

The Network Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2024

Stewardship 
Active generosity

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

THE NETWORK CHURCH
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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) Shuk Yee Lee (appointed January 2024) Rebecca Mitchell Laurence Singlehurst Trevor Withers Sarah Woolmer Man Lung 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 & 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 2024

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 2024 there were six 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 again to a larger rented venue in 2024, our third move in four years. 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, and support local charities either financially and/or with practical help, such as St Albans & Harpenden Education Project, Harpenden Money Advice Centre and Azalea. At the end of 2023 our long term support to individuals in YWAM Tanzania came to a natural end, which enabled us in 2024 to begin supporting two charities working overseas: Medair and Zuia Trafficking.

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. Last year we were grateful to receive approval to our third successful grant application in five years from The Harpenden Trust. This year we received the funds and purchased new and improved equipment.

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 £8,200 to £119,700, and expenditure increased by £5,100 to £121,600. The cash held by the charity at year end is £64,800, of which £61,400 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose. Additional funds are held in an ethical investment fund.

We gave away approximately 11% of our income during 2024 to individuals in need and to a variety of organisations.

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 £33,000) 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 £61,400. The charity is holding excess funds; we continue to invest in the pottery project, have hired a larger venue to accommodate us on Sunday mornings, and have employed an additional staff member, all of which will need some of these funds.

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

T. Withers (Sep 23, 2025 11:20:05 GMT+1)

Trevor Withers

Date: Sep 23, 2025

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 2024 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 25, 2025 09:07:28 GMT+1)

Jaimée Young
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Sep 25, 2025

THE NETWORK CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2024	2023
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations		87,603	-	4,826	92,430	90,056
Gift aid receipts		17,235	-	-	17,235	18,019
Grants	5	-	-	2,801	2,801	-
Charitable activities	5	-	-	6,868	6,868	3,324
Other		175	-	-	175	-
		<u>105,014</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,495</u>	<u>119,509</u>	<u>111,400</u>
Capital and similar receipts						
Sale of fixed assets		220	-	-	220	156
		<u>220</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>156</u>
Total receipts		<u>105,234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,495</u>	<u>119,729</u>	<u>111,555</u>
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	93,679	-	14,227	107,906	94,448
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	13,164	-	548	13,712	22,114
		<u>106,842</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,775</u>	<u>121,618</u>	<u>116,562</u>
Total payments		<u>106,842</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,775</u>	<u>121,618</u>	<u>116,562</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before		(1,608)	-	(280)	(1,888)	(5,006)
Transfers between funds	5	(100)	-	100	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(1,708)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(180)</u>	<u>(1,888)</u>	<u>(5,006)</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		63,127	-	3,584	66,711	71,717
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>61,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,404</u>	<u>64,823</u>	<u>66,711</u>

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

THE NETWORK CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted funds	2024	2023
		General funds	Designated funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds						
Cash at bank with immediate access		61,418	-	3,404	64,823	66,711
		<u>61,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,404</u>	<u>64,823</u>	<u>66,711</u>
B Other monetary assets						
Gift aid due to charity		636	-	-	636	1,080
		<u>636</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>636</u>	<u>1,080</u>
C Liabilities						
Falling due within one year						
NEST [pension]		363	-	-	363	293
Fee for Independent Examination		1,122	-	-	1,122	1,092
		<u>1,485</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,485</u>	<u>1,385</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use						
				Fund to which asset belongs	Value 2024	Value 2023
					£	£
Equipment and fittings				General	19,140	15,085
					<u>19,140</u>	<u>15,085</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	Value 2024	Value 2023
					£	£
CCLA - COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund				General	56,034	53,018
					<u>56,034</u>	<u>53,018</u>

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

T. Withers
T. Withers (Sep 23, 2025 11:20:05 GMT+1)

Trevor Withers

Date: Sep 23, 2025

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

THE NETWORK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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	2024	2023
		General funds	Designated funds	Funds		
		£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly						
Employment costs	Note 4	73,382	-	3,000	76,382	69,741
Venue hire		8,025	-	-	8,025	5,900
Church activities and Community events		4,778	-	-	4,778	5,533
Equipment		141	-	1,278	1,419	578
Gifts and visiting speakers		1,725	-	250	1,975	3,962
Courses / conferences / training		761	-	-	761	1,040
Phone		575	-	-	575	469
Insurance		404	-	-	404	404
Office and administrative expenses		2,422	-	-	2,422	1,511
Computer and internet		291	-	-	291	1,284
Governance		1,080	-	-	1,080	1,008
Pottery		-	-	9,699	9,699	2,829
Sundry		94	-	-	94	188
		<u>93,679</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,227</u>	<u>107,906</u>	<u>94,448</u>

3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others

Organisations:						
YWAM Tanzania		-	-	-	-	11,144
STEP		3,500	-	-	3,500	2,700
Azalea		1,020	-	-	1,020	900
Pioneer Trust		1,560	-	-	1,560	1,440
Organisations < £1,000		3,134	-	148	3,282	2,430
Individuals		3,950	-	400	4,350	3,500
		<u>13,164</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>548</u>	<u>13,712</u>	<u>22,114</u>

4 Transactions with related parties

Mr Trevor Withers, a trustee, was paid a gross salary of £52,211 [2023: £51,958] for serving as a Team Leader, not for serving as a trustee; as permitted by the charity's governing document. These payments include employer pension contributions.

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 2024

5 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	63,127	105,234	(106,842)	(100)	61,418
Restricted funds					
Mission support	-	548	(548)	-	-
Pottery	3,434	9,669	(9,699)	-	3,404
Salary	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-
PA equipment	-	1,278	(1,278)	-	-
Hardship fund	150	-	(250)	100	-
	<u>3,584</u>	<u>14,495</u>	<u>(14,775)</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>3,404</u>
Total funds	<u>66,711</u>	<u>119,729</u>	<u>(121,618)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,823</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.

Salary relates to a donation to support specific church payroll costs.

PA equipment relates to a donation to help purchase new church PA equipment.

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.