

THE LIFE CHURCH – MAIDSTONE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2024

Objects of the Charity

The Trust seeks to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by advancing the Christian faith, relieving sickness and financial hardship and promoting and preserving good health, and advancing education, in all such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

Government

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

Objectives and activities

The Life Church is a gathering of people who are committed to love and care for each other and the community they live in, as was taught by Jesus Christ, believing that lives can be changed and bettered by Godly and Biblical principles.

The church employs Mr. Christopher Eke as full-time minister and he serves the church together with Mr. David Thompson (accredited Assemblies of God minister). The church also employs Mr. Charlie Olliver as minister to the teenagers and young people of the church. Mr. Olliver is in his second year of the theological and leadership training course and will graduate in the summer of 2024. Mr. Peter Jackson was accepted as an Elder/Leader and Trustee as from 1st February 2024; the other Trustees being Mr. C Eke, Mr. David Thompson, Mr. Alan Pitt and Mrs. Jennifer Rhodes.

The Sunday morning services are very well attended and the congregation has grown to almost 300 adults and young adults. To allow for seating in the church hall, it was decided to extend the hours of the Children's Church for the whole of the Sunday morning service, 10.30am – 12.15pm. The teenagers attend their own meeting from 11.15 – 12.15. The Sunday morning service is available live on YouTube and all the Sunday services are available to view on the church website. The number of subscribers is good. 2 separate services on Sundays is being considered to accommodate the growing congregation.

All the workers in the church, including the Trustees and ministers are DBS checked through ThirtyOne:Eight.

Midweek services include times for prayer and Bible study. The Little Sparkles Club for babies and toddlers and their parents/carers meet each Thursday morning during term times and the teenagers attend an after school club each Wednesday between 3pm and 6pm. The two Alpha courses were appreciated and a success.

The building is used twice each week by Alcoholics Anonymous and once each week by Cocaine Anonymous.

The church is affiliated to Assemblies of God and Evangelical Alliance organisations and we regularly support other charities: Starfish Malawi, Open Doors ministry, the Salvation Army food bank, the Family Trust and Crossline Counselling; the last 3 being local charities.

The building is generally kept in good order. The walls of the main hall were rough and marked by water stains. As the roof was replaced last year solving the problem of leaks, the walls of the hall have been dry-lined and decorated. The Café Room and the Children's Church Room, as well as some of corridors and stairs have been renovated, decorated and new carpets fitted. The premises are extensive (originally being 3 separate buildings) and the improvements are appreciated by the congregation. A total of £70500 has been spent on the renovations and repairs.

The shop area used by the church to sell handmade crafts has continued to provide support for Starfish Malawi and £3000 was transferred to the charity. The monthly Saturday morning 'Sat Chat' has proved beneficial in procuring funds and providing friendship and fun for church members and the public.



Approved by the Trustees of The Life Church and signed on their behalf:

Independent Examiner's report

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

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

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for 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.

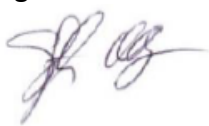
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I 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.

Signed:



Stephen Hendy

Date: 30th May 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	146,892	1,736	750	—	149,379	93,942
Activities for generating funds	—	2,085	3,426	—	5,511	4,098
Incoming resources from charitable activities	825	—	—	—	825	175
Other incoming resources	16,961	30	—	—	16,991	18,722
Total income	164,680	3,851	4,176	—	172,708	116,938
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds	7,535	—	—	—	7,535	6,354
Cost of generating voluntary income	5,188	900	—	—	6,088	5,139
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	—	—	3,220	—	3,220	2,781
Charitable activities	9,929	959	—	—	10,889	7,171
Governance costs	89,455	70,335	490	—	160,281	146,385
Other resources used	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total expenditure	112,109	72,195	3,711	—	188,015	167,831
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	52,571	(68,343)	465	—	(15,306)	(50,893)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	114	63,264	300	—	63,678	295
Gross transfers between funds - out	(63,314)	(114)	(250)	—	(63,678)	(295)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	(10,629)	(5,193)	515	—	(15,306)	(50,893)
Total funds brought forward	86,407	10,757	218	—	97,382	148,276
Total funds carried forward	75,777	5,564	733	—	82,075	97,382
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	75,777	—	—	—	75,777	86,407
Pastor	—	—	—	—	—	—
Designated						
Charity Cards	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Sparkles Mother/Toddler group	—	273	—	—	273	188
Starfish Malawi Ministry	—	—	—	—	—	—
TLC Building fund	—	4,925	—	—	4,925	8,959

Visiting Ministry	—	709	—	—	709	1,609
YOUTH	—	(343)	—	—	(343)	—
Restricted						
Cafe Refurb	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gifts for persons, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
King's Storehouse	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lifelines Contact	—	—	—	—	—	—
MEDIA	—	—	59	—	59	—
Options Pregnancy/PostAbortion Support	—	—	—	—	—	—
Philippines	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shop deposit	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tender Loving Craft	—	—	424	—	424	218
Weekend Away	—	—	—	—	—	—
Women's Refuge	—	—	—	—	—	—
YOUTH	—	—	250	—	250	—

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Current assets		
Investments	—	15,058
Cash at bank and in hand	82,075	82,323
	82,075	97,382
Net current assets less current liabilities	82,075	97,382
Total assets less current liabilities	82,075	97,382
Total net assets less liabilities	82,075	97,382
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	75,777	86,407
Pastor	—	—
Designated		
Charity Cards	—	—
Little Sparkles Mother/Toddler group	273	188
Visiting Ministry	709	1,609
Starfish Malawi Ministry	—	—
YOUTH	(343)	—
TLC Building fund	4,925	8,959
Restricted		
King's Storehouse	—	—
Philippines	—	—
Cafe Refurb	—	—
Weekend Away	—	—
Lifelines Contact	—	—
MEDIA	59	—
Shop deposit	—	—
Tender Loving Craft	424	218
Women's Refuge	—	—
YOUTH	250	—
Options Pregnancy/PostAbortion Support	—	—
Gifts for persons, etc.	—	—
Funds of the church	82,075	97,382

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Current account -	87,243	(73,483)	2,239	—	15,998	3,205
Petty Cash -	1,995	(398)	(1,505)	—	91	83
Business Select Account -	65,985	—	—	—	65,985	79,034
Shawbrook Bank 12 month fixed rate Saver -	(79,446)	79,446	—	—	—	—
Totals	75,777	5,564	733	—	82,075	82,323
Current assets - Investments						
Hampshire Trust Bank -	—	—	—	—	—	15,058
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	15,058
Grand total	75,777	5,564	733	—	82,075	97,382

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Cards - Charity Cards						
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Cards	—	—	—	—	—	—
KingStore - King's Storehouse						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for KingStore	—	—	—	—	—	—
LifeCont - Lifelines Contact						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for LifeCont	—	—	—	—	—	—
LitSpark - Little Sparkles Moth						
Designated	188	386	302	—	—	273
Sub-total for LitSpark	188	386	302	—	—	273
Media - MEDIA						
Restricted	—	250	490	300	—	59
Sub-total for Media	—	250	490	300	—	59
Ministry - Visiting Ministry						
Designated	1,609	—	900	—	—	709
Sub-total for Ministry	1,609	—	900	—	—	709
Shop - Shop deposit						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Shop	—	—	—	—	—	—
Starfish - Starfish Malawi Mini						
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Starfish	—	—	—	—	—	—
TLCraft - Tender Loving Craft						
Restricted	218	3,426	3,220	—	—	424
Sub-total for TLCraft	218	3,426	3,220	—	—	424
WRefuge - Women's Refuge						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for WRefuge	—	—	—	—	—	—

Youth - YOUTH						
Designated	—	—	608	264	—	(343)
Restricted	—	500	—	(250)	—	250
Sub-total for Youth	—	500	608	14	—	(93)
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	86,407	164,680	112,109	(63,200)	—	75,777
Sub-total for General	86,407	164,680	112,109	(63,200)	—	75,777
Build - TLC Building fund						
Designated	8,959	3,465	70,385	62,886	—	4,925
Sub-total for Build	8,959	3,465	70,385	62,886	—	4,925
Pastor - Pastor						
Unrestricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Pastor	—	—	—	—	—	—
Options - Options Pregnancy/Po						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Options	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gifts - Gifts for persons, e						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Gifts	—	—	—	—	—	—
Philipps - Philipppines						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Philipps	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cafe - Cafe Refurb						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Cafe	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wkend - Weekend Away						
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Wkend	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand total	97,382	172,708	188,015	—	—	82,075

Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income						
Offerings	73,711	—	—	—	73,711	55,790
Gift aids	58,858	—	—	—	58,858	24,481
Gifts	—	—	—	—	—	10
Little Sparkles	—	386	—	—	386	401
Youth Ministry	—	—	500	—	500	—
Small Donations	11,623	—	—	—	11,623	9,673
Technical/Media	2,699	—	250	—	2,949	—
Church renovation	—	1,350	—	—	1,350	3,586
Starfish Malawi ministry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gifts - bequeathed	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	146,892	1,736	750	—	149,379	93,942
Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds						
Venue receipts	—	2,085	—	—	2,085	1,652
Cards sold for charity	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tender Loving Craft	—	—	3,426	—	3,426	2,446
Total	—	2,085	3,426	—	5,511	4,098
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Event receipts	825	—	—	—	825	175
Total	825	—	—	—	825	175
Other incoming resources						
Sundry receipts	16,961	30	—	—	16,991	18,722
Loan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16,961	30	—	—	16,991	18,722
INCOME TOTAL	164,680	3,851	4,176	—	172,708	116,938

EXPENDITURE

Cost of generating funds

General Expenses	2,985	—	—	—	2,985	3,190
Stationery & printing	2,636	—	—	—	2,636	1,812
Pastor expenses	1,693	—	—	—	1,693	1,239
SumUp	219	—	—	—	219	111
Total	7,535	—	—	—	7,535	6,354

Cost of generating funds - Cost of generating voluntary income

Ministry and Gifts	5,188	900	—	—	6,088	5,139
Total	5,188	900	—	—	6,088	5,139

Cost of generating funds - Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs

Tender Loving Craft	—	—	3,220	—	3,220	2,781
Total	—	—	3,220	—	3,220	2,781

Charitable activities

Youth expenses	2,661	—	—	—	2,661	445
Church events	3,237	—	—	—	3,237	1,134
Sundry expense	1,624	—	—	—	1,624	4,162
Sparkles baby group	—	302	—	—	302	489
Childrens ministry	1,793	49	—	—	1,842	611
Hospitality	210	—	—	—	210	129
Alpha	—	—	—	—	—	—
Youth Ministry	402	608	—	—	1,010	198
Starfish Malawi expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9,929	959	—	—	10,889	7,171

Governance costs

Salaries Church	45,464	—	—	—	45,464	29,743
Electricity Gas	7,818	—	—	—	7,818	3,891
Water Waste	3,925	—	—	—	3,925	4,588
Insurances Licences	7,254	—	—	—	7,254	5,912
Telephones Internet	1,875	—	—	—	1,875	1,712
Building expenses	—	70,335	—	—	70,335	82,537
Accommodation for Pastor	19,200	—	—	—	19,200	18,000
Technical	3,916	—	490	—	4,406	—
Bank charges	—	—	—	—	—	0
Total	89,455	70,335	490	—	160,281	146,385

Other resources used

Loan	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	112,109	72,195	3,711	—	188,015	167,831
GRAND TOTAL	52,571	(68,343)	465	—	(15,306)	(50,893)