



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2023 To 31st March 2024

Charity name: Bethel Christian Fellowship

Charity registration number: 1054348

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The objects of the church ("the objects") are for the benefit of the public;</p> <p>a) To advance the Christian Faith in accordance with the statement in such ways and in such parts of the UK or the World as the Church Council may from time to time think fit.</p> <p>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 UK or the World as the Church Council may from time to time see fit.</p> <p>c) To advance Education in such ways and in such parts of the UK or the World as the Church Council may from time to time think fit.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Bethel Christian Fellowship is committed to enabling as many members of the local community as possible to come and worship together. The Fellowship runs a main worship meeting every Sunday morning at Wood End Farm.</p> <p>Where possible provisions are made for the separate teaching of children during the Sunday morning services.</p> <p>The Well is open Wednesday to Saturday. It's a small coffee shop in the town centre, which provides a focus for social interaction with the local community. The Well provides a hub and centre for providing advice and help, and formal counselling sessions are available from the premises on one evening per week.</p>

		<p>The Fellowship has a programme in place for school-aged children that provides for mid-week and weekend activities. The programme normally includes a week long summer camp in Norfolk for the older children.</p> <p>The Fellowship runs a mid-week Mums and Tots group which provides support and help and provides parenting courses for new Mums.</p> <p>The Fellowship carries out a range of general pastoral support activities including visiting the elderly housebound members of the Fellowship, caring for vulnerable adults and providing non-financial help and support to homeless and hungry people in the locality. The Fellowship supports the Food Bank in Witham.</p> <p>The Fellowship continues to contribute to various Community events run by the Witham Town Council.</p> <p>The activities of the Fellowship are led by two part-time employees but are mainly carried out by volunteers. For example, the Mums and Tots group, the Well coffee shop and community centre and the pastoral work carried out in the Community.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit. This guidance will be considered by the Church Council, as they make decisions to guide future activities of the Fellowship.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The charity does not make grants or give loans to individuals.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The Fellowship gives approximately 10% of its annual income in grants to selected missionary endeavours, both domestically and in other countries, which meet the objects of the charity.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The activities of the Fellowship are led and supported by three part-time employees, but are mainly carried out by volunteers. For example, the Mums and Tots group, the Well coffee shop and community centre

		and the pastoral work carried out in the community.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The Fellowship held its main weekly meeting at Wood End Farm in Witham on Sunday mornings throughout the year. Numbers attending were approximately 130. The age range is very wide, from pensioners in their 80s, teenagers to young families with children.</p> <p>When possible, the Sunday morning programme included provision for separate classes of primary and secondary-age children and young people. The Fellowship works to a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy to ensure practices of working with children meet the standards of thirtyone:eight.</p> <p>The Bethel Hall in Church Street was used four days a week for a pre-school operation. Additional activities have returned to the hall which is now used most days of the week.</p> <p>The general pastoral work of the Fellowship continued strongly, with many home visits to the elderly and unwell taking place. Support was offered in various ways to local needy and homeless individuals.</p>

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Although the financial year saw a net outflow of £10,294, BCF's financial position remains very strong.</p> <p>BCF's main source of income remains the offerings and gifts provided by its fellowship. Due to the size of the fellowship there is no single material donor that the charity is exposed to.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Any surplus funds owned by BCF will be invested in order to attract interest and provide best value to the charity. Funds

		<p>will be spread in different investments to reduce the risks of an investment failure.</p> <p>A minimum reserve will be maintained to cover three months of normal operational costs of the charity.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	As at March 31 st 2024 BCF's reserves amounted to £49,810. This includes funds held in multiple current accounts, savings accounts, and petty cash.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	With a strong, liquid reserve in place, and a valuable asset in the form of the church building and the surrounding land, the Treasurer confirms that BCF is able to meet its current and longer term obligations as they fall due and that there are no plans to close the charity or significantly curtail its operations

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed: Bethel Christian Fellowship is affiliated to Assemblies of God UK and adopts a model trust deed approved by the national organisation.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated - Model Constitution with Trust Deed
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed by the Church Council. This report covers April 2023 – March 2024.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Bethel Christian Fellowship
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1054348
Charity's principal address	The Well Church Office And Coffee Shop 1 Penhaligon Court Guithavon St Witham CM8 1BQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Christopher Taylor	Chair		
2	Christopher Cottrell	Treasurer		
3	David Brett			
4	Andrew Brett			
5	David Cameron			
6	Dann Smith			
7	Miriam Goodall			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
David Brett		
David Cameron		
Andy Brett		
Chris Cottrell		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

--

Other optional information


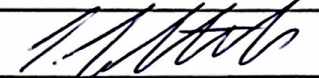
--

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
---	---

Full name(s)

Chris Taylor

Chris Cottrell

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Chair

Treasurer

Date

31st January 2025

Bethel Christian Fellowship

Balance Sheet detailed

	As At 31/03/2024	As At 31/03/2023
<hr/>		
Current Assets		
Co-op Current Account	17,055.31	41,920.38
Co-op Deposit Account	13,068.79	11.95
Kingdom Bank Charity Savings Account	8,708.96	8,426.23
Scottish Widows Account	7,778.08	7,687.74
Cash Account	394.01	-
Little Friends of Bethel	600.66	592.12
Well Current Account	1,229.02	928.85
Well Petty Cash	381.72	257.75
Well Safe (Un-banked takings)	-	-
Football Account	593.04	278.63
Total Current Assets	<hr/> 49,809.59 <hr/>	<hr/> 60,103.65 <hr/>
<hr/>		

BETHEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
STATUS OF FUNDS
For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	<u>Opening</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Closing</u>
Unrestricted					
General	56,803.60	81,186.23	81,017.67	(9,079.97)	47,892.19
The Well	(0.00)	12,681.25	21,697.16	9,000.00	(15.91)
Unrestricted	<u>56,803.60</u>	<u>93,867.48</u>	<u>102,714.83</u>	<u>(79.97)</u>	<u>47,876.28</u>
Restricted					
Little Friends	592.12	415.15	406.61	-	600.66
Football Fund	(281.12)	2,016.26	2,098.85	-	(363.71)
New Day	2,944.62	5,098.50	6,346.76	-	1,696.36
Specific Giving	44.43	1,375.60	1,500.00	79.97	0.00
Total Restricted	<u>3,300.05</u>	<u>8,905.51</u>	<u>10,352.22</u>	<u>79.97</u>	<u>1,933.31</u>
Designated	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>60,103.65</u>	<u>102,772.99</u>	<u>113,067.05</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49,809.59</u>

BETHEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds £	Prior Year Funds £
<i>Income</i>					
Tithes & Offerings	68,245.32	1,375.60	-	69,620.92	63,661.53
Shop Sales (The Well)	12,681.25	-	-	12,681.25	16,624.32
Hall Hire	12,511.00	-	-	12,511.00	17,644.50
New Day Camp	-	5,098.50	-	5,098.50	5,220.00
Interest	429.91	-	-	429.91	37.89
Little Friends of Bethel	-	415.15	-	415.15	500.04
Football Team	-	2,016.26	-	2,016.26	1,901.11
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	16.71
Total Income	93,867.48	8,905.51	-	102,772.99	105,606.10
<i>Expenditure</i>					
A.O.G Funds	976.00	-	-	976.00	967.00
Accommodation	6,621.00	-	-	6,621.00	5,200.00
Admin	2,641.07	-	-	2,641.07	2,042.45
AV Technical	945.30	-	-	945.30	934.92
Building Upkeep inc cleaning	1,730.17	-	-	1,730.17	461.22
Child Protection	386.40	-	-	386.40	161.80
Bethel Youth	619.43	-	-	619.43	424.96
Children's Work	858.21	-	-	858.21	551.87
Cleaning	1,319.53	-	-	1,319.53	971.19
Conferences	2,063.00	-	-	2,063.00	492.00
Domestic Missions	3,661.00	-	-	3,661.00	1,567.00
Elders Discretionary Payments	321.36	-	-	321.36	258.00
Evangelism Events	1,022.57	-	-	1,022.57	972.48
Football Expense	-	2,098.85	-	2,098.85	2,186.99
Hospitality	1,584.38	-	-	1,584.38	757.81
Insurance	1,455.38	-	-	1,455.38	1,367.32
Literature	244.86	-	-	244.86	300.66
Little Friends of Bethel	-	406.61	-	406.61	420.43
Major Items	-	-	-	-	4,200.00
Mini Bus	7,893.17	-	-	7,893.17	3,737.28
Miscellaneous	897.09	-	-	897.09	185.06
New Day Camp Costs	-	6,346.76	-	6,346.76	5,583.81
Overseas Missions	5,728.10	-	-	5,728.10	2,607.45
Photocopying	26.49	-	-	26.49	-
Publicity	415.55	-	-	415.55	390.38
Special Mission Work	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	2,891.77
Salaries (incl. NI & Income tax)	34,943.18	-	-	34,943.18	31,253.98
Telephones	652.99	-	-	652.99	523.00
Training Courses	350.00	-	-	350.00	-
Travel	991.85	-	-	991.85	309.60
Utilities	2,354.09	-	-	2,354.09	1,767.53
Visiting Ministers	50.00	-	-	50.00	100.00
Well Running Costs	265.50	-	-	265.50	16,385.63
Well Running Costs	14,696.87	-	-	14,696.87	16,385.63
Well Sales Costs	7,000.29	-	-	7,000.29	8,841.54
Total Expenditure	102,714.83	10,352.22	-	113,067.05	98,815.13
Net Income / Expenses	(8,847.35)	(1,446.71)	-	(10,294.06)	6,790.97
Transfers between funds	(79.97)	79.97	-	0.00	-
Cash Funds Last Year End	56,803.60	3,300.05	-	60,103.65	53,312.68
Cash Funds This Year End	47,876.28	1,933.31	-	49,809.59	60,103.65



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Bethel Christian Fellowship

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1054348

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

S R Hilliard

Date:

28 January 2025

Name:

Simone Hilliard

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

FCCA

Address:

17 Totham Hill Green
Great Totham
Maldon
CM9 8DX

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

None.