

EMMAUS CHURCH

Gorse Cover Road, Severn Beach, Bristol

Reg. Charity No. 1059742

Trustees Report for 2023

This report provides a summary of the activities of the church during 2023, the accounts for year ending 31st December 2023 and plans for 2024

Approved at a Trustees meeting on 2nd May 2024

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

_____ S J Miller

Summary of Emmaus Church during 2023

Emmaus Church is an independent body, registered as a charity (No 1059742) on 12th Dec. 1996. Emmaus Church Centre (ECC) is registered as a place of worship No. 79101 and for marriages No. 42123. The Western Counties & South Wales Evangelisation Trust governs the building and grounds. ECC where most of the activities of the charity are carried out, is situated in Gorse Cover Road, Severn Beach, BS35 4NP.

The Church was overseen by seven trustees:

- Samuel Isaac Peter Marsh – Chair
- Robert Lawrence Scott-Cook – Vice Chair - resigned May 2023
- Joy Nurcombe – Vice Chair – appointed May 2023
- Damian Paul Selby – Secretary and Church member
- Samuel John Miller – Church Leader
- Mark William Chattaway – Church member
- Jacqueline Conradie-Faul
- Luke Samuel Addison

The church was led by a Leadership Team:

- John Miller
- Celia Beales
- Abigail Selby
- Paul Selby
- Anuran Wickramasinghe – resigned August 2023
- John Mark Molyneux

Address for correspondence:

Mr S. John Miller, Churchside, Gorse Cover Road, Severn Beach, Bristol BS35 4NP

The primary object (as specified in the 'Deed of Trust' dated 21st November 1996) is:

'THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINES SET OUT THE FIRST SCHEDULE HERETO AND THE WORSHIP OF GOD IN THE SAID COUNTY AND ELSEWHERE BY ANY MEANS WHATSOEVER INCLUDING (BUT NOT BY WAY OF LIMITATION) THE PREACHING AND PROCLAMATION OF THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL AND THE TEACHING OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE AND PRINCIPLES AND THE PASTORAL CARE OF CHRISTIAN PEOPLE AND THE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE. '

One or more persons who are known to be part of the body of the Church led each of the separate prime activities of the charity. The majority of activities were being supported voluntarily (with the exception of J M Molyneux' involvement) with time and money given by church members. A treasurer administers the finances. For details of other objects and related activities, see the Appendix.

The Trustees oversee the Church's activities to ensure that it is fulfilling its Charitable Purposes, as detailed in the Deed of Trust. The Second Schedule of the Deed of Trust sets out the method of recruiting and appointing new charity trustees, and the requirements for their appointment.

During 2023, the church continued to support Christian work at home and abroad. See Appendix for more details.

The pattern of services is as follows

- Weekly Sunday Morning Service at the church building and on Zoom/Google Meet
- Monthly Praise and Prayer Evening Meeting at the church building
- Fortnightly home groups at the church building and in homes
- Small support groups meeting at the church building and in homes

The church was funded by voluntary gifts the amount of which varies from year to year with a small amount of rental income.

	2022	2023	Increase/Decrease
Income	£36,428	£43,639	+ £7,211

The church encouraged those who pay tax and are committed to Emmaus Church to sign a gift aid mandate as it is a valuable source of revenue and we operate the Small Gift Aid Donation.

	2022	2023	Increase/Decrease
Gift Aid Refund	£5,844	£5,555	- £289

The church holds Santander current and deposit accounts and a Kingdom Bank savings bond. Kingdom Bank supports the work of churches and charities in keeping with Emmaus Church's vision.

The church has a loan account with Green Pastures (a charity that provides accommodation for the homeless).

Rent Income from other groups 2023

A local social group called 'Stitches' met monthly at ECC.

A Baby Hub run by Sirona Care and Health met monthly at ECC.

The local Steering Group of the Neighbourhood Plan met monthly at ECC for their meetings and hired ECC for an open evening

The local Parish Council began holding bi-monthly meetings at ECC from March 2023

Expenditure for 2023 was £49,515.

Year	2022	2023	Increase/Decrease
Expenditure	£33,430	£49,515	+ £16,085
Gifts to other Christian work	£7,767	£8,142	+ £375
Gifts to lay preachers	£3,135	£2,640	- £495

During the year there was a deficit of £5,876 which reduced reserves to £78,287 at the year end.

Banks: Santander, Brindle Road, Bootle, Merseyside. L30 4GB

and Kingdom Bank Ltd, Ruddington Fields Business Park, Mere Way,
Ruddington, Nottingham. NG11 6JS

Independent Examiner: Joshua Kingston, BSc (Hons) ACA
Burton Sweet Limited
The Clock Tower
5 Farleigh Court
Old Weston Road
Flax Bourton, Bristol. BS48 1UR

APPENDIX

1. ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH IN 2023

Object 1: The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrines set out in the first schedule hereto, and the worship of God... the preaching and proclamation of the Christian Gospel and the teaching of Christian doctrines and principles and the pastoral care of Christian people and the printing and distribution of the Bible and Christian literature.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

Sunday Morning all-age worship (usually 30-40 Adults, 2-8 under 18's):

Sunday Morning Services were the main church activity including worship, prayer, interviews, Christian teaching and preaching with a separate group for children during part of the service, with Holy Communion once a month with up to 40 people attending. A number of lay Christian preachers from other local churches were invited to share the responsibility of teaching and preaching supplemented with some speakers from the congregation.

We kept in touch with people who were unable to attend a Service with a fortnightly/monthly news/prayer letter.

Leaders' meetings

- The Leadership Team met fortnightly on Monday evenings on Zoom/Google Meet

Mid-week Groups

- Prayer and Praise, meeting monthly for support and prayer, meeting at ECC and with Aust Evangelical Church, Aust every three months
- Monthly screening of episodes of the film 'The Chosen'
- The Worship/Music Group met regularly for practices
- ⇨ Home groups met throughout the year in homes or at ECC

Church socials:

- 'Yorkie' (Men's) Group met throughout the year (Games Evenings, Tenpin bowling, visiting Railway, Helicopter and Bygone Museums and Barbeque)
- Church Meals together after the church service
- A Ladies Coffee Morning met once a month throughout the year
- November: Quiz Night raising funds for Tearfund
- December: Christmas meals for the 'Yorkie' Men's Group and a Church mixed Group

Publicity:

- A fortnightly/monthly 'Reflection with diary' was distributed to church members and friends by email or by hand

- A Christmas Card with details of the church was distributed to every house in Severn Beach
- The Church has a website www.emmauschurchcentre.org, an email address emmauschurch1993@gmail.com, a Facebook page 'emmaus.church.50' and a WhatsApp Group.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Some of the highlights of 2023:

Prayer

- February: Lent – 12 hours of Prayer on Ash Wednesday
- March: Good Friday Reflection

Special Services

- ⊕ June: Coronation Service followed by Shared Lunch and Barbecue with students from Bristol International Students Centre
- ⊕ September: 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving Services took place on Gorse Cover green and at ECC followed by Shared Lunch
- ⊕ September: 'Harvest Thanksgiving' with donations for the local Foodbank

Easter

- ⊕ March: Visit by Y4/5/6 pupils from Severn Beach Primary School to ECC for an immersive experience of the Easter Story
- April: Easter Day Service on the Sea Wall and afterwards at Emmaus Church Centre and on Zoom
- April: some members attended the Spring Harvest Conference at Minehead

Christmas

- Carol Singing at the local Tea Cottage
- Christmas Eve Service at Emmaus Church Centre and on Zoom

Other Services

- Funeral: of church member Ernest Castle at Canford Crematorium, Bristol

Annual General Meeting

- The Annual Church Meeting was held on Wednesday 7th June at ECC and on Zoom

Social Events/Reaching the Community

- January to December: ConfiDance and Chill Out Youth Groups for Y6-10
- January to April: Weekly 'Warm Space' Lunch time Group

- February: Pancake Fun Hour event for young families
- ⊖ March: The Youth Groups Easter Performance
- April to July: Pebbles Toddler Group run by Leader of Severn Beach Preschool
- June: Coronation Community Event on Bank Holiday Monday
- July: Severnside Festival at Severn Beach Village Hall and Playing Fields
- July: End of Term treat for the Youth Groups (Games on Gorse Cover Green & Barbecue at ECC)
- September to December: Pebbles Toddler Group run by volunteer parents
- October: 'Marshmalloween' Event for young families
- November-December: The Beach Club group for children Y3-6
- ⊖ December: Dance Group, Chill Out Group and Beach Club Christmas Celebration

Muller's Partnership

- The church kept in touch with Muller's (Bristol) but we did not attend any of the network events this year.

Celebration Partnership

- Emmaus Church supported Regional Celebration Evenings at Woodlands Church, Bristol with regular financial contributions.

Severnside Churches

- ⊖ March: Emmaus Church joined in the World Day of Prayer (Severnside area) at All Saints Church, Compton Greenfield
- ⊖ June: Joined with local churches at the Severnside Songs of Praise at St Helen's Anglican Church, Alveston
- ⊖ Joint Praise and Prayer meetings every 3 months with Aust Evangelical Church, Aust

Object 2: The relief of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress, also those who are elderly or infirm.

Foodbank collections continued based at the home of a member living in Severn Beach and were regularly delivered to the North West Bristol Avonmouth Hub. Harvest Thanksgiving food donations were also delivered to the Foodbank.

A weekly Bristol North West Foodbank outlet commenced at ECC in December supported by the staff of the Avonmouth Hub.

Relief and help have been offered to members of our own congregation who are in need, both from church funds, and also through other members' personal care, compassion and prayer.

Charity/Person	2023
Tearfund – sending relief to where the need is greatest in the wider world (Ukraine)	£550
Rwanda Orphans Project – sponsorship of and Christmas gifts to two orphaned young people through SKI, Muller's	£480
Rwanda Orphans Project – Peter Andrews to support his work in Rwanda	£1,500
Open Doors UK – a charity supported persecuted Christians across the world	£1,100
In Hope, a charity supporting homeless people in Bristol	£600
India Mission, a charity supporting needy families	£600
Bristol North West Foodbank	£380
Designated Giving	£1,932

Object 3: The advancement of education on the basis of Christian principles for persons of all ages.

Regular teaching in the Emmaus Church Centre for adults and children

Adults followed teaching series entitled:

- Jan to April: Sermon on the Mount
- April to July: A series on Hope
- August: Psalms
- Sept to October: Daniel
- November: Genesis
- December: Nativity (Luke)

Children:

- The children under 11 were given their own session with snacks, bible story and activities in a side room for half an hour during the main service.

Local Schools:

- A Leader led Christian assemblies once a fortnight at Severn Beach and Pilning Primary Schools
- The church gave Nativity books to every pupil at Severn Beach Primary School

Sponsorship/Gifts

	Person/Organisation	2023
Regular Gift	Nationwide Christian Trust, publishers of Living Light daily bible reading notes	£800
Gifts	Visiting speakers, worship leaders and speakers on Zoom	£2,640
Gift	Steve Loader, Chaplain to Seafarers at Port of Bristol	£500
Gift	Trevor Ranger, for his work in taking assemblies at primary schools	£500
Regular Gift	Celebration/The Mix (City Fellowship)	£240

Gifts of knitted hats and gloves were distributed by Steve Loader to Seafarers at Port of Bristol.

Annual subscriptions/fees to:

- Evangelical Alliance
- Thirtyone:eight, an independent Christian Safeguarding Charity
- Christians Copyright Licensing International
- TV Licence
- Christian Vision for Men
- Church 123 Website, YouTube Premier, Google workspace
- Subscriptions for Zoom/Google Meet
- BT phone and internet

2. CHURCH BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & EQUIPMENT IN 2023

The Church Centre building and grounds remain mostly in good order and were maintained by volunteers with the help of:

- A person paid to clean the facilities for one and half hours each week
- A gardener is paid cut the grass and hedges in the grounds once a fortnight throughout the summer
- Occasionally a window cleaner is paid to clean the outside windows

Other expenditure:

- Portable electrical appliances were last tested in 2023
- Fire Extinguisher were tested in 2023
- Five years electrical test was completed in 2022
- Kitchen plumbing repair – R.E.D Plumbing
- New hot water boiler installed by Aquastat
- New front doors installed by S Staden

3. PLANS FOR 2024 (and beyond)

A: Individuals

- We will look to **strengthen and diversify the leadership team** to make future succession planning easier.
- We will prayerfully discern, support and encourage the use of **individual gifting** within the membership of the church so that we are all playing to our God given strengths.
- Continue to develop **Home Group and Ministry Team** Leaders
- Establish a process for **discipleship**
- Continue with small **support groups** meeting in homes
- Identify and appoint an **administrator** – volunteer or paid

B: Church

- Encourage and resource the **vision** within the church
- We will build on the already ongoing **caring and sharing work** which has been a valuable characteristic of Emmaus Church's warmth and friendliness
- Facilitate an Alpha Course
- We will select the **teaching material** based on the needs of the church and its vision for the future. We will focus on discipleship and building faith through home groups, prayer partners, mentoring and training
- Develop young parent and family events
- Maintain and review Emmaus' **Safeguarding Policy**, Procedures and Recruitment with guidance from Thirtyone:eight and take part in relevant training – all leaders took part in basic Safeguarding training in 2023
- Continue with the Muller's Church Partnership and Celebration Partnership
- Network with Aust Evangelical Church and other Severnside Churches
- Comply with the General Data Protection Regulation May 2018 – update the Personal Data Register annually
- Comply with Health and Safety/Fire Safety Regulations
- Seek to update our social media sites; WhatsApp, Facebook, the website, provide regular blogs which reach people who use these forms of communication a lot and identify a person with appropriate skills to manage these sites
- Organise a Leader's Day Away
- Organise a Baptismal Service when required
- Training – Food Safety and Hygiene Courses Level 1 & 2

C: Community

- Develop contacts with the **local community** e.g. pre-school, and continue to develop the contact with the local schools, residential care home and village hall and festival committees
- Develop contact with the emergency Temporary Housing at Ableton Lane.
- Consider initiatives such as “Open the Book” school assembly resources and “Prayer for Schools” when a team can be identified
- Consider running a Parenting Course
- Plan events to which visitors and contacts can be invited, especially using the opportunities given by local and national events (e.g. Olympic Games)
- Continue to **support missions** both home and abroad
- Seek to improve the engagement of church friends and partners through prayer breakfasts, courses and online/in person training

D: Building

- General repairs to the building
- Tests for small electrical equipment and fire extinguishers
- Repair or renew **patio fencing**
- Attention to the **outside Church Notice Board**

4. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on public benefit in preparing this report and in the various activities of the church.

All three objects as outlined in this report seek to provide activities and actions which benefit the public through the pro-active involvement of members of the church in community activities, financial support for those whose ministry is to serve others ensuring that the ultimate beneficiaries are those whom they serve rather than themselves and significant mission activities in the local community for the size of the church. The church also supports financially those in other communities and countries whose work is designed to benefit local people in their areas of operation.

The church is also keen to work not only in social mission but also in evangelistic activities because the church leaders and trustees consider that the Christian message is crucial to people knowing wholeness and healing in their lives and the church is delighted to hear stories of changed lives over the years through the church's commitment to the Christian message.

Therefore, the Trustees consider that through direct involvement of its members and indirect involvement (through funding others) both in their local area and also further afield, the church is serving people to their benefit and for their support. It is the desire of the leaders and Trustees that the church grows in order that this work might increase.

TRUSTEE POLICIES

Investment Policy

It is agreed that the Trustees hold no more than necessary to meet normal expenditure levels in the current account, and that the remainder of the reserves are held in a deposit account, the performance of which is reviewed from time to time with the Church Treasurer.

Reserve Policy

The Trustees consider it prudent to hold up to a normal year's expenditure in reserve in a deposit account. This is to ensure there is adequate provision to fund any unexpected expenditure as the Church is almost wholly reliant on freewill gifts from Church members which can vary considerably from year to year.

The Trustees also hold an additional reserve as it is their desire to appoint an employee if a suitable candidate were available to progress the work of the church. The free reserves at the year-end were £78,150

Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding is constantly being monitored, revised and updated. Carol Miller is the co-ordinator. Emmaus Church is registered with the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS ref: 2021). A system for police-checking Children and Youth Workers (DBS Certificates) is established.

Health and Safety Policy

The Trustees are aware of their responsibilities concerning risks to the Trust. The Church has a Health and Safety Policy which is applicable for Emmaus Church as a low risk, less than 5 employees Charity. The Church considers risk management important. Risks such as accidents in the car park and children leaving the grounds unaccompanied are assessed as part of the normal decision-making process to the Church.

Church Insurance

Emmaus Church is insured with the Congregational & General, using their standard 'Church Choice' Policy. Public liability has been confirmed as five million pounds.

Certificates

Portable electrical appliances are tested annually.

Fire extinguishers and fire blanket are tested annually by a specialist firm.

The Kitchen is registered with South Gloucestershire Council as Food Premises and was inspected by a Food Safety Officer in 2013.

Related Party Transactions

Robert Scott Cook, Sam Marsh and Luke Addison were Trustees of the charity in the year. It is normal practice for Emmaus Church visiting preachers to be remunerated £80 to cover expenses. During the year, Luke Addison preached three times, Robert Scott Cook preached once and Sam Marsh preached twice. This remuneration is allowed under the constitution of the charity.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Emmaus Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Emmaus Church (the Charity) for the year ended 31st December 2023..

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 Charity'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Joshua Kingston, BSc (Hons) ACA
Burton Sweet Limited
The Clock Tower
5 Farleigh Court
Old Weston Road
Flax Bourton
Bristol BS48 1UR

Date: 2nd May 2024

EMMAUS CHURCH

Receipts & Payments Account *Year Ended 31 December 2023*

RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Fund £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Collections and general gifts	4,853	1,942	6,795	5,108
Gift Aid donations	27,233	-	27,233	22,221
Rent	1,050	-	1,050	750
Event income	1,136	-	1,136	470
Deposit account interest	1,287	-	1,287	811
Gift Aid refunds	5,555	-	5,555	5,844
Outreach	-	-	-	34
Teaching and training	-	-	-	1,190
Miscellaneous Income	583	-	583	-
	41,697	1,942	43,639	36,428

PAYMENTS

Gifts to Christian work & missionary	6,210	1,932	8,142	7,767
Gifts to speakers	2,640	-	2,640	3,135
Gifts to musicians	-	-	-	40
Staff costs	17,061	-	17,061	3,989
Outreach	1,904	-	1,904	1,154
Teaching and training	826	-	826	2,992
Repairs and renewals	5,570	-	5,570	3,280
Accountant and Independent Examiner	1,866	-	1,866	900
Utilities	2,546	-	2,546	2,084
Church cleaning & maintenance	2,671	-	2,671	3,508
Insurance	1,480	-	1,480	1,290
Membership/subs/licences	1,787	-	1,787	1,530
Stationery, publishing, printing & advertising	749	-	749	967
Miscellaneous expenses	536	-	536	59
Musical materials & equipment	1,737	-	1,737	735
	47,583	1,932	49,515	33,430

Surplus of payments over receipts	(5,886)	10	(5,876)	2,998
Balance as at 1 January 2022	84,036	127	84,163	81,165
Balance as at 31 December 2023	78,150	137	78,287	84,163

Represented by:

Cash and bank balances	78,150	137	78,287	84,163
------------------------	---------------	------------	---------------	---------------

EMMAUS CHURCH

Statement of Assets and Liabilities *Year Ended 31 December 2023*

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash Balances on Receipts and Payments		
Account Carried Forward		
Current Account	4,187	8,349
Deposit Account	26,366	28,427
12 Month Savings Bond	22,718	22,371
2 year loan account	25,000	25,000
Cash in hand	16	16
	<u>78,287</u>	<u>84,163</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>78,287</u>	<u>84,163</u>
LIABILITIES		
Independent Examiners' fee	<u>1,170</u>	<u>1,080</u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustees on 2nd May 2023.

S J Miller