

THE BRIDGE CHURCH
UNIT 1A CRITCHCRAFT BUILDINGS
BULWARK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
BULWARK
CHEPSTOW
MONMOUTHSHIRE
NP16 5QZ

Registered Charity: 1063495

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT
AND
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Luke Silver
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Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Receipts and Payment Accounts

Report to the trustees/members of The Bridge Church, Chepstow

Registered Charity Number 1063495

On the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

Set out on the following pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of 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 those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- Have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed *L A Silver*

Date: 25 July 2023

Luke Silver, HNC Business & Finance / Accountancy Practitioner

Accountancy & Taxation Services
25 Ellicombe Close, Minehead, Somerset. TA24 6DQ

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

Introduction

Thank you for submitting the accounts for independent examination. They have been well maintained and the treasurer and others responsible are to be commended for their hard work. Therefore I will keep my comments to a minimum.

Charity Law and Financial Regulations

The independent examination has been carried out in accordance with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995 (Statutory Instruments No 2724) and the Accounting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

Signing of Accounts

I shall be obliged if you will please forward a copy of the signature page for my records after the accounts have been signed by a representative appointed by the Trustees and Church Council. A spare copy is enclosed.

Conclusion

There are no other matters I feel need to be brought to your attention.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further clarification or for further assistance.

Luke Silver

Date: 25 July 2023

THE BRIDGE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

ACTIVITIES REVIEW

The financial results are set out in the enclosed accounts.

The principal activity throughout the year under review was that of the advancement of the Christian faith.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees during the year were as follows:

Chairperson

Mr Martin Coleman

36 Queens Road, Bulwark, Chepstow, Gwent. NP16 5AN Tel: 07943 851799

Mr Martyn Enever

2 Bryn Deri Rise, Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, NP16 6LE

Mr Paul Edwards

5 Chapel Close, Pwllmeyric, Chepstow, NP16 6HW

STATEMENT

We certify that the books, vouchers and information produced to enable the independent examination of our accounts to be conducted contain a full and correct record of our financial transactions and activities to the best of our knowledge and belief.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES AND CHURCH COUNCIL



Please print name: MARTIN COLEMAN

Date: 3/11/23

The Bridge Church, Chepstow

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 31.03.23 £	Total 31.03.22 £
<u>Resources Arising</u>						
Donations, Legacies and Similar Incoming Resources	3a	123,752	0	0	123,752	113,660
Investment Income	3c	68	0	0	68	1
Other Incoming Resources	3d	46,434	0	0	46,434	5,431
Total Incoming Resources		170,254	0	0	170,254	119,092
<u>Resources Used</u>						
Direct Charitable Expenditure						
Establishment Support Costs	4a	38,727	0	0	38,727	34,397
Costs of Activities in Furtherance of the Charitable Objects	4b	78,341	0	0	78,341	85,112
Church Family Expenses	4c	1,125	0	0	1,125	677
Evangelism & Outreach	4d	971	0	0	971	536
Resources Expended on Managing and Administering the Charity	4e	2,568	0	0	2,568	1,913
f) Ring Fenced Funding	4f	24,256	0	0	24,256	0
Total Resources Expended		145,988	0	0	145,988	122,635
Net Movement in Funds		24,266	0	0	24,266	(3,543)
Fund Balances b/fwd at 01.04.22		45,349	0	0	45,349	48,892
Transfers		0	0	0	0	0
Gains and Losses Building Valuation		0	0	0	0	0
Fund Balances c/fwd at 31.03.23		69,615	0	0	69,615	45,349

The Bridge Church, Chepstow

Balance Sheet

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2		0		0
			<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
Current Assets					
Bank Accounts Hand	5	62,975		39,984	
Debtors	6	8,300		5,365	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	1,660		0	
Net Current Assets			69,615		45,349
Total Assets less current liabilities			69,615		45,349
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than a year	8		0		0
Net Assets			<u>69,615</u>		<u>45,349</u>
Capital and Reserves					
Income Funds:					
General Fund			69,615		45,349
			<u>69,615</u>		<u>45,349</u>

The Bridge Church, Chepstow
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2023

1.Accounting Policies

(a) These accounts have been prepared on a accruals basis and include income which has been received or that is receivable at the year end.

(b) The recommendations of charities SORP have been followed in the preparation of these accounts.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets

		Land & Building £	Fixtures, Fitting & Equipment £	2023 Total £
Equipment				
Cost	01-Apr-22	0	0	0
Revaluation		0	0	0
Cost at	31-Mar-23	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Depreciation				
Charge	01-Apr-22	0	0	0
Depreciation at	31-Mar-23	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Book Value	31-Mar-23	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Book Value	31-Mar-22	0	0	0

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2023 :	None
31st March 2022 :	None

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2023 (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 31.03.23 £	Total 31.03.22 £
3. Incoming Resources					
a) Donations, Legacies and Similar Incoming Resources					
Tithes & Offerings	103,739	0		103,739	97,963
Gifts	0	0	0	0	0
Charities Trust	0	0	0	0	0
Gift Aid Tax Reclaimed	20,013	0	0	20,013	15,697
Church Plant	0	0	0	0	0
	123,752	0	0	123,752	113,660
b) Investment Income					
Bank Interest	68	0	0	68	1
	68	0	0	68	1
c) Other Incoming Resources					
Other Income	30	0	0	30	535
Salary Support	0	0	0	0	4,896
Community Café	10,400	0	0	10,400	0
TLG Other	1,500	0	0	1,500	0
Hamper Appeal	3,370	0	0	3,370	0
Kenya	10,000	0	0	10,000	0
Peaceful Garden	500	0	0	500	0
Operations Manager	10,000	0	0	10,000	0
CAP Debt Centre	10,634	0	0	10,634	0
	46,434	0	0	46,434	5,431
Total Incoming Resources	170,254	0	0	170,254	119,092

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2023 (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 31.03.23 £	Total 31.03.22 £
4. Resources Expended					
a) Establishment Support Costs					
Unit 1a Lease	31,000	0	0	31,000	29,100
Gas	1,252	0	0	1,252	702
Electric	2,127	0	0	2,127	1,414
Water	295	0	0	295	207
Insurance	351	0	0	351	298
Fire Inspection	0	0	0	0	358
PA / Equipment Costs	932	0	0	932	932
Building Maintenance	2,107	0	0	2,107	781
Communication	605	0	0	605	605
Annual Servicing	58	0	0	58	0
	38,727	0	0	38,727	34,397
b) Costs of Activities in Furtherance of the Charitable Objects					
In House Ministry	50,343	0	0	50,343	53,909
CAP Debt Centre Manager	10,087	0	0	10,087	0
Conference & Travel Expenses	1,578	0	0	1,578	88
Gifts / Missionary Support	16,333	0	0	16,333	16,807
Ring Fenced Giving	0	0	0	0	14,308
Church Plant	0	0	0	0	0
	78,341	0	0	78,341	85,112
c) Church Family Expenses					
AoG Subscription	50	0	0	50	0
Churches Together	0	0	0	0	0
Kids Church Resources	54	0	0	54	79
Youth / Relentless	234	0	0	234	256
Food & Drink	0	0	0	0	342
Worship	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitality & Cleaning	787	0	0	787	0
	1,125	0	0	1,125	677
d) Evangelism & Outreach					
Course Materials / Resources	17	0	0	17	182
Mental Health / Safeguarding	0	0	0	0	258
Church Plant	0	0	0	0	0
Men's Ministry	0	0	0	0	28
Women's Ministry	0	0	0	0	0
Welcome Events	82	0	0	82	68
24/7 Prayer	0	0	0	0	0
Ministry Team	0	0	0	0	0
Alpha	872	0	0	872	0
	971	0	0	971	536

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2023 (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 31.03.23 £	Total 31.03.22 £
e) Resources Expended on Managing and Administering the Charity					
CCLI Licence	664	0	0	664	634
Child Protection	303	0	0	303	202
Inspire	41	0	0	41	0
Professional Fees	627	0	0	627	560
Printing / Stationery	270	0	0	270	50
Sundries	663	0	0	663	467
	2,568	0	0	2,568	1,913

f) Ring Fenced Funding

Kitchen	2,530	0	0	2,530	0
Community Café	4,264	0	0	4,264	0
TLG Other Expenditure	650	0	0	650	0
TLG Coaching Village	496	0	0	496	0
Hamper Appeal	3,370	0	0	3,370	0
Unit 2	2,500	0	0	2,500	0
Kenya	10,000	0	0	10,000	0
Peaceful Garden	446	0	0	446	0
Operations Manager	0	0	0	0	0
	24,256	0	0	24,256	0

Total Resources Expended	145,988	0	0	145,988	122,635
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5. Bank Accounts

	31-Mar-23 £	31-Mar-22 £
Barclays Bank Community Statement	2,843	29,923
Barclays Bank Base Rate Reward	60,132	10,061
Barclays Bank Business Premium	0	0
Barclays Church Plant	0	0
	62,975	39,984

6. Debtors

Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	8,300	5,365
	8,300	5,365

7. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	31-Mar-23 £	31-Mar-22 £
HMRC PAYE	1,660	0
	1,660	0

Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2023 (continued)

8. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In More Than One Year

	31-Mar-23 £	31-Mar-22 £
NONE	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

9. Staff Costs

	31-Mar-23 £	31-Mar-22 £
Gross Wages and Salaries	50,343	53,909
Employer's National Insurance Costs (incl above)	0	0
	<u>50,343</u>	<u>53,909</u>

No employees received emoluments of over £60,000. (2021: None)

The Charity operates payroll under a PAYE scheme.

Trustees' Annual Report – 2022/23

(Accompanying Receipts and Payments Accounts)

Section 1 Legal and Administrative Information

Charity name The Bridge Church, Chepstow

Other names charity is known by: N/A b

Registered charity number; 1063495

For the financial year beginning on 5th April 2022

For the financial year ending on 31st March 2023

Charity's principal address; Unit 1A Critchcraft Buildings, Bulwark Ind. Est. Chepstow, NP16 5QZ

Names of the charity trustees:

Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted, if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee
Martin Coleman	Chairman		<i>de facto</i> as Minister
Martyn Enever	Elder		Trustees of Charity
Paul Edwards	Treasurer		Trustees of Charity

Holding Trustees: Sarah Coleman, Daphne Goulding, Paul Edwards

Governing document: Model Trust Deed for Local Assemblies of God

Names and Addresses of advisors regularly used: Luke Silver, Accountancy & Taxation Services, 25 Ellicombe Close, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6DQ.

Section 2 Objectives of the Charity

Objects of the charity:

The objects of the Church ("the Objects") are for the benefit of the public:

- 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 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
- 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.

Public Benefit: The trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of public benefit and they can confirm that public benefit has been provided in at least the following ways;

- Providing regular public worship open to all.
- Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Praying regularly for our community
- Taking religious assemblies in schools
- Providing a youth club with a Christian ethos
- Providing much needed practical support for the surrounding community through a range of services and courses, including running a Foodbank distribution Centre and a child-mentoring program in local schools.
- Supporting other charities and churches in the UK and overseas.

Section 3 Activities and Achievements

Owing to the spiritual nature of the church's objectives it is difficult to quantify achievements; however we have in the past year undertaken the following activities:

Church Activities:

Over the course of the year we have continued to offer engaging Sunday worship services with alternate youth and children's provision. Sunday services continue to be livestreamed, but only via a private link, as we encourage people to return fully to in-person meetings. The church has continued to welcome new people and has seen some steady numerical growth over the past year.

Sunday Night Youth, for young people from year 6 to year 13, continues to operate on the last Sunday evening of each month, and has been joined by some youth groups from Tidenham and Coleford during the past year. We regularly see upwards of 20 young people attending on the last Sunday of each month to worship, learn and connect with God and each other.

Life groups are working well, with six groups now meeting regularly. These are mainly in-person groups but some are still making use of zoom. We continued to offer zoom prayer meetings on Sunday evening, and Monday and Thursday morning, with an average of 6-8 people in attendance. We also hold our prayer and praise meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.

We also ran a Bridge Grill project during the summer school holidays which fed families connected with TLG and local primary schools. Every Thursday afternoon for 6 weeks a BBQ was provided and guests were welcomed to the church for food and drink.

Christmas hampers were given out again through the local schools; 75 bags to 75 families. Over £3000 of donations were received for this hamper project. We also welcomed Pembroke primary school to our premises for a special Christmas assembly.

Alpha

We launched our first in-person Alpha course for many years in September 2022. This was a great success and involved lots of people serving in different areas; hospitality team, kitchen team, set up team, group leaders and helpers, evening hosts and an administrator to keep everything on track. We had approx. 25 people attend the introductory evening and then about 12-13 commit to the full course. We held the evening in Unit 1a on Wednesday evenings and had three groups in the hall discussing the material together. The groups were largely made up of church members doing the course for the first time, but this was part of the plan, in order to get people excited and engaged with future Alpha courses that we run.

Lads Lunch

A new community project was launched in November 2022 to make use of our new kitchen facility in Unit 1A. Research was undertaken by Rachel Norman to discover an area of great need in our community. This research revealed that there was a high proportion of single, unemployed men in need of support and community. The idea for the project was to offer a free lunch to men of any age in the church premises once a week. Lads lunch was formed, funding secured for necessary resources as well as a part-time salary for the project coordinator, and the first session was launched in November. The initiative has continued almost every week, on Thursday lunchtimes, ever since. We have seen a good number of men use the service, with some regulars returning every week. We have also had the privilege of welcoming two of our lads lunch guests to church on Sundays, one of whom is now a regular attender. The funding remains in place for the continuation of the project into 2024 and beyond.

Foodbank

Foodbank continues to operate from The Bridge Church building on a Wednesday. Donations of food continue to be provided by the residents of Chepstow and the number of users remains steady.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty)

The Debt Centre worker, David Price has been employed by The Bridge Church in order to offer him a more robust network and process of support, although his wages are paid by Chepstow & District CAP funds. The past year has seen a rise in clients needing help from CAP. Finances have been tight over the past year and The Bridge Church has been able to help with a one off donation and an increase in our regular monthly donation.

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG)

We have coaches in Pembroke and Thornwell Primary schools and Chepstow High School. We have held some end of term parties for the TLG children and families at the Church building which have been a great success. We continue to fund a part-time coordinator for this project.

Overseas Mission

We are connected with various projects overseas through prayer, financial giving and relationship. The strongest links are with two projects in Kisumu, Kenya. Genesis School and Compassion project and To Kenya With Love and The Simon Newberry School. We have continued to support these projects financially throughout the past year. We continue to give 18% of our income away to external projects and organisations including Open Doors, Wycliffe Bible Translators, TLG and Christians Against Poverty. Each year we plan to do a review of our giving and adjust/change accordingly.

Vision & Finance

The specific areas of vision that we believe God is calling us to really focus upon are; Serving Community and Growing Together. We've also highlighted four key cultural values that underpin all our work and activity; Word, Spirit, Prayer and Generosity.

Finances have improved over the past year as new people have joined the church and giving has increased. We held a vision offering as a boost in June 2022, which is something we currently wish to do annually.

AOG

The Bridge Church continues to hold status with AOG and contributes 3% of its annual income to AOG UK. Leaders from The Bridge Church attend various national and local conferences throughout the year and Martin is connected with AOG churches across South Wales due to his role as AOG South East Wales zone leader. Jen Edwards completes her ministers in training program in May 2023 and will graduate as a full status minister with Assemblies of God at the National Conference in Harrogate.

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) which equates to at least 3 months unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. We are currently matching this target although can see some challenges ahead which we are already thinking through.

Section 4 Declaration

The trustees have approved the trustees' report above.

Signature:



Full name:

MARTIN COLEMAN

Position:

Chairman

Date: 3/11/23