



**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
LALESTON**

TRUSTEES REPORT & ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDING 5th APRIL 2024



Bethel Baptist Church
High Street
Laleston
CF32 0HP

Charity No: 1131135

Trustees Report & Statement of Accounts
For the Financial Year ending 5th April 2024

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Bethel Baptist Church Trustees Report – 2023-2024

Objectives and Activities

Our stated charitable objective is "to glorify God by the advancement of the Christian Religion for the benefit of the public in accordance with the basis of faith of the church."

The trustees work alongside the pastor and deacons of the church to promote the ministry of the church in every way. This includes pastoral ministry to members and other attenders, evangelistic ministry to those outside the church and mission ministry supporting friends who are working in several other parts of the world. We are committed to following the teaching of the bible in our activities and the basis of faith of the church reflects that commitment.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees, pastor and deacons have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. More information on this guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities>

We benefit the public by providing a safe, accessible and welcoming environment for Christian worship in the village of Laleston. This is achieved through our regular weekly meetings, some less frequent but regular activities and through special events at various times throughout the year. We meet a valuable social need in providing opportunities for local people to meet together.

To meet these objectives and to continue to run activities, we also need to maintain and upgrade our buildings and facilities.

Achievements and Performance

During the last year, we have continued our weekly programme of services on Sundays (10.30am and 6.00pm), various ladies meetings on Mondays and bible study and prayer meetings on Thursday evenings and Friday mornings. In addition to those weekly events, we also hold monthly coffee mornings and occasional men's breakfast events. A few times a year we host free lunches, either on Sunday or mid-week and then usually in the summer, we hold a garden party to provide an afternoon of social time, activities for children and an event to publicise the church.

Our Sunday services have been well attended during the last year with a small increase of people attending, especially on Sunday mornings. We have continued recording the morning sermon and sending out the YouTube link and notes to members and friends in case anyone was not able to attend. This has been helpful for some members who have been kept from services for various health reasons or away on holiday.

The ladies meetings continue to alternate between a craft meeting attended by local ladies and a worship meeting with an invited speaker. Both meetings usually have around 10-15 people in attendance and are run by church volunteers.

Craft meeting - many thanks to Mary Isaac for organising this meeting and for the report details following. New members have been added over the last year and are very welcome. The group

continued to make items for charitable causes in the area. Princess of Wales Hospital received 14 large blankets, 35 new-born caps and 7 small blankets.

From summer onwards, items have been sent to orphanages in Ukraine through the Bryn Ukraine Support Group (Maesteg). Items collected and sent include the following: 22 large blankets, 19 baby caps, also booties, gloves, hats, cardigans, and 12 small blankets. Thanks to Anne and Godfrey Morris for delivering contributions. The group also collects stamps for charity purposes and knitted 209 poppies to help with decorations at St Tello's church for Remembrance services.

The group gave £50 out of their funds to two charities, Macmillan and Ty Hafan. They also enjoyed food together on a couple of occasions. The meeting is enjoyed by all those who attend and is a helpful benefit to those who live alone or may be lonely.

Worship meeting - on the alternate weeks, there is a worship service for ladies. Many thanks to Marilyn John for organising and arranging this meeting. Over the past year, a number of guests have been invited to come and speak along with a few people from within the church. The group sings hymns and songs together before the speaker brings a message from the bible. The time is followed by refreshments and as with the craft meeting, serves a very beneficial purpose for those who attend.

Our monthly coffee morning is a free event organised by church volunteers and is attended by around 20-25 people, many of whom live in our local community. We serve drinks and other refreshments, all offered free, and give a short talk from the bible for about 10 mins.

The men's breakfast events are an opportunity for local men to meet up and chat and listen to someone give a short talk, often an invited guest. During this last year, we held a total of three events, attended by around 10-15 men each time and again, this event was offered for free.

We were saddened as a church to lose three of our regular congregation during the last year. Pat Gulwell passed away in April 2023, Roy Anthony in November 2023 and Tony Powell in April 2024. We will miss our friends greatly, but we rejoice as Christians that those who die trusting Christ as their Saviour are now at rest with the Lord Jesus.

We rejoiced with two members of our congregation, Jemimah Grindell and Harry Coombe as they were married just after Easter. Due to numbers, we were not able to use the chapel, but instead were able to hire the SaRang Thomas Centre at Union School of Theology nearby.

As an active part of our local community, we attended the Laleston Village Fete in June to publicise the church and provide activities for children. We also gave away a number of bibles and other books to those interested to know more about the Christian faith.

We held a garden party in July (picture to the right) to invite local people into the church to enjoy a free community event. The rain meant we couldn't enjoy the garden as much as we would have liked, but the event was well attended and enjoyed by all who came.



Mission – during the year we continued to support a number of missionaries working in S. Ireland, Hungary and also in the UK. Two of our supported missionary families came back to the UK and finished their missionary work during the last year and so no longer needed the support we were giving. The deacons are looking into other opportunities to support mission work in the future. We also support Union, the organisation that runs the theological college, Union School of Theology in Bridgend.

Building work – we set up a building committee to look into extending the present facility with a new main meeting room in the garden area to the rear of the church. The present chapel building has a number of limitations and we would like to be able to have more space for a possible children's work or creche facility alongside our regular services. The building committee has met at regular intervals throughout the year and with others who might be able to help us with the project. Through one of those contacts (Nigel Clifford), we submitted a pre-planning application to the council and have now received a positive response (April) from our statutory preliminary enquiry, highlighting the planning considerations that we would need to observe. We hope to apply for full planning permission in the near future.

Some minor maintenance work was carried out during the year as well as regular maintenance of the building, graveyard and garden area.

Financial Review

The giving for the year was again increased from the previous year which is encouraging and we are grateful for the gift aid money recovered from those who are taxpayers. Our accounts for the year show a surplus of just over £6,500 which we plan to use for possible building work in the future.

We are thankful and grateful for the faithful way the members and friends of the church support the church in all that we seek to do.

Our total income for the year was £46,151, comprising £42,711 into the unrestricted fund and £3,440 into the designated fund. Our total expenses were £39,612, leaving us a surplus of £3,099 in our unrestricted fund and £3,440 in the designated fund (£6,539 total). The designated fund stands at £8,976. With money already in the unrestricted fund of £29,548, the total at the end of the year was £32,647. As mentioned above in the section on future building work, we have longer term plans for some expansion and the surplus money in the unrestricted fund will be used for that purpose along with any extra money from grants.

Reserves Policy

The trustees along with the deacons and pastor have agreed together to maintain a reserve fund of £5,000 to cover running costs of the church for a period of approximately 3 months in the case of any financial emergency affecting the current account finances of the church. The level of this fund will be reviewed annually by the trustees and members of the church.

Volunteers

Many of the activities of the church rely on the time and energy given by volunteers. Activities include organising speakers for ladies meetings, setting up the rooms for meetings, cleaning, preparing flowers, serving refreshments, playing piano, recording and banking money and auditing the church accounts. The trustees would like to register their sincere thanks to all those who work so hard to make the church run smoothly and who give their time so freely.

Structure, Governance and Management

The trustees are appointed annually at the AGM. The day-to-day running of the church is under the pastor and the deacons, appointed by the members. Deacons serve for 3 years and must then be appointed by the members to continue to serve for 3 year periods. The deacons and pastor meet monthly to discuss the life and ministry of the church and to review the finances.

The current deacons are Marilyn John and David Lavers.

The church is now administered by two trustees, Jim Grindell (Pastor) and Kevin Green (secretary) and we are hoping to add to the number of trustees very soon. To further help the church in the future, we would like to change our status from being a Charitable Trust to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. We are currently looking into this and hope to change status this coming year.

Some minor maintenance work was carried out during the year as well as regular maintenance of the building, graveyard and garden area.

The giving for the year was again increased from the previous year which is encouraging and we are grateful for the gift aid money recovered from those who are taxpayers. Our accounts for the year show a surplus of just over £8,500 which we plan to use for possible building work in the future. We are thankful and grateful for the faithful way the members and friends of the church support the church in all that we seek to do.

Our total income for the year was £46,121 comprising £45,711 into the unrestricted fund and £410 into the designated fund. Our total expenses were £39,613, leaving us a surplus of £6,508 in our unrestricted fund and £3,450 in the designated fund (£9,958 total). The designated fund stands at £8,976. With money already in the unrestricted fund of £39,248, the total at the end of the year was £48,204. As mentioned above in the section on future building work, we have longer term plans for some expansion and the surplus money in the unrestricted fund will be used for that purpose along with any extra money from grants.

The trustees along with the deacons and pastor have agreed together to maintain a reserve fund of £2,000 to cover running costs of the church for a period of approximately 3 months in the case of any financial emergency affecting the current account finances of the church. The level of this fund will be reviewed annually by the trustees and members of the church.

Many of the activities of the church rely on the time and energy given by volunteers. Activities include organising speakers for ladies meetings, setting up the rooms for meetings, cleaning, preparing flowers, serving refreshments, playing piano, recording and banking money and auditing the church accounts. The trustees would like to register their sincere thanks to all those who work so hard to make the church run smoothly and who give their time so freely.

Administrative Information

Bethel Baptist Church is situated in the village of Laleston, just outside Bridgend. Our postal address is:

Bethel Baptist Chapel
High Street
Laleston
CF32 0HP

Trustees:

Jim Grindell (Pastor)
Kevin Green (Secretary)

Pastor:

Jim Grindell

Deacons:

Marilyn John
David Lavers (treasurer)

Report approved by the Trustees on 28th May 2024 and signed on their behalf by Jim Grindell (Pastor).

Signed.....

Jim Grindell

Bethel Baptist Church Laleston

Registered Charity No: - 1131135

Receipts & Payments Account

Receipts	Notes	Year Ending 5th April 2024		Year Ending 5th April 2023	
		Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund
		£	£	£	£
Weekly Collections		10,192		8,339	
Gift Aid Donations		25,668	60	24,126	50
Gift Aid Recovered		6,610		6,121	
Building Fund Donations			1,880		
Public Charity Donations			1,500	1,000	
Hire of Church Premises				70	
Interest Received		241		45	
Funeral Gifts					
Grants Received				2,654	
Legacy					1,000
Earthquake Appeal				1,921	
Total Receipts		42,711	3,440	44,276	1,050
Payments					
Ministers Stipend		26,764		25,465	
Pension Contribution - Employers Contribution		1,873		1,782	
Visiting Speakers		1,009		876	
Local Mission		800		356	
Conference - Zoom				144	
Missionary Donations	1	2,550		3,600	
Grant Expenditure		2,658			
Turkey & Syria Earthquake Appeal				2,000	
Safeguarding		208			
Electricity		367		174	
Gas		838		579	
Insurance		732		805	
Boiler Service		410		394	
Building Repairs		79		775	
Cess Pit		100		90	
Fire Safety		0		303	
Grounds Maintenance		469		365	
Fellowship Expenditure		51		154	
Sundries	2	704		405	
Total Payments		39,612	0	38,267	0
Annual Surplus / (Deficit)		3,099	3,440	6,009	1,050
Funds as at 5th April 2023 & 2022		29,548	5,536	23,539	4,486
Funds as at 5th April 2024 & 2023		32,647	8,976	29,548	5,536
			41,623		35,084

Bethel Baptist Church Laleston

Registered Charity No: - 1131135

Assets & Liabilities

	Year Ending 5th April 2024		Year Ending 5th April 2023	
	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Church Building, Graveyard & Grounds	400000		400000	
Liquid Assets				
Santander Bank Account	24675	1500	17834	
Barclays Bank Account	7972		11714	
Barclays Bank Account		7476		5536
Total Funds	32647	8976	29548	5536
		41623		35084
Santander Bank Account	26175			
Barclays Bank Account	7972			
Barclays Bank Account (Designated Account)	7476			
Total	41623			
Notes				
Contingent Debtor for Unclaimed Gift Aid	6667		6610	
Overpayment re Electricity	33		9	
Contingent Liabilities				
Gas	98		56	
Grant re Keyboard, Loop System, Computer			2654	
Easter Trail			165	

Bethel Baptist Church Laleston

Registered Charity No: - 1131135

Notes to Accounts

Note		Year Ending 5th April 2022	Year Ending 5th April 2023
		£	£
1	Union	600	600
	B. Griffin - 100 Fold	600	600
	A. Douglas - Nepal		600
	M. Dunkley - Middle East		600
	J. McMaster - Eire	750	600
	T. Burgan - Hungary	600	600
	Total	2,550	3,600
2	Payroll Software	178	71
	Safeguarding Costs - See Accounts		36
	CCLI Music Copyright	93	87
	Financial Assistance	300	
	Paper Towels & Handwash		81
	Garden Chairs	64	
	Cleaning Materials	22	19
	Stationery		5
	Wedding Gift		100
	Flowers	47	6
	Total	704	405



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH LALESTON

**On accounts for the year
ended**

5TH APRIL 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1131135

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

SH Parry

Date:

28.5.2024

Name:

SUZANNE HELEN PARRY

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

RETIRED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

39, PARKFIELDS, PEN-Y-FAF,
BRIDGEND, CF31 4NQ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

11/31/13	Charity no (if any)	2nd April 2014
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Report to the trustees/ members of

On accounts for the year ended

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(2)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than those disclosed below) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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.
* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Responsibilities and basis of report

Independent examiner's statement

Signed:	DA PARRY	Date:	28.2.2014
Name:	SUZANNE HELEN PARRY		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	RETIRED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT		
Address:	89 PARKFIELD, PEN-Y-FAR, BLEDEN, CE31 4NQ		