September 2022.

Conclusion

We continue to trust and believe God for great things in this coming season. The last year hasn't been the easiest and we are conscious that individuals from the church have chosen to move on and others still have not felt they can return to church services, etc.

However, we are grateful for new people who have joined us and are seeking for God's leading for our future. There is a sense of something new in the atmosphere and pray for a sense of expectancy and faith as we move forward together!

Alsager Community Church

Church Manager – Nessie Howard

We have been grateful for the opportunity for me to be employed in the church for the last several years as “Admin Officer” as it has enabled me to remain focused in the church to support the coffee shop, Foodbank, pastoral duties, lettings, helping Pete, community work etc rather than needing to seek employment elsewhere, which would give me less time for day-to-day church.

Increasingly, my role has grown to include areas such as line management of staff, pensions, policies, data protection, building management and safeguarding leads plus a more strategic view of the organisation as a whole.

My new job title of Church Manager is intended to reflect those changes and we expect that the role will continue to develop over time. It will still involve quite a bit of admin work, but we will seek to get others involved in that too and Laura’s appointment is also a great help in this respect.

Currently we are looking at reorganising the office and storage areas of the building, simplifying procedures, and improving our systems such as calendars which Laura has been looking at.

Rob, Phil and David have continued to provide a level of maintenance and care for our building (see separate report). We are needing some DIY/decorating doing soon and I’m sure they would appreciate the offers of help. Since last year we have also employed a fabulous caretaker, Susan. She is in the building most afternoons and has been a truly invaluable addition to our team.

We have 7 groups who regularly use the building plus now the ACS, as well as our own activities, and I liaise with them regularly and issue their invoices for hire.

For the size of our church – we’re all certainly busy.

Maintenance – Phil Scroggins/Rob Walker

Quite a lot of maintenance work has been completed. In the coffee shop, all feet have been replaced on the coffee shop chairs and a new curtain has been put on the bar counter in the coffee shop with items in storage hidden behind it.

All chairs in the church hall have had feet and cushions replaced or repaired where needed and are now in the process of having the legs repainted.

All safety signs and tape have been placed where needed/replaced as required and the media/sound room has been reorganised.

Jobs to be done include moving notice boards, etc and putting up the Jesus banner, which was used in the civic, along the wall of the church hall. If anyone sees anything they think might need looking at, please let Pete, Rob or Phil know.

Pastor in training – Laura Smith

Having started in my new role on 7th September, I have so far been learning about the daily running of the church, including administrative support, and helping in The Meeting Place when needed. I am grateful to be able to continue to serve in the Food Bank approximately once a month. It has been great to meet lots of new

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people and so far, every day has been very different. I am excited to preach more often and to get involved in other areas of ministry including pastoral care and the Kids' Club weekends. It has also been great to get started with the Assemblies of God Ministers in Training Course, with the focus of the first year being deepening our relationship with Jesus in order to rely on His strength and leading. This has been very encouraging, and this theme has been paralleled in the weekly ACC prayer meetings which have been powerful and uplifting. I continue to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading about the focus of my ministry, and I am looking forward to working with Pete, Nessie and everyone involved in the church.

Prayer – Wendy Walker

"Prayer is the nerve which moves the muscle of Omnipotence". Charles H Spurgeon

"Prayer can do whatever God can do". Rick Warren

Past/present.

Over the past 12 months we have had up to 15 attending **Thursday evening Prayer Time**, which has been a real encouragement. Having in-person as well as via Zoom available has meant that more have been able to join in with this integral part of church life. I intend to continue with these two ways of connecting with church prayer and will continue to encourage people to engage if they possibly can.

Reflective Prayer [led by Anne], although not always many attending, has been a source of quiet reflection, using the Lectio Divina rhythm of meditating on scripture, along with prayer [24-7 Prayer – Prayer Guide/Prayer Course Toolshed]. This prayer session will continue, on the 1st Thursday in the month.

A number of **prayer days/weekends/courses** have taken place since the last AGM, all of which have been well attended and a great source of encouragement. **24 hours of prayer** at the beginning of this year was awesome and all hours were covered by at least one person. [I have to say at this point that praying between 11pm and 3am on a cold January night was one of the most profound and blessed things I have ever done].

Looking forward.

Anne and I went away for a weekend prayer retreat at the end of September. There was no plan, we just turned up and went with the Holy Spirit flow. Primarily this was for us to spend time with and hear from God on a personal level, but we also prayed into some areas of church life which Pete had given us pointers on. The themes of 'blessing' and 'fruit' kept coming up again and again. Consequently, there will be some **new things coming along** – for the rest of this year and for next year too.

Another **24 hours of prayer** will be scheduled for early January 2023 too, ensuring that we hear from God right at the beginning of the year – for His will to be central in all we do as a church.

Kids Church – Nessie Howard

Sunday church is amazing – especially if you are under 12yrs of age! We currently have 10 children regularly attending most weeks with a few others of the edge of things. These children have really connected well with each other and genuinely care for each other which is amazing to see.

We have made full use of using the complete building – wide games and worship in the church hall and crafts and devotions in the Meeting Place and so are now transitioning back into just using the Meeting Place. We have lots of games equipment that we can't easily now use so please pray for us as we look at what we can do

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to ensure that element stays. So far, we have enjoyed having two kid's weekends that have given us those opportunities and in the summer months we can use the field outside.

We love worship – both as a part of the church before we leave and also in our group. Hillsong Kids and WorshipForEveryone continue to be our favourites along with a Cheeky Panda or two. (If you don't know what I mean – check them out on YouTube!)

We have been using a website, Kidssundayschool.com for our teaching this year on a trial basis as the teaching material we used previously had stopped being produced. Another resource has been recommended to us so we are considering switching to that. We are still deciding! We need something that can easily be adapted for our wide age range. Please pray for us.

We have seen the children growing in their relationship with God, growing in knowledge and growing together as a part of God's church. They really are an amazing bunch 😊

This summer saw us having a kid's church summer party in my garden and a trip to the ice cream parlour in Tattenhall. We are hoping to have a light party next month too.

We have a team of 5 people who plan the sessions and another 4 people who help run the sessions on a rota basis. Lenny has taken responsibility for organising the rota with Jackie doing our curriculum plan. Going forward, we are praying for the development of separate/targeted groups for the older/younger ones, and we are hoping to relaunch our creche facilities. We have had several families visit with very small children and currently find it very hard to meet their needs within the structure we currently have. Please pray for us and consider getting involved.

Here are some of us celebrating God's faithfulness at the end of our series on Noah and at the Ice cream Farm.....



The Meeting Place coffee shop – Nessie Howard

The Coffee Shop reopened in September 2021 after being closed because of the pandemic. It was lovely to be able to welcome our customers back with so many people that we have missed seeing for so long. Now having been open for just over a year we are pleased to say that things have settled back nicely to the way they should be. Some prices have had to go up and some small things have had to change but overall, this does not seem to have affected our business badly.

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Some days are quieter than others, but this has given the opportunity to get to know people better and of course, that is really the main point of the outreach.

We reopened with a new name and new opening times. ‘The Meeting Place’ is a place we hope that people will meet and connect with each other and perhaps more significantly, where they might meet Jesus. There have been opportunities for prayer and conversation, and we pray this might happen more and more. We now officially open at 9am, although most customers don’t arrive until our previous opening time of 10am.

We introduced a ‘help yourself’ bookshelf with second-hand/donated Christian books which has been very popular and every bible we put out gets taken. A lady in the church also sews cushions/purses that we put out for people to take for a donation if they can afford. This has blessed many customers and brought in some funds for the work of the church. Frank’s cards are always popular too.

We are so grateful for the volunteers who serve each week, with new volunteers coming on board as we reopened. We have said goodbye to some who have chosen (in good spirit) that this is a natural time for them to stop and we are grateful for the service that they gave before – some for many years.

We are so grateful too for the kind volunteers who bake/bring us cakes. They are always so popular and add something special to our menu. We are desperately in need of more cake volunteers and if you can help us with this, please speak to Dorothy, who kindly organises our cake rota.

Our aim/dream has always been to have at least one person from the church on every day, a kind of Church Rep if you like. At the moment Tuesdays is the only day we aren’t achieving this so if you feel this might be an area you would like to serve in then please speak to me. Of course, the other days might well be available options for you as well.

Lastly, a little thing worth celebrating, our church welcome packs include a £5 voucher for the coffee shop, but we have never actually seen one claimed - that is until a few weeks ago. It is a great thought to think The Meeting Place can effectively support our Sunday services and vice versa. We have always advertised church activities in the Meeting Place, but we have seen more people connecting with the church recently – especially for our Bouncy fun days, kids weekend clubs and the comedy night.

Foodbank – Nessie Howard, Tracy Abbott, Pai Baxter and Di Nixon

We thought that you would like to see how you have helped during 2021 (Jan-Dec)

We were able to help feed 106 referred households during 2021 consisting of:-

- 155 Individual Adults and 146 Individual Children in 2021
- To fulfil the needs of these households in 2021 we issued:-
- 1199 Adult units and 1225 Children units (1 unit = 1 weeks’ worth of food) in 2021

In 2021 we provided food for an average of:-7.7 weeks to each adult/8.3 weeks to each child .

With the help of Alsager Rotary we were able to provide over 50 households with Christmas Hampers. Toys were also supplied to families with the help of Alsager Community Support Centre Toy Appeal.

Currently, we already have 123 referred households with 3 months of the year still to go and people have been needing support for a little longer than previously.

Alsager Community Church

We have been blessed with many donations – both monetary and goods. One of our biggest challenges was physically stocking the shelves, but we have seen many groups not only raising funds for us but also actively shopping on our behalf. We do share some of our surplus items with Congleton, Crewe and Swanbank Foodbanks.

We trialled a fuel top up scheme for those in fuel poverty but were unable to help those that pay by direct debit. That has led us to change what items we give out to make sure we can support all fairly. We now routinely give out a range of toiletries (not just basics) and cleaning products including washing powder, cooking items like stock cubes and condiments like mayonnaise. We also give fresh fruit and vegetables as well as the bread, cheese and eggs that we had previously given, which we buy fresh on the morning. The thinking behind this action is that if people don't have to buy these items they have money left for fuel. We have also bought some cookery books to give out that specialise in using tins and dried food. Feedback from people was that it really helped them to know what to do with some of the tins we give!

We have enrolled with Neighbourly, so Sainsburys give us their surplus bakery most weeks and occasionally fresh fruit.

We currently have 4 Coordinators, all taking a week at a time to run the foodbank and we have 13 volunteers helping to pack and sort stock on a rota basis. We have continued to have 4 people who will deliver, a few folks we can call on to help sort stock and others who have offered to shop for us. We are still trying to limit how many people are in the room at any one time due to Covid.

We were given some Ukrainian copies of UCB's Word for Today which we have included with welcome packs that we have given to any Refugees coming into Alsager. It has been humbling to stand with these people and offer them support, welcome and in some cases prayers for their families both here and back in the Ukraine.

We have also continued to give out vouchers for drinks and food at the Meeting Place and for the Big Breakfast at Christchurch. We also give vouchers to those with preschool children so that they can come along to our Little Treasures.

Little Treasures Playgroup – Suzanne Ellis

Little Treasures is our playgroup for children up to preschool/early school age. It takes place on Thursday mornings and has always been a thriving group, though after Covid the group reduced drastically in numbers.

This year, we have done our usual activities: the children have a variety of different toys, jigsaw puzzles, craft activities etc. We are pleased to see that we have in the region of 20 – 25 children now attending the group regularly. Unlike previous years, the numbers have stayed constant with a steady stream of new children. Parents hear about us on Facebook and the 'What's on in Alsager' pages and word of mouth.

Over the years I have tried to encourage people to help out if they can spare some time, and I am pleased to report that Sarah Humphries and Gina Poole from church is now regular helpers.

Pete is still on hand to read our morning story and give out the toast, but with a busy coffee shop, the support centre, and various other tasks, I do feel that he would benefit from some more regular help. Several grandmothers are a big support on the day but if anyone fancies coming along and leading a craft activity/ joining in some singing/ chatting to parents...or even help tidying up...they would be more than welcome!

Alsager Community Church

Café Church Project – Dan & Sarah Page

Little Treasures is our playgroup for children up to preschool/early school age. It takes place on Thursday mornings and has always been a thriving group, though after Covid the group reduced drastically in numbers.

A bid was sent to Spring Harvest to support the setting up and delivery of a Café Church Course, once a month on a Sunday afternoon (4pm). Spring Harvest are calling us to chat through the bid with us on Wednesday 19th October - Prayers would be appreciated. The outcome of this conversation will help us define how the Café Church Course or a simpler Café Church concept will move forward.

We have been meeting with a small group of people semi regularly over the summer for Café Church training. We've looked at the importance of all-age worship, making music and talks accessible so that children and their grown-ups can meet together and find something that helps connect them to God.

We've discussed the gift of hospitality as a form of welcome and blessing people with food and supportive conversation. We have also looked at the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the context of evangelism and how to be supernatural, but still come across as relatable. We have also thought about how we can share our testimonies of what God has done in our lives in simple and accessible ways. It has been good to get to know one another better and to worship together in the cafe and get used to the set up.

We are hoping we will have some news to share with you soon about when this new ministry might be launched.

Ladies Home Group – Dorothy & Liz

We have been meeting regularly for several years now, on a Monday morning. Members have changed over the years; at present we have 9.

This last year we have studied Jesus in me by Anne Graham Lotz, which consisted of 6 studies on the Holy Spirit, women of holy week, looking at ordinary women present during the lead up to the crucifixion, messianic prophecies and fulfilment, scripture verses looking at "The church", as encouraged by Pete, and more recently the book of Hebrews.

We also support each other in a WhatsApp group, sharing prayer support, verses of scripture, and general encouragement. It is a safe place to share and be encouraged at the beginning of a new week.

Home Group – Graeme Smith

The group continued meeting throughout lockdown, making full use of Zoom. When we returned to meeting together, there were several changes to our pre-lockdown meetings. In particular, we now meet on Wednesday rather than Tuesday, at church rather than in a home, and we usually start with a quiz which is usually linked (often very loosely!) to what we are studying.

We have used a wide range of resources to study books of the Bible, themes (such as the names of God) and subjects (such as our role in renewing culture). We are currently going through 2 Timothy, which is highly relevant to our daily lives.

Alsager Community Church

We always have a lengthy time of sharing and prayer, and another lockdown innovation is a WhatsApp group where urgent prayer requests can be shared.

The group is smaller than it was pre-lockdown, but there is a real depth of love and concern for each other. We think we are very welcoming and friendly, so if anyone would like to give us a try, we'd love to see you.

Home Group – Wendy Walker

Since receiving the baton from Harold in July 2021, there have been quite a few changes; mostly with group membership. There has been some fluctuation in numbers, from 11 down to 6 [when the Crewe Home Group was started] and now back up to 11-13.

Leadership of a small group of believers is an incredibly humbling and privileged thing, the responsibility of which I do not carry lightly.

We have found, and are still finding, our way together as an ever-emerging group. We have delved into Scripture together, both book-guided and spontaneous; we have partied together – to celebrate and to get to know one another, and also to come alongside each other in times of need. We have had sharing times, both testimony and needs which we have prayed with each other for. AND we have cake on birthdays – most of which are baked by Rob and are yummy!!

We are [as I write] coming to the end of a very enlightening study on Ephesians, using John Stott's study guide, *'Ephesians – Building a Community in Christ'*.

As we have a number of new and fairly new members, we will be having a 'get to know you' session soon and will subsequently be having a chat about what we would like to do next.

We will be having a party near Christmas, to celebrate each other, and our Lord Jesus' birth.

At the beginning of my 'tenure' as leader of this group, I declared Ephesians 2:22 over us all. '.....in Him you too [as a group] are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit'. I also gave a promise, to God, to myself and to the group. "to be a leader who doesn't seek to 'climb the ladder', but who digs deeper; to be a servant to all". The declaration and promise are still and always will be at the very heart of the wonderful group of brothers and sisters I have the awesome job of leading. We will encourage one another; grow together; and praise our Heavenly Father for all His blessings.

Alsager Community Church

Home Group (Crewe) – Mike Keenan

A number of our fellowship either live in Crewe or have moved to the area so a new home-group started in September 2021 at my home. We meet on a Wed morning once a fortnight at 10.30am and we have 7 regular members though more are welcome to come whether they live in the Crewe area or not. The meetings are quite informal with the emphasis on Praise and Worship, sharing and testimony with some bible study or teaching. Our objective is encouragement as the scriptures say

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thess. 5:11

Please speak to me if you wish to know more about Crewe Home-group.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council and Trustees



REV PETE HOWARD

Dated: 20th May 2023

Alsager Community Church

Independent Examiners Report on the Receipts and Payment Accounts

To the Trustees/Members of Alsager Community Church, Registered Charity 1052554, on the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2022, set out on pages 16 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (as per Act Accounts and Audit Order 2015 SI 2015 No.321) so that an independent examination is needed and the accounts are to be prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act; and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

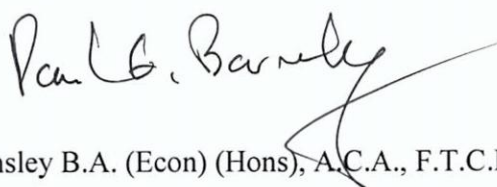
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities Financial Reporting Standard FRS102 have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Date 20th May 2023



Paul Barnsley B.A. (Econ) (Hons), A.C.A., F.T.C.L. (Chartered Accountant)

Heart Notes Ministries, 125 Crossefield Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Cheshire, SK8 5PF

Telephone 0161 485 3088 paul@heartnotes.org.uk

Alsager Community Church

<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>	Note	Unrestricted 2022	Designated 2022	Restricted 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Church Income						
Offerings		12,347.03	0.00	25.00	12,372.03	17,537.08
Gift Aid Offerings		27,360.00	0.00	0.00	27,360.00	25,728.57
Tax Recovered Gift Aid		4,721.29	0.00	0.00	4,721.29	6,809.92
Accounts Interest		3.41	0.00	0.00	3.41	1.68
Other Income	1	1,433.20	0.00	0.00	1,433.20	0.00
Room Hire	2	9,172.56	0.00	0.00	9,172.56	5,918.00
Subtotal Church Income		55,037.49	0.00	25.00	55,062.49	55,995.25
Coffee Shop						
Total Takings		9,108.39	0.00	0.00	9,108.39	0.00
Cost of Goods for resale		(2,594.47)	0.00	0.00	(2,594.47)	0.00
General Expenses		(573.55)	0.00	0.00	(573.55)	0.00
Subtotal Coffee Shop Net		5,940.37	0.00	0.00	5,940.37	0.00
NET INCOME church and coffee shop		60,977.86	0.00	25.00	61,002.86	55,995.25
Church Expenditure						
Pastors Salary		(29,745.36)	0.00	0.00	(29,745.36)	(29,925.03)
Church Ministry Costs	3	(9,745.31)	0.00	0.00	(9,745.31)	(6,649.41)
Missions	4	(3,884.42)	0.00	0.00	(3,884.42)	(3,140.72)
Building Running Costs	5	(18,748.06)	0.00	0.00	(18,748.06)	(14,658.53)
Subtotal church expenditure		(62,123.15)	0.00	0.00	(62,123.15)	(54,373.69)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for church		(1,145.29)	0.00	25.00	(1,120.29)	1,621.56
ALSAGER FOODBANK						
Foodbank Income						
Donations - regular		0.00	0.00	11,473.00	11,473.00	12,433.21
Donations - irregular		0.00	0.00	7,342.42	7,342.42	7,233.49
Donations - gift aid foodbank		0.00	0.00	835.00	835.00	2,135.67
Tax reclaim Gift aid claim foodbank		0.00	0.00	111.05	111.05	108.09
Subtotal Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	19,761.47	19,761.47	21,910.46
Foodbank Expenses						
Food Purchases		(0.00)	0.00	(10,514.16)	(10,514.16)	(10,627.78)
ACSC Rent		0.00	0.00	(600.00)	(600.00)	(600.00)
Mobile Phone Costs		0.00	0.00	(92.38)	(92.38)	(177.72)
Subtotal Foodbank Expenses		(0.00)	0.00	(11,206.54)	(11,206.54)	(11,405.50)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Foodbank		(0.00)	0.00	8,554.93	8,554.93	10,504.96
ALSAGER SUPPORT CENTRE						
Sale of uniforms		0.00	0.00	1,262.21	1,262.21	798.24
Cheshire East Council - Community grant		0.00	0.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	8,150.00
Alsager Town Council - Community grant		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Cheshire East Council - Covid support		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Donations and Grants Xmas Toy appeal		0.00	0.00	1,450.00	1,450.00	0.00
Donations		0.00	250.00	5,756.83	6,006.83	3,686.12
Tax claimed on gift aid		0.00	0.00	126.10	126.10	247.95
Recharges in from Food Bank cost recovery		0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Administration Salaries		0.00	0.00	(24,221.02)	(24,221.02)	(12,350.48)
Administration Pensions		0.00	0.00	(772.54)	(772.54)	(416.92)
Hardship fund payments		0.00	(656.13)	0.00	(656.13)	(267.99)
Toys and Gifts for Xmas appeal		0.00	0.00	(149.38)	(149.38)	0.00
Building running - Broadband and phone		0.00	0.00	(878.56)	(878.56)	(709.73)
Building running - other costs		0.00	0.00	(2,984.67)	(2,984.67)	(2,045.67)
Building running - recharges from church		0.00	0.00	(1,160.00)	(1,160.00)	(1,160.00)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Support Centre		0.00	(406.13)	(8,471.03)	(8,877.16)	3,531.52
GRAND TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(1,145.29)	(406.13)	108.90	(1,442.52)	15,658.04

Alsager Community Church

	Note	Unrestricted 2022	Designated 2022	Restricted 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
STATEMENT OF INCOME						
Sunday Offering & Donations		12,347.03	0.00	25.00	12,372.03	17,537.08
Gift Aid Offerings		27,360.00	0.00	0.00	27,360.00	25,728.57
Tax Recovered - Gift Aids		4,721.29	0.00	0.00	4,721.29	6,809.92
Accounts Interest		3.41	0.00	0.00	3.41	1.68
Room Hire		9,172.56	0.00	0.00	9,172.56	5,918.00
Other Income		1,433.20	0.00	0.00	1,433.20	0.00
Coffee Shop Takings		9,108.39	0.00	0.00	9,108.39	0.00
Alsager Support Centre Income		0.00	250.00	21,695.14	21,945.14	20,482.31
Alsager Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	19,761.47	19,761.47	21,910.46
TOTAL INCOME		64,145.88	250.00	41,481.61	105,877.49	98,388.02
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE						
Pastor/Administrators Salary Costs		(29,745.36)	0.00	0.00	(29,745.36)	(29,925.03)
Church Ministry Costs		(9,745.31)	0.00	0.00	(9,745.31)	(6,649.41)
Missions		(3,884.42)	0.00	0.00	(3,884.42)	(3,140.72)
Building Running Costs		(18,748.06)	0.00	0.00	(18,748.06)	(14,658.53)
Alsager Support Centre Costs						
Running cost		0.00	(656.13)	(30,166.17)	(30,822.30)	(16,950.79)
Coffee Shop						
Cost of Goods for resale		(2,594.47)	0.00	0.00	(2,594.47)	0.00
General Expenses		(573.55)	0.00	0.00	(573.55)	0.00
Alsager Foodbank Expenditure		(0.00)	0.00	(11,206.54)	(11,206.54)	(11,405.50)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(65,291.17)	(656.13)	(41,372.71)	(107,320.01)	(82,729.98)
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for year		(1,145.29)	(406.13)	108.90	(1,442.52)	15,658.04
Opening Funds		34,462.91	30,377.13	62,481.80	127,321.84	111,663.80
Transfers in/(out)		(8,000.00)	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CLOSING NET FUNDS	6	25,317.62	37,971.00	62,590.70	125,879.32	127,321.84
Breakdown of Fund balances						
General Reserves		25,317.62	0.00	0.00	25,317.62	34,462.91
Special Treasures		0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00
Alsager Support Centre		0.00	0.00	20,898.22	20,898.22	29,369.25
Hardship		0.00	4,971.00	0.00	4,971.00	5,377.13
Unforeseen cost Reserve		0.00	33,000.00	0.00	33,000.00	25,000.00
CRASH time		0.00	0.00	2,460.98	2,460.98	2,460.98
Alsager Food Bank		0.00	0.00	39,206.50	39,206.50	30,651.57
Total Fund balances		25,317.62	37,971.00	62,590.70	125,879.32	127,321.84
REPRESENTED BY						
Cash in Hand					266.94	179.26
Current Account					91,555.54	93,089.15
Savings Account					34,056.84	34,053.43
Total Net Assets					125,879.32	127,321.84

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Unrestricted 2022	Designated 2022	Restricted 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
1. Other Income					
Little Treasures	9.50	0.00	0.00	9.50	0.00
Contributions for pastor in training	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
AOG Ukraine Appeal	193.70	0.00	0.00	193.70	0.00
Sundry Other Income	30.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00
Gift Aid contributions pastor in training	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Subtotal Other Income	1,433.20	0.00	0.00	1,433.20	0.00
2. Room Hire					
Slimming World	6,030.56	0.00	0.00	6,030.56	3,168.00
U3A	882.00	0.00	0.00	882.00	0.00
Rhythm Time	780.00	0.00	0.00	780.00	1,140.00
Sundry Hires	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	450.00
Guild of Spinners & Weavers	270.00	0.00	0.00	270.00	0.00
Overheads Charge Support Centre	1,160.00	0.00	0.00	1,160.00	1,160.00
Subtotal Room Hire	9,172.56	0.00	0.00	9,172.56	5,918.00
3. Church Ministry Costs					
Ministry Gifts - Visiting Speakers	1,040.00	0.00	0.00	1,040.00	470.00
Ministry Expenses	241.96	0.00	0.00	241.96	78.78
Ministry Resources	508.52	0.00	0.00	508.52	380.70
Administration Salaries	6,859.66	0.00	0.00	6,859.66	4,691.40
Communion Expenses	54.99	0.00	0.00	54.99	45.43
Copyright Licence	382.89	0.00	0.00	382.89	362.66
Worship Team Expenses	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00
Childrens Church	127.63	0.00	0.00	127.63	0.00
Child Protection Advisory Services	59.99	0.00	0.00	59.99	0.00
Website Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	159.41
Youth Group	37.33	0.00	0.00	37.33	0.00
Little Treasures	10.78	0.00	0.00	10.78	0.00
CRASH Time (Messy Church)	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00
Flowers, Gifts and Presentations	188.98	0.00	0.00	188.98	385.10
Publicity and Advertising	100.88	0.00	0.00	100.88	0.00
AOG magazine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.93
CVS Cheshire	71.18	0.00	0.00	71.18	0.00
Data Protection Registration	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	35.00
Subtotal Church Ministry Costs	9,745.31	0.00	0.00	9,745.31	6,649.41
4. Missions					
Hope Uganda (HDCC)	812.50	0.00	0.00	812.50	750.00
AOG Annual Offering	1,200.72	0.00	0.00	1,200.72	1,200.72
AOG Ukraine Appeal	193.70	0.00	0.00	193.70	0.00
Living Hope Ministries	937.50	0.00	0.00	937.50	850.00
Andy Cannon	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	100.00
UCB	240.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	240.00
Subtotal Missions	3,884.42	0.00	0.00	3,884.42	3,140.72

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

	Unrestricted 2022	Designated 2022	Restricted 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
5. Building Running Costs					
Caretaker/Cleaners Pay	5,943.61	0.00	0.00	5,943.61	6,263.52
Cleaning Materials and Window Cleaning	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.56
Office Telephone and Broadband	394.61	0.00	0.00	394.61	442.96
Computer Software and consumables	408.74	0.00	0.00	408.74	221.47
Office Printer/Copier	373.82	0.00	0.00	373.82	122.83
Postage and Stationery	127.91	0.00	0.00	127.91	92.88
Insurance	1,111.62	0.00	0.00	1,111.62	0.00
Gas	1,102.61	0.00	0.00	1,102.61	777.99
Electricity	1,704.44	0.00	0.00	1,704.44	449.09
Water Rates	367.53	0.00	0.00	367.53	328.08
SITA Wheely Bin Charges	872.15	0.00	0.00	872.15	726.68
Accountant (Independent examination)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Equipment Purchases	682.94	0.00	0.00	682.94	909.68
Sundry Admin expenses	420.99	0.00	0.00	420.99	389.20
General Maintenance	1,522.09	0.00	0.00	1,522.09	608.29
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.30
Hire of Civic hall	3,715.00	0.00	0.00	3,715.00	2,560.00
Subtotal Building Running Costs	18,748.06	0.00	0.00	18,748.06	14,658.53

6. Fund Movements	Balance C/fwd	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers
General	25,317.62	34,462.91	64,145.88	(65,291.17)	(8,000.00)
Subtotal Unrestricted funds	25,317.62	34,462.91	64,145.88	(65,291.17)	(8,000.00)
Hardship	4,971.00	5,377.13	250.00	(656.13)	0.00
Unforeseen cost Reserve	33,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00
Subtotal Designated funds	37,971.00	30,377.13	250.00	(656.13)	8,000.00
Special Treasures	25.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Alsager Support Centre	20,898.22	29,369.25	21,695.14	(30,166.17)	0.00
CRASH time (Messy Church)	2,460.98	2,460.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alsager Food Bank	39,206.50	30,651.57	19,761.47	(11,206.54)	0.00
Subtotal Restricted funds	62,590.70	62,481.80	41,481.61	(41,372.71)	0.00
Grand Total All Funds	125,879.32	127,321.84	105,877.49	(107,320.01)	0.00

Accounts

Alsager Community Church
5 Lawton Road
Alsager
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST7 2AA



Registered Charity : 1052554

www.alsagercommunitychurch.org.uk

**Report and Accounts
For the Year ending
31st August 2021**

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Alsager Community Church

Report of the Trustees and Activities Review

The Financial results are set out in the enclosed accounts on pages 7 to 8..

The Principal activities throughout the year under review were

- 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:
- 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:
- To relieve sickness and financial hardship and promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods, 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 may think fit.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES

Rev Peter Howard, 27 Woodside Avenue, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2DL Contact via Church office Telephone 01270 873859

+ **Mr Darren Spencer (reappointed 10th May 2021)**, 102 Linley Road, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 2QF.

+ **Mrs Laura Smith (appointed 9th November 2020)**, 3 Townsfield Close, Talke, Stoke on Trent, ST7 1NF.

+ **Mrs Sarah Francis (appointed 9th November 2020)**, 5 Jamage Road, Talke Pits, Stoke on Trent, ST7 1QD.

Mr Graeme Smith (resigned 5th October 2020), Mr John Hammond (resigned 20th April 2022) and Mr Alan Moore (resigned 21st February 2022) also served as Trustees during this financial period.

The elders marked + serve a two year office and the Rev Howard's term continues until he ceases to be Minister of the church. The Data Protection Officer continues to be Mrs Vanessa Howard.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have recently reviewed their reserves policy to ensure that adequate funding is available to allow the church to deal with unforeseen expenditure, replacement or repair of equipment and six months building and staff running costs.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE ACCOUNTS

We certify that the books, vouchers and information produced to enable the independent examination of our accounts to be conducted contain a full and accurate record of our financial transactions and the activities to the best of our knowledge and belief. In view of the scale of the charities activities, the Trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on a receipts and payments basis rather than an accruals basis.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council



Michael Keenan

Dated: 17th May 2022

Alsager Community Church

Report of the Trustees and Activities Review - Continued

General comments

As a result of the lockdown, it was not possible to hold an AGM and the following report has been prepared by the Pastor. Our proposed date for our next AGM is 16th October 2022.

The context of this report is the ongoing restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic, which at time of writing is still a factor having effect on our society. The country had been in national lockdown since March 2020, which had begun to ease from 5th July. At this time, churches were allowed to resume in person services with covid management measures in place.

Church Services

As a church we made the decision to delay reopening in person services until August, while we prepared a risk assessment and a management plan and liaised with the Alsager Civic. We reopened in person services on 2nd August with measures including but not limited to...

- Seats in pairs set two metres apart both to the side and front and back.
- A one-way system throughout the building.
- At first no communion, being resumed as possible with people using utensils and wearing protective clothing.
- No singing allowed as per Government guidance
- Masks worn until this was no longer required and available as an option after that.
- Protective screens across the stage as those leading and preaching were not required to wear masks.
- Separate microphones, etc for those involved.
- A programme driven by video format including pre recorded video songs (N.B. to which the congregation listened to and meditated upon but did not sing).
- We continued to livestream our services on Facebook and later uploaded the videos to YouTube so that those who did not feel ready or confident to return to church could still participate. We continue to do this now.

There was a further lockdown in November 2020, which again closed churches and we resumed online only services for that month. Following that, under the tier system we were forced to ask those who lived outside of Cheshire East to stay at home and not attend in person. The third lockdown in January allowed churches and places of worship to stay open but community centres were not allowed to open except for a very limited activities which did not include church services. Our response was to move back into our own building, limiting the numbers allowed accordingly having invited those we felt most needed the places first. The risk assessment, etc was amended accordingly.

Risk assessments and measures taken were amended regularly in line with the latest guidance as our services moved gradually towards what we might consider to be normality.

Alsager Community Church

Other Activities

During this period, most activities remained closed with many including our coffee shop and Little Treasures playgroup not reopening until after September 2021. Some activities, most notably our CRASH Zone monthly activity for families with special needs have regrettably not reopened.

Home-groups and prayer

Home-groups and the weekly prayer meeting had moved online using zoom during the first lockdown and continued in this format for some time, returning to in-person gatherings as rules allowed and people felt comfortable to do so with appropriate risk assessments being written. This was facilitated by using the coffee shop for these groups and one group is still meeting there now. The prayer meeting has adopted a format of both in-person and the opportunity to join via zoom.

Alsager Community Support

ACS (formally the Alsager Community Support Centre), continued to meet the needs of members of the community with the centre closing and gradually reopening with risk assessments and measures in place, as guidance dictated, and it became possible (see foodbank comments below). During this period ACS considerably expanded its range of services and provision, spearheading the local response to covid by recruiting a large number of volunteers (many who are still working with us), to provide services of befriending, shopping, collection of medication, lateral flow testing and more.

At the times when the centre had to be closed, the volunteers offered their support services via telephone and at this time a new website was launched.

During this time ACS also employed an Assistant Manager, to support the Manager who is a volunteer. She has worked 20 hours a week overseeing centre-based activities as well as other duties. In the last few months of this report's period, we also prepared to employ a further member of staff which we did in September 2021. This is a volunteer co-ordinator, who will manage and support the volunteers working with ACS as well as seeking to recruit others.

In preparation for the future, ACS has also formed a management team who can work with the church trustees to develop the vision and work of ACS.

Alsager & District Foodbank

The Foodbank also continued to serve the community throughout the pandemic but due to the nature of its work continued to operate in person. We began to deliver to clients in some cases and also utilised the whole of the Support Centre building to ensure social distancing and required quarantine of food products. As the Support Centre reopened the space was shared, with the Support Centre opening on the alternate days to the Foodbank until it became possible for them to resume 5 days a week and the Foodbank to safely operate within its own space.

The main church hall was also utilised during this period due to a kerbside collection of food organised by the Rotary Club. This brought in a large quantity of food which was stored initially in the Alsager Scout Hut before being moved in stages to the church and then into the Foodbank itself. We are very grateful both to the Rotary and Scouts for their support and help.

During this time numerous donations and grants were given/awarded to both ACS and the Foodbank.

Alsager Community Church

Weddings and Funerals

We were delighted to have held the wedding of Ben and Vanessa Cade-Hughes on 17th July 2021. We were saddened by the loss of one of our church, Rosemary Keenan whose funeral was held at the church on 6th October 2020. The Minister, Pete Howard also conducted the funerals of Colin and Jill Burgess, husband and wife within a few weeks of each other (Jill 11th May 2020 and Colin 1st July 2020) at the crematorium.

In addition, during this period, we have also...

- Held family and Café-style carol services
- Welcomed guest speakers including Evangelist Andrew Cannon and Richard Brunton (Living Hope), either in person or online.
- Held a Freedom in Christ course on zoom.
- Held prayer days and weekends including a night of prayer: Participants were able to book a slot to come to the building and pray.
- Held a baptism service.

This time period has been difficult for everyone and as a church we have shared the frustration and grief that Covid 19 has brought. Church members have lost family and friends and lives have been disrupted. There were plans made, which then had to be cancelled and opportunities both gained and lost. We are however, grateful to God for what we believe is His continual help throughout this time.

Further comment (September 2021 onwards)

Whilst not within this accounts period, September 2021 was 50 years since the church was first planted. We are celebrating this over 12 months with 50 things at 50. This has included the reopening of activities after covid, guest speakers, prayer events, an Alpha, kids club weekends and much more.

Signed on behalf of the Church Council and Trustees

P Howard.

REV PETE HOWARD

Dated: 17th May 2022

Alsager Community Church

Independent Examiners Report on the Receipts and Payment Accounts

To the Trustees/Members of Alsager Community Church, Registered Charity 1052554, on the accounts for the year ending 31st August 2021, set out on pages 7 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (as per Act Accounts and Audit Order 2015 SI 2015 No.321) so that an independent examination is needed and the accounts are to be prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act; and
- State whether any particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the independent examiner's report

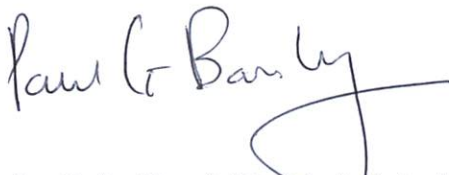
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by Charities Financial Reporting Standard FRS102 have not been met: or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date 17th May 2021

Paul Barnsley B.A. (Econ) (Hons), A.C.A., F.T.C.L. (Chartered Accountant)

Heart Notes Ministries, 125 Crossefield Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Cheshire, SK8 5PF

Telephone 0161 485 3088 paul@heartnotes.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1052554

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Alsager Community Church

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Note	Unrestricted 2021	Designated 2021	Restricted 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
Church Income						
Offerings		17,522.08	0.00	15.00	17,537.08	10,737.60
Gift Aid Offerings		25,458.57	0.00	270.00	25,728.57	24,345.00
Tax Recovered Gift Aid		6,809.92	0.00	0.00	6,809.92	7,225.24
Accounts Interest		1.68	0.00	0.00	1.68	0.00
Other Income	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Room Hire	2	5,918.00	0.00	0.00	5,918.00	8,055.00
Subtotal Church Income		55,710.25	0.00	285.00	55,995.25	60,362.84
Coffee Shop						
Total Takings		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,961.31
Cost of Goods for resale		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,576.48)
General Expenses		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(152.75)
Subtotal Coffee Shop Net		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,232.08
NET INCOME church and coffee shop		55,710.25	0.00	285.00	55,995.25	64,594.92
Church Expenditure						
Pastors Salary		(29,925.03)	0.00	0.00	(29,925.03)	(31,853.99)
Church Ministry Costs	3	(6,649.41)	0.00	0.00	(6,649.41)	(6,180.02)
Missions	4	(3,140.72)	0.00	0.00	(3,140.72)	(5,075.72)
Building Running Costs	5	(14,658.53)	0.00	(0.00)	(14,658.53)	(15,697.77)
Subtotal church expenditure		(54,373.69)	0.00	(0.00)	(54,373.69)	(58,807.50)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for church		1,336.56	0.00	285.00	1,621.56	5,787.42
ALSAGER FOODBANK						
Foodbank Income						
Donations - regular		0.00	0.00	12,433.21	12,433.21	10,598.09
Donations - irregular		0.00	0.00	7,233.49	7,233.49	3,364.00
Donations - gift aid foodbank		0.00	0.00	2,135.67	2,135.67	925.00
Tax reclaim Gift aid claim foodbank		0.00	0.00	108.09	108.09	39.96
Subtotal Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	21,910.46	21,910.46	14,927.05
Foodbank Expenses						
Food Purchases		0.00	0.00	(10,322.78)	(10,627.78)	(2,519.74)
ACSC Rent		0.00	0.00	(600.00)	(600.00)	(450.00)
Mobile Phone Costs		0.00	0.00	(177.72)	(177.72)	(120.56)
Subtotal Foodbank Expenses		0.00	0.00	(11,100.50)	(11,405.50)	(3,090.30)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Foodbank		0.00	0.00	10,809.96	10,504.96	11,836.75
ALSAGER SUPPORT CENTRE						
Sale of uniforms		0.00	0.00	798.24	798.24	492.84
Cheshire East Council - Community grant		0.00	4,500.00	3,650.00	8,150.00	0.00
Alsager Town Council - Community grant		0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Cheshire East Council - Covid support		0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Groundwork/Alsager Chamber of Trade		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Donations		0.00	0.00	3,686.12	3,686.12	3,991.62
Tax claimed on gift aid		0.00	0.00	247.95	247.95	264.39
Recharges in from Food Bank cost recovery		0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	450.00
Administration Salaries		0.00	0.00	(12,350.48)	(12,350.48)	(7,180.10)
Administration Pensions		(47.04)	0.00	(369.88)	(416.92)	(416.64)
Hardship fund payments		0.00	(267.99)	0.00	(267.99)	0.00
Building running - Broadband and phone		0.00	0.00	(709.73)	(709.73)	(729.50)
Building running - other costs		0.00	0.00	(2,350.67)	(2,045.67)	(512.74)
Building running - recharges from church		0.00	0.00	(1,160.00)	(1,160.00)	(600.00)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for Support Centre		(47.04)	4,232.01	(958.45)	3,531.52	(1,740.13)
GRAND TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		1,289.52	4,232.01	10,136.51	15,658.04	15,884.04

Alsager Community Church

	Note	Unrestricted 2021	Designated 2021	Restricted 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
STATEMENT OF INCOME						
Sunday Offering & Donations		17,522.08	0.00	15.00	17,537.08	10,737.60
Gift Aid Offerings		25,458.57	0.00	270.00	25,728.57	24,345.00
Tax Recovered - Gift Aids		6,809.92	0.00	0.00	6,809.92	7,225.24
Accounts Interest		1.68	0.00	0.00	1.68	0.00
Room Hire		5,918.00	0.00	0.00	5,918.00	8,055.00
Coffee Shop Takings		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,961.31
Alsager Support Centre Income		0.00	4,500.00	15,982.31	20,482.31	7,698.85
Alsager Foodbank Income		0.00	0.00	21,910.46	21,910.46	14,927.05
Grants		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		55,710.25	4,500.00	38,177.77	98,388.02	89,950.05
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE						
Pastor/Administrators Salary Costs		(29,925.03)	0.00	0.00	(29,925.03)	(31,853.99)
Church Ministry Costs		(6,649.41)	0.00	0.00	(6,649.41)	(6,180.02)
Missions		(3,140.72)	0.00	0.00	(3,140.72)	(5,075.72)
Building Running Costs		(14,658.53)	0.00	(0.00)	(14,658.53)	(15,697.77)
Alsager Support Centre Costs						
Running cost		(47.04)	(267.99)	(16,940.76)	(16,950.79)	(9,438.98)
Coffee Shop						
Cost of Goods for resale		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,576.48)
General Expenses		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(152.75)
Alsager Foodbank Expenditure		0.00	0.00	(11,100.50)	(11,405.50)	(3,090.30)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(54,420.73)	(267.99)	(28,041.26)	(82,729.98)	(74,066.01)
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for year		1,289.52	4,232.01	10,136.51	15,658.04	15,884.04
Opening Funds		33,173.39	26,145.12	52,345.29	111,663.80	95,779.76
Transfers in/(out)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CLOSING NET FUNDS	6		30,377.13	62,481.80	127,321.84	111,663.80
Breakdown of Fund balances						
General Reserves		34,462.91	0.00	0.00	34,462.91	33,173.39
Alsager Support Centre		0.00	0.00	29,369.25	29,369.25	30,327.70
Hardship		0.00	5,377.13	0.00	5,377.13	1,145.12
Unforeseen cost Reserve		0.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
CRASH time		0.00	0.00	2,460.98	2,460.98	2,460.98
Alsager Food Bank		0.00	0.00	30,651.57	30,651.57	19,556.61
Total Fund balances		34,462.91	30,377.13	62,481.80	127,321.84	111,663.80
REPRESENTED BY						
Cash in Hand					179.26	79.09
Current Account					93,089.15	77,532.96
Savings Account					34,053.43	34,051.75
Total Net Assets					127,321.84	111,663.80

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Unrestricted 2021	Designated 2021	Restricted 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
1. Other Income					
Grants - Covid 19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Subtotal Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
2. Room Hire					
Slimming World	3,168.00	0.00	0.00	3,168.00	4,044.00
U3A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,842.00
Rhythm Time	1,140.00	0.00	0.00	1,140.00	1,272.00
Sundry Hires	450.00	0.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
Guild of Spinners & Weavers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	297.00
Overheads Charge Support Centre	1,160.00	0.00	0.00	1,160.00	600.00
Subtotal Room Hire	5,918.00	0.00	0.00	5,918.00	8,055.00
3. Church Ministry Costs					
Ministry Gifts - Visiting Speakers	470.00	0.00	0.00	470.00	150.00
Ministry Expenses	78.78	0.00	0.00	78.78	507.55
Ministry Resources	380.70	0.00	0.00	380.70	223.36
Administration Salaries	4,691.40	0.00	0.00	4,691.40	3,646.41
Communion Expenses	45.43	0.00	0.00	45.43	0.00
Copyright Licence	362.66	0.00	0.00	362.66	347.85
Worship Team Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.97
Childrens Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.47
Child Protection Advisory Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145.20
Website Costs	159.41	0.00	0.00	159.41	198.75
Christmas costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.65
Alpha	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	338.41
Flowers, Gifts and Presentations	385.10	0.00	0.00	385.10	307.42
Publicity and Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.98
AOG magazine	40.93	0.00	0.00	40.93	0.00
CVS Cheshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.00
Data Protection Registration	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	0.00
Subtotal Church Ministry Costs	6,649.41	0.00	0.00	6,649.41	6,180.02
4. Missions					
Hope Uganda (HDCC)	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	1,375.00
AOG Annual Offering	1,200.72	0.00	0.00	1,200.72	1,150.72
AOG NW & M Region	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,060.00
Living Hope Ministries	850.00	0.00	0.00	850.00	750.00
Church Missionary Society (Andrew Parfitt)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Andy Cannon	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
UCB	240.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	240.00
Subtotal Missions	3,140.72	0.00	0.00	3,140.72	5,075.72

Alsager Community Church

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

	Unrestricted 2021	Designated 2021	Restricted 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
5. Building Running Costs					
Caretaker/Cleaners Pay	6,263.52	0.00	0.00	6,263.52	5,264.48
Cleaning Materials and Window Cleaning	15.56	0.00	0.00	15.56	22.96
Office Telephone and Broadband	442.96	0.00	0.00	442.96	455.15
Computer Software and consumables	221.47	0.00	0.00	221.47	0.00
Office Printer/Copier	122.83	0.00	0.00	122.83	251.84
Postage and Stationery	92.88	0.00	0.00	92.88	102.50
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,067.02
Gas	777.99	0.00	0.00	777.99	704.74
Electricity	449.09	0.00	0.00	449.09	2,049.63
Water Rates	328.08	0.00	0.00	328.08	496.47
SITA Wheely Bin Charges	726.68	0.00	0.00	726.68	677.29
Accountant (Independent examination)	600.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	575.00
Equipment Purchases	909.68	0.00	0.00	909.68	702.77
Sundry Admin expenses	389.20	0.00	0.00	389.20	110.02
General Maintenance	608.29	0.00	0.00	608.29	488.42
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	150.30	0.00	0.00	150.30	44.48
Hire of Civic hall	2,560.00	0.00	0.00	2,560.00	2,685.00
Subtotal Building Running Costs	14,658.53	0.00	0.00	14,658.53	15,697.77

6. Fund Movements	Balance C/fwd	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers
General	34,462.91	33,173.39	55,710.25	(54,420.73)	0.00
Subtotal Unrestricted funds	34,462.91	33,173.39	55,710.25	(54,420.73)	0.00
Hardship	5,377.13	1,145.12	4,500.00	(267.99)	0.00
Unforeseen cost Reserve	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Designated funds	30,377.13	26,145.12	4,500.00	(267.99)	0.00
Alsager Support Centre	29,369.25	30,327.70	15,982.31	(16,940.76)	0.00
CRASH time (Messy Church)	2,460.98	2,460.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alsager Food Bank	30,651.57	19,556.61	22,195.46	(11,100.50)	0.00
Subtotal Restricted funds	62,481.80	52,345.29	38,177.77	(28,041.26)	0.00
Grand Total All Funds	127,321.84	111,663.80	98,388.02	(82,729.98)	0.00