

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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!

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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.

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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!

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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.

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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.

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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

P. Howard. REV PETE HOWARD

Dated: 20th May 2023

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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.

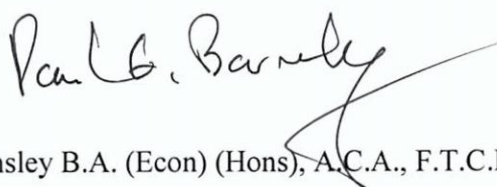
Independent examiner's statement

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

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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