



## **ANNUAL REPORT for 2024**

### **GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The Epping Forest Community Church (EFCC) trust was constituted by Deed of Trust on 5th January 1999 and is a registered charity No 1074617.

The Charity Trustees during the year to 31 December 2024 were as follows:

- Paul Blackham - Chairperson (elected 23.10.13)
- Gill Harryman - Treasurer (elected 27.08.18)
- Rachel Bartels (elected 13.01.19)

The Deed of Trust allows that any person over the age of 18 meeting the Trust's and the Charity Commissioners criteria is eligible to stand as a Trustee of EFCC. A new Trustee may be appointed by a resolution of the Trustees passed at a meeting of the Trustees at which there is the majority of the Trustees present. There must be a minimum of three Trustees at any one time with no maximum set.

Throughout the year the day-to-day affairs of EFCC were managed by our full-time employed Senior Church Leader, Rich Seaman and ably supported and assisted by the wider staff team and volunteer leaders.

EFCC owns, and is based out of, Grosvenor Hall, Grosvenor Drive, Loughton IG10 2LG.

### **SUMMARY OF THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY**

The objects of the charity remain as:

(a) to advance the Christian faith, in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs, in the Epping Forest District and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Trustees may from time-to-time think fit.

(b) to relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are aged or sick and to relieve the stress caused thereby in the said locality and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time-to-time think fit.

(c) to promote and fulfil such other charitable purposes beneficial to the community in the said locality and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Trustees may from time-to-time think fit.



In summary Epping Forest Community Church exists to advance the Christian faith and serve the local community (and wider) in accordance with the objects of the charity and provides:

- A public place of worship
- Multiple activities and projects to serve the local community
- International Support to those most marginalized
- A venue for other community organisations to use

## **WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN 2023...**

### **Leadership & Staff**

- The current leadership team was established in 2021 and 2024 was earmarked for a review. After reflection and discussion, it was agreed that the leadership team would end on 30 September. It was decided that Rich, our Senior Leader, would remain in post, continuing to work with those who had been on the Leadership team and also to work alongside others who have leadership roles within the life of the Church, with a view to see what the next season of leadership will look like.
- Our Operations Manager continued to provide general day-to-day administrative support to the leadership team as well as line management of the staff.
- Our Community Outreach Worker continued to forge wider and deeper links within our local community. They also continue to organise a committed small group of people in a weekly gathering at the local shopping parade in the Broadway, the aim of which is to be a blessing to our community by being a Godly presence, a listening ear and to share the love and hope that Jesus gives.
- Our Children & Families worker ended her employment in August 2024. As yet we do not have a replacement; her role continues to be covered by a volunteer.
- Staff and Leaders continue to meet weekly ensuring great communication.
- During the year the Leadership Team have continued to explore a relationship with Stuart Lees, from Jesus Ministry / Project 40.

### **Training & Teaching**

- “To know Jesus – and make him known” continues to be our overarching theme, within which the Sunday teaching is planned as well as other events and activities.
- From January to April we explored the book of Romans using The Bible Society resources. Several people joined small groups in order to take advantage of the follow through discussions and continued to study together after the Romans course ended.



- In February a number of people attended a day conference focused on engaging with trauma & abuse.
- Two days were put aside in early June to train and equip the prayer team, including with a particular emphasis on freedom prayer. Training was given by an external visitor, who has experience in this area. Follow up training later in the year was in-house and continues.
- A basic First Aid life-saving skills course was offered to anyone in the church involved with children & youth or on a team leading EFCC groups. 15 people took advantage of this in July. Feedback re quality and delivery of the material was excellent.
- An event entitled 'Launch' took place in Billericay at the end of September. Several regional churches were well represented by their leaders & leadership teams.
- 12 people attended an evening session giving guidance on caring for those experiencing bereavement & grief.
- In addition there were several open invitations to the church for various online or in person teaching & training events.

### **Visiting speakers**

- We were pleased to welcome visiting speakers from HeartCry International and Project 40, all bringing significant and welcome input into EFCC.

### **Events**

- EFCC organised or participated in various in-house and external events including Loughton Community Fun Day, New Wine bible week, men's & women's events, Community Christmas Lunch.
- Leaders from Churches Together in Loughton (CTL) continue to meet monthly; other churches have worked with us at several outreach events, particularly the Loughton Community Day and Christmas events.
- In September we held a lunch for 'newcomers' inviting those who had joined us within the previous 12-18 months. Around 40 people (including children) attended and heard about the history & values of EFCC.

### **Day-to-day**

- Regular meetings and small groups take place at Grosvenor Hall and in people's homes. There is also a weekly online bible study.
- The after-school club changed to a Thursday and welcomes anyone in school year 7 upwards for snacks, games and bible study.
- Weekly street community outreach continues in and around The Broadway – a local shopping parade and in December, we took part in a Churches Together in



Loughton initiative, singing carols in various locations across the town and inviting people to Christmas events.

- During the year we have again had to say goodbye to some long-term members, but fortunately have continued to welcome more new members into the church family and it is a joy to see lives being changed by faith in Jesus and celebrate many more baptisms throughout the year.

None of what took place in 2023 would have been possible without the continuing unfailing generosity of everyone who supports us in whatever way they can, be it financially, in prayer, or by sacrificially giving their time.

Once more this year we continue to be amazed by, and are so grateful for, all that has been given to us, especially in a year that has been so financially difficult for all.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Trustees were again satisfied with the financial statement provided by our wonderful Treasurer, and we thank her most sincerely for all the work that she selflessly undertook for the Trust. As referred to above, the generosity of the members of EFCC and others continues to amaze us, and we remain so thankful for the financial investment people continue to make in EFCC.

In 2024 total income was £141,343 (a little up from last year), and total expenditure was £139,244, providing a small surplus within the year. Full summary figures are contained in the following End of Year Financial Statements.

Through special collections and love offerings included within the above figures we have been able to continue to provide support for various individuals, charities and projects, both locally and abroad.

In addition to the above, during the year we also continued to tithe a consistent 10% of our income out of General Funds to various local, national and international bodies.

## **AND FINALLY...**

In conclusion I must again reiterate that all of the above represents just a fraction of the life and work of the EFCC Family, and I count it a great privilege and honour to be a part of it. I would like to once again express a great big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has made it happen in 2024!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Blackham'. The signature is written over a horizontal dotted line.

DATED 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Christopher Blackham

Chair of Trustees (appointed 06 April 2025)

For and on behalf of the Trustees of Epping Forest Community Church

**Epping Forest Community Church**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Receipts</b>						
Planned giving	86,104	-	-	-	86,104	76,805
Collections and other giving	-	-	15,844	-	15,844	21,075
Other voluntary receipts	-	-	896	-	896	325
Gift Aid recovered	16,098	(0)	3,955	-	20,053	19,909
Other receipts	17	-	-	-	17	18
Investment Income	18,428	-	-	-	18,428	12,199
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>120,648</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>20,695</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>141,343</b>	<b>130,331</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Missionary and Charitable Giving	11,047	70	25,518	-	36,635	37,395
Clergy and Staffing costs	83,720	-	-	-	83,720	86,937
Church Running Expenses	7,904	-	-	-	7,904	7,534
Hall Running Costs	9,451	1,584	-	-	11,035	9,498
Coach/Minibus Costs	(50)	-	-	-	(50)	3,321
Assets	-	-	-	-	-	114
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>112,072</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>25,518</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>139,244</b>	<b>144,799</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments before transfer</b>	<b>8,575</b>	<b>(1,654)</b>	<b>(4,823)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>(14,468)</b>
<b>Transfers:</b>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	345	345	-	-	690	232,222
Gross transfers between funds - out	(345)	(345)	-	-	(690)	(232,222)
<b>Excess of receipts over payments before other gains</b>	<b>8,575</b>	<b>(1,654)</b>	<b>(4,823)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>(14,468)</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>8,575</b>	<b>(1,654)</b>	<b>(4,823)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>(14,468)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
<b>Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year</b>	<b>589,675</b>	<b>87,018</b>	<b>5,368</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>682,061</b>	<b>696,529</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments for the year</b>	<b>598,250</b>	<b>85,364</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>684,159</b>	<b>682,061</b>
<del><b>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</b></del>						





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

IPPING FOREST COMMUNITY CHURCH TRUST

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1074617

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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:

Date:

23/9/2025

Name:

COLIN NICHOLAS CORRIGAN

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

FCA FCCA

Address:

8 BROOKLYN AVENUE

LOUGHTON

ESSEX TR10 1BL

**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.