

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

For 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

**LIFE CHURCH
SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE**

CHARITY REGISTRATION No 1091291

Life Church South Bedfordshire
Annual Report & Statement of Accounts
For 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

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Life Church South Bedfordshire

Administrative information

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Charity Number | 1091291 |
| Trustees on 31.03.2023 | John Doohan Sandra Levermore David Soper |
| Governing Instrument | Declaration of Trust dated 28 th November 2001 |
| Objectives | To advance the Christian faith in South Bedfordshire and in other parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit and other such purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected to the charitable work of the charity. |
| Correspondence Address | 41 Princes Street Toddington Dunstable Bedfordshire LU5 6ED |
| Primary Bankers | Barclays Bank 111 High Street Bedford MK40 1NJ |
| Independent Examiner | Clive Beesley 32 Lippitts hill Luton Bedfordshire LU2 7YN |

Life Church South Bedfordshire

Independent Examiners Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees/members of Life Church South Bedfordshire on the accounts for the 12-month period ended 31st March 2023.

My work has been undertaken so that I may state to the charities trustees those matters I am required to state in my independent examination and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charities trustees for my examination work, for this report, or the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charities trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charities trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to; -

- Examine the accounts under section 43(2) of the Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the charity commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners statement

My examination was undertaken in accordance with 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiners 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;
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with the Charities Act (section 41)
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

2. understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Clive Beesley
Independent examiner

Signed 

Date 16/12/2023

Life Church South Bedfordshire

Trustees Report

For 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Introduction;

These accounts detail the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.
For tax purposes the church is a registered charity and is known as; -
Life Church South Bedfordshire, Charity Number 1091291

Treasurer

On the August 2015 Keith Hughes took over to the roll of treasurer from the previous treasurer and has continued in this role throughout the 2022 - 2023 financial year.

Independent Examiner

The 2022/23 accounts were reviewed by; -
Clive Beesley 32 Lippitts hill, Beds, LU2 7YN

Trustees

There are currently four trustees; -
John Doohan (Chairperson) 48 Wingate drive, Ampthill, Beds, MK45 2XP
Sandra Levermore 4 Glebe gardens, Harlington, Beds LU5 6PE
David Soper 3 Manor Road, Toddington, Beds LU5 6AH

The trustees review the audited accounts each year and submit these with the appropriate forms to the Charity Commission.

To date the trustees have never claimed any payments for their activities.

Reporting;

Each month a summary of the previous month's transactions is reported in detail to the leadership team who are provided with a 3-part report providing; Summary, Expenses & income on accounts XXXX5022 & XXXX3321. The wider leadership team are provided with just the front summary sheet.

Each year the account is audited by independent check from a person outside the church and this is in turn reported to the church at the AGM.

A copy of the audited account is also provided to the trustees and charity commission each year.

Approvals;

All expenditure is subject to the signed approval by one of the leadership team.
Payments require two of the designated persons for authorisation. There are three signatories on the accounts (XXXX5022 & XXXX3321) none of the leadership team can authorise payments providing yet another layer and protecting any individual involved in the process.

Income

This is by standing order directly from the individual or by cash via the church collection and BACS transfers. All cash and cheques are collected and banked by a member of the church (Cheryl Soper) who has no other role regarding the administration of church funds. All amounts banked are itemised on collection summary sheets contained within the accounts.

Life Church South Bedfordshire

Trustees Report (continued) For 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Summary of Bank Accounts;

Current Account (Community Account); - XXXX5022

This account is managed by the Treasurer and is the Life Church general account. All payments from this account are by either standing order, BACS transfer which requires two persons to authorise or two signatures on any cheques issued. In addition, a Payment request form is completed for each transaction supported by receipt where possible. These forms are authorised by one of the church leaders, neither of which are signatories on the account. Gift Aid applications to the Inland Revenue for income to this account is applied for separately to that received in account XXXX3950

All funds passing through this account are unrestricted

Authorised signatories on the account are; -

Keith Hughes, Christine Doohan & Shelagh Hazel.

Deposit Account (Business Base Rate Tracker Account); - XXXX3321

This account is managed by the Treasurer and is the Life Church savings account. Money into or out of this account can only be by transfer to or from the current account (XXXX5022). Twelve transactions per year are allowed on this account without incurring bank charges.

All funds passing through this account are unrestricted.

Current Account (Community Account); - XXXX3950 (now closed)

This account was managed separately by Paul Wilson on behalf of the treasurer and all funds are considered as restricted. Funds can only be used in connection with the Sponsored Child Scheme for Ethiopia.

Gift Aid applications to the Inland Revenue for income to this account is applied for separately to that received in account XXXX5022

This account was closed at the end of the 2022 financial year

Deposit Account (Business Premium Account); -XXXX8491(now closed)

This account is managed separately by Paul Wilson on behalf of the treasurer and all funds are considered as restricted. Funds can only be used in connection with the Sponsored Child Scheme for Ethiopia.

This account was closed at the end of the 2022 financial year

Conclusion;

It is likely the main areas with continue to be giving both regularly to groups and individuals, one off blessing gifts to areas on personal need and the churches evangelistic activities.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Act 1993 requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the trust and the surplus of the trust for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to;

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the trust. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the trustees  J. Doohan

Date 23/01/2024

Life Church South Bedfordshire
Statement of Receipts and Payments For 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2022-23 | Total 2021-22 |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| RECEIPTS | | | | |
| Church Service Offering (General) | £ 720.00 | | £ 720.00 | £ 870.00 |
| Direct Credit Offering (Gift Aid) | £ 18,282.11 | | £ 18,282.11 | £ 21,629.59 |
| Church Service Offering (Gift Aid) | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Sundry Income | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Tax/Gift Aid Refunds | £ 11,100.09 | | £ 11,100.09 | £ 247.50 |
| Youth Clubs | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Bank Interest | £ 60.28 | | £ 60.28 | £ 3.05 |
| Refund of Bank Charges | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| HUGS | £ - | | £ - | £ 527.00 |
| Conference or Meeting Costs | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Alpha | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Refund of Items paid by Life Ch | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Literature/Books/Tapes | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Big Breakfast | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| SPARE | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Sponsored Child Scheme (Note below) | £ 126.25 | | £ 126.25 | £ - |
| | <u>£ 30,288.73</u> | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£ 30,288.73</u> | <u>£ 23,277.14</u> |
| Sponsored Child Scheme | £ - | £ - | £ - | £ 1,183.50 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | <u>£ 30,288.73</u> | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£ 30,288.73</u> | <u>£ 24,460.64</u> |
| PAYMENTS | | | | |
| Donations | £ 15,625.81 | | £ 15,625.81 | £ 20,748.55 |
| Blessing gifts | £ 200.00 | | £ 200.00 | £ - |
| Hire of Village Hall or Parish rooms | £ 1,672.50 | | £ 1,672.50 | £ 820.75 |
| Events | £ 898.92 | | £ 898.92 | £ - |
| Training | £ 178.40 | | £ 178.40 | £ - |
| Visiting Speakers | £ 1,331.90 | | £ 1,331.90 | £ 1,465.00 |
| Stationary etc | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Music Group | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Sponsored Child Scheme | £ 900.00 | | £ 900.00 | £ 900.00 |
| Conference or Meeting Costs | £ 962.00 | | £ 962.00 | £ 247.09 |
| Bank Charges | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| SPARE | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Literature/Books/Recordings | £ - | | £ - | £ 163.90 |
| Youth work | £ 168.48 | | £ 168.48 | £ - |
| Pioneer | £ 1,800.00 | | £ 1,800.00 | £ 1,800.00 |
| Flowers & Birthdays | £ 59.48 | | £ 59.48 | £ - |
| Secretarial Support + Audit | £ 41.25 | | £ 41.25 | £ - |
| 24/7 Prayer | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Subscriptions & Web Site | £ 838.00 | | £ 838.00 | £ 684.88 |
| Sundry expenses | £ 30.89 | | £ 30.89 | £ 120.50 |
| Transfer to Sponsored child scheme (Note below) | £ 126.25 | | £ 126.25 | £ 247.50 |
| Tear Fund | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Cell Groups | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Equipment | £ 143.88 | | £ 143.88 | £ 560.83 |
| Insurance | £ 360.53 | | £ 360.53 | £ 350.53 |
| Leaders Meetings visiting attendees | £ 150.00 | | £ 150.00 | £ 150.00 |
| | <u>£ 25,488.29</u> | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£ 25,488.29</u> | <u>£ 28,259.53</u> |
| Sponsored Child Scheme | £ - | £ - | £ - | £ 1,264.50 |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS | <u>£ 25,488.29</u> | <u>£ -</u> | <u>£ 25,488.29</u> | <u>£ 29,524.03</u> |
| NET INCOMING/OUTGOING RESOURCES | £ 4,800.44 | £ - | £ 4,800.44 | -£ 5,063.39 |
| ADD FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD | | | £ 34,109.74 | £ 39,173.13 |
| CLOSING BALANCE AT 31.03.22 / 31.03.21 | | | <u>£ 38,910.18</u> | <u>£ 34,109.74</u> |

Note:- Income of £126.25 was a gift aid payment to the sponsored child scheme paid by HMRC into the wrong bank account in July 2022. The credit was transferred to the correct TESFA charity account in August 2022

Life Church South Bedfordshire

Statement of significant variances between 2021/22 & 2022/23

General

The two sponsored child accounts were closed at the end of the 2021/22 financial year. From the 1st April 2022 Life Church had no further involvement with the sponsored child accounts. The activities supported by these accounts transferred to a completely independent registered charity called TESFA (registered charity number 1177205) from 1st April 2022.

Receipts

Due to a change in circumstances with some of the regular givers total income has decreased by 15% compared with the previous year.

Gift Aid income was significantly up on the previous year. This was due to payment of the Gift Aid claim for 2021/22 was not processed until after the 31st March 2022. Resulting in two years gift aid being credited within the 2022/23 financial year

The donation from HUGS received in 2021/22 was not repeated in the 2022/23 year due to the closure of all HUGS activities during 2022.

Payments

Donations; There was a decrease in the amount donated during the year.

The transfer of £126.25 to another charity (TESFA) was a result of HMRI crediting the wrong Life Church account with a Gift Aid refund.

On the 31st March 2022 both the Sponsored child bank accounts were closed. There were no further activities associated with these accounts.

The cost of hall hire has increased. This is due to a change in venue and the resulting changes in hourly rates for hire.

Events; Life Church held three events during the year. Ark Farm visit in April, Nativity Trail in December and a Church Christmas meal which was partly financed by the church.

Conference costs increased significantly when compared to the previous year. Several church members expenses were supported to allow attendance at the pioneer conference.

Life Church South Bedfordshire

Statement of Receipts, Payments and assets for year ended 31st March 2023

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total 2022-23 | Total 2021-22 |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Petty Cash | | | £ - | £ - |
| Bank Current Account balance | £ 11,245.51 | £ - | £ 11,245.51 | £ 6,505.35 |
| Bank Deposit Account balance | £ 27,664.67 | £ - | £ 27,664.67 | £ 27,604.39 |
| Sponsored Child Current Account | £ - | | £ - | £ - |
| Sponsored Child Deposit Account | £ - | £ - | £ - | £ - |
| Total | £ 38,910.18 | £ - | £ 38,910.18 | £ 34,109.74 |
| Current assets / equipment (All assets listed within detailed accounts) | | | £ 2,185.43 | £ 3,122.04 |
| Land (none) | | | £ - | £ - |
| Buildings (none) | | | £ - | £ - |
| Liabilities (No known liabilities) | | | £ - | £ - |
| | | | <u>£ 41,095.61</u> | <u>£ 37,231.78</u> |

Note

The Sponsored Child Current and Deposit accounts were closed on the 31st March 2022.
The Sponsored Child scheme is now managed through an independent charity TESFA

Asset value 2022/23 calculated on 2021/22 valuation less 30%

For 2023 to 2024 year depreciation of assets will be valued at
30% less than 2022/23