

The Network Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2023

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

THE NETWORK CHURCH
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	33 Mayflower Road Park Street St Albans AL2 2QP
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Declaration of Trust dated 16 August 1999 as amended March 2004
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1078577
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	J K Foulger (resigned January 2024) C Hanbury (resigned April 2023) Shuk Lee (appointed January 2024) Rebecca Mitchell (appointed September 2023) Laurence Singlehurst Trevor Withers Sarah Woolmer (appointed October 2023) Man Yuen (appointed January 2024)
BANKERS	The Co-operative Bank plc National Westminster Bank plc
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Jaimée Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 1	Legal and Administrative Details
Pages 2-4	Trustees' Report
Page 5	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 6	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 7	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Pages 8-9	Notes to the Accounts

THE NETWORK CHURCH
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a trust deed. The community of Network Church exists to commit our lives to serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our primary responsibility as a church is to:-

- a) Build and nurture a Christian community
- b) Serve those outside the community in a variety of different ways
- c) Provide a forum for those who do not know God to explore the possibility of a relationship with him.

Our Mission Statement

A community of God's people working together to see God's Kingdom extended in our spheres of influence.

We are a church built around small groups which means that an important focus of the life of the church is the midweek 'cell groups'. These meet weekly and are where the group members worship together, encourage one another, and share their lives with families and friends.

The cell groups come together for larger meetings as the weekly Sunday morning meeting, where we experience God in corporate worship, and receive teaching from the Bible.

We follow a cell church structure, in that the leadership team supports and trains several small group leaders, who support and train their small group members.

Governance

In 2023 there were four Trustees, one of whom is also the team leader of the Leadership Team, who oversee the running of the church and the financial decisions that are made by the Leadership Team.

Network Church is part of the Pioneer group of churches, who support our Leadership Team, and oversee our progress and major decisions.

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity.

New Trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing Trustees, who discuss and agree on the capabilities and likely profile need to fill the role. This takes into account considerations such as the capabilities of the current Trustees, specialist skills available and diversity considerations.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and mission, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

We support and encourage those with a faith to deepen their relationship with God, and to increase the reach and effectiveness of their positive contribution to society.

Due to numerical growth we moved to a larger rented venue in 2023. Much of that growth is from Hong Kong Christians settling in the local area who contribute to a new multicultural flavour in our gatherings which we enjoy.

We provide financial assistance for people linked to Network Church to attend spiritual retreats or counselling courses, and provide occasional financial support to individuals in need that are known to someone in Network Church, irrespective of their faith.

We give regular financial support to various charities and individuals, including to people in YWAM Tanzania, and support local charities either financially and/or with practical help, such as St Albans & Harpenden Education Project, Harpenden Money Advice Centre, Azalea, and The Living Room.

In 2023 we continued to have strong links with YWAM Tanzania, where several people are supported by Network Church or by individuals within the church. Pre-Covid we regularly sent a team to help with building projects there both practically and financially (e.g. schools, and nurseries), and hope to resume that as soon as practicable. Church individuals occasionally visit as well. Various projects have been supported by people within Network Church for which we receive regular updates, prayer requests and photographs.

We run a community pottery studio on an entirely voluntary and free to use basis to encourage young and old in their creative skills and benefit their wellbeing. Our ethos is to create a friendly welcoming environment for all comers. We attract a wide variety of people from the local community and in conjunction with Mind in Herts have regular groups to benefit their mental wellbeing. In December 2023 we were grateful to receive approval to our third successful grant application in five years from The Harpenden Trust for new and improved equipment (to be given in 2024)

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Connected organisations

Network church is part of Pioneer, and we also have close links with YWAM and other St Albans & Harpenden churches.

Financial review

During the year income increased by £6,200 to £111,600, and expenditure increased by £11,800 to £116,600. The cash held by the charity at year end was £66,700, of which £63,100 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose. Additional funds are held in an ethical investment fund.

We gave away approximately 13% of our income during 2023 to a variety of organisations, and to individuals in need.

An annual budget is prepared by the Leadership Team, approved by the Trustees, and presented to the church as a whole. At least twice a year, the actual figures are compared to the targets.

Three of the Leadership Team and one Trustee are bank signatories. Two signatories are required on cheques and all bank documents.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash to cover expenditure commitments for 3 months (which equates to approximately £26,500) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £63,100 and the charity is holding excess funds; we continue to invest in the pottery project, and are looking to hire a larger venue to accommodate us on Sunday mornings, for which some of these funds will be needed.

Risk statement

The Trustees have reviewed the risks to which a small charity operating with few employees is exposed. Appropriate procedures are in place to identify, monitor and review these risks on a regular basis.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



[T. Withers \(Sep 6, 2024 11:07 GMT+1\)](#)

T Withers

Date: Sep 6, 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE NETWORK CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Network Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 on pages 6 to 9 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 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 2011 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

J. Young
J. Young (Sep 6, 2024 16:00 GMT+1)

Jaimée Young

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Sep 6, 2024

THE NETWORK CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	General Funds	Designated Funds	Funds		
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations		81,422	-	8,634	90,056	78,936
Gift aid receipts		16,496	-	1,523	18,019	12,118
Other grants		-	-	-	-	11,645
Charitable activities		-	-	3,324	3,324	2,016
		<u>97,918</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,481</u>	<u>111,400</u>	<u>104,715</u>
Capital and similar receipts						
Sale of fixed assets		156	-	-	156	633
		<u>156</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>633</u>
Total receipts		<u>98,074</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,481</u>	<u>111,555</u>	<u>105,348</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	88,421	-	2,876	91,298	75,448
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	11,490	-	13,774	25,264	29,327
Total payments		<u>99,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,650</u>	<u>116,562</u>	<u>104,775</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		(1,838)	-	(3,169)	(5,006)	573
Transfers between funds	6	(2,406)	-	2,406	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(4,244)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(763)</u>	<u>(5,006)</u>	<u>573</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		67,371	-	4,347	71,717	71,144
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>63,127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,584</u>	<u>66,711</u>	<u>71,717</u>

The notes on pages 8 - 9 form part of these accounts.

THE NETWORK CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	63,127	-	3,584	66,711	71,717
	<u>63,127</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,584</u>	<u>66,711</u>	<u>71,717</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	1,080	-	-	1,080	800
	<u>1,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>800</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year:					
NEST [pension]	293	-	-	293	220
Fee for Independent Examination	1,092	-	-	1,092	1,008
	<u>1,385</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,385</u>	<u>1,228</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use					
			Fund to which asset belongs	Value 2023	Value 2022
				£	£
Equipment and fittings			General	15,085	11,689
				<u>15,085</u>	<u>11,689</u>
The trustees have used insurance values as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.					
E Investment assets					
			Fund to which asset belongs	2023	2022
				£	£
CCLA investment			General	53,018	46,779
				<u>53,018</u>	<u>46,779</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by T. Withers date Sep 6, 2024
T. Withers (Sep 6, 2024 11:07 GMT+1)
Trevor Withers

The notes on pages 8 - 9 form part of these accounts.

THE NETWORK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs	69,741	-	-	69,741	50,707
Venue hire	5,900	-	-	5,900	8,080
Church activities and Community events	5,533	-	-	5,533	4,709
Equipment	578	-	-	578	416
Gifts and visiting speakers	812	-	-	812	1,680
Courses / conferences / training	1,040	-	-	1,040	1,474
Phone	469	-	-	469	358
Insurance	404	-	-	404	383
Office and administrative expenses	1,511	-	-	1,511	1,050
Computer and internet	1,284	-	-	1,284	397
Governance	1,008	-	-	1,008	978
Pottery	-	-	2,829	2,829	4,958
Sundry	141	-	47	188	259
	<u>88,421</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,876</u>	<u>91,298</u>	<u>75,448</u>

3 Grants and gifts paid to others

Organisations:					
YWAM Tanzania	520	-	10,624	11,144	14,307
STEP	2,700	-	-	2,700	2,700
Cell UK Ministries	250	-	-	250	3,000
Pioneer Trust	1,440	-	-	1,440	1,440
Organisations < £1,000	3,080	-	-	3,080	3,080
Individuals	3,500	-	3,150	6,650	4,800
	<u>11,490</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,774</u>	<u>25,264</u>	<u>29,327</u>

4 Transactions with related parties

Mr Trevor Withers, a trustee, was paid a gross salary of £50,445 [2022: £38,143] for serving as a Team Leader, not for serving as a trustee; as permitted by the charity's governing document.

No payments were made to any other trustees or persons related to them, except for reimbursement of expenses paid out on behalf of the charity.

THE NETWORK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Acting as agent

On occasion the charity receives money on behalf of other charities or individuals in need, which it banks and then pays out to these charities or individuals. This income is received as agent and the income, and the related payments, are excluded from the Receipts and Payments account.

During the year, the charity received money on behalf of a member for an additional appeal which was solely supported by church members. This income was received as agent; the receipts totalling £1,669, and the subsequent payment(s), are excluded from the Receipts and Payments account.

6 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	67,371	98,074	(99,911)	(2,406)	63,127
	<u>67,371</u>	<u>98,074</u>	<u>(99,911)</u>	<u>(2,406)</u>	<u>63,127</u>
Restricted funds					
Mission support	358	9,707	(10,671)	606	-
Pottery	2,689	3,575	(2,829)	-	3,434
Hardship fund	1,300	200	(3,150)	1,800	150
	<u>4,347</u>	<u>13,481</u>	<u>(16,650)</u>	<u>2,406</u>	<u>3,584</u>
Total funds	<u>71,717</u>	<u>111,555</u>	<u>(116,562)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,711</u>

The Mission Support fund relates to donations given for the support of mission organisations and missionaries.

The Pottery is a small community pottery run by and supported by Network Church. It is open (by appointment) to anybody whether families or groups or individuals. The purpose is to provide a safe space for people to have fun with clay and rediscover their creativity. Other donations have been given to support this project.

The Hardship fund can be used to give a small gift to anyone in financial need who is brought to the attention of the Leadership Team.