

Independent Wesleyan Church, High St, Rushden, Northants

Trustees' Report for the year ended Oct 31st 2023

The Trustees present their Annual Report and accounts for the 12-month period up to Oct 31st 2023.

Charitable Object

The charity is governed by a constitution. This was amended in May 1984, and again in June 2008 and September 2009. The Objects of the Church are:

To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Confession of Faith in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom (or the world in the case of Mission works) as the Trustees (acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members) from time to time may think fit.

To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind, including through the provision of advice and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees (acting as aforesaid) from time to time may think fit.

To advance Christian education and pursue and promote general charitable purposes consistent with the Christian faith in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom as the Trustees (acting as aforesaid) from time to time may think fit.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the above listed Property Holding Trustees and the Trust is entirely compatible with the above Objects.

Public Benefit

The Trustees consider that the activities of the Charity are carried out for the public benefit. In particular, two of the charitable purposes as set out by the Charity Commission in its general guidance on public benefit are met:

The advancement of education and
The advancement of religion

An explanation of these activities is given below in the section "Objectives and Activities"

Coronavirus Effect – During the year, all of our activities ran as normal, but attendance at our Church Services have still not returned to pre Covid levels, We do however have a number of children & young people who faithfully attend and who are now usually taught in Sunday School as a single "all-age" class by a team of teachers who rotate each week. Despite this disappointment, the work of the Church has continued with most weekday and week - night meetings/activities in full swing.

Throughout the year, our Minister (Rev Phillip Hearson) and his family have again worked hard to lead our Church-life. Services have again been recorded and put on YouTube (as happened during lockdown periods); we understand that a number of people outside of our Church Circle have continued to tune in to watch these. We are indebted to Phil, his wife Anne and their son Martyn for their work on this and so many other aspects of our Church-life; they have worked hard as usual on behalf of our Membership.

Organisational Structure and decision-making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with our Constitution, which requires them to sincerely express their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and to give evidence of such faith by their life and conduct. During the year covered by this report, one new adult was

accepted into membership; we did however lose three adult members who passed away during the year in question, one of whom had served as a Trustee for many years.

The Members' Meeting normally takes place four times per year and has the responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the Members appoint up to 15 Leaders (Elders) who will concentrate on the spiritual side of Church life, and up to 8 Officers (Deacons) who will concentrate on the administrative and financial aspects of the Church (acting under the authority of the Trustees).

Our membership reduced during the year of this report to 39 as at Oct 31st 2023.

All Members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Members meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by Members for consideration. The Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members' meetings by appropriate majorities.

The Church, although independent, is attached to the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as Living Lord. Our Mission Statement is "Seeking to love God, each other, and the wider community - through worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and outreach"

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These take place each Sunday at 10.45am. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised both in the Church and online.

The Church has a website at www.weschurchrushedden.org.uk. As mentioned above children's programme operates during the morning services. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

Regular Church - based meetings: -

A men's home-group meeting to plan events for men of all ages and study the Bible on alternate Sunday evenings. During the year these meetings have also focused on topical discussions and checking what The Bible says about big questions that all people are asking.

One new meeting introduced during the year is a "Zoom" Prayer Meeting held on alternate Monday evenings. This was introduced as a way to increase our church's reliance on prayer with our Lord God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Numbers have fluctuated but it has been good to pray more regularly, including with some Members who are unable to attend our Tuesday morning prayer group due to their work.

The Tuesday morning prayer group - where Members join together in one of three homes to pray for the work of the Church, and for situations & people in particular need – has been running for many years now and is a valuable vehicle for praying for those in need, both locally and in the world as a whole. Regular attendance is up to eight.

A house group meets on Wednesday evenings and this seeks to encourage Members to explore together how to live a Biblically-based Christian life, and to spend time in prayer together.

The Church also runs the following activities: -

A short-mat bowls group meets on Tuesday afternoons.

Two youth clubs on Thursday evenings (school years 1 to 6, and years 7 to 11). These have a faithful core attendance. Both groups enjoy discussion times about the Christian faith during their evening and as a break in the games played.

Coffee mornings on Saturdays

The Wednesday morning activity "Take a Break" still meets and numbers – whilst varying week-on-week have gradually increased. New friendships between our Members and those outside of our Church have continued to be formed.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable people are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service and Safeguarding Agencies.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not seek to measure its success solely by headcounts of those attending, nor by financial performance, but also in less tangible areas such as fellowship and encouragement. It is appreciated that these are difficult to measure, but the Trustees consider that 2022/23 was another positive period as far as the life of the Church is concerned.

In addition to our Minister continuing to play a key part in leading and guiding the Church through the year, he has also been involved in taking assemblies at local primary schools on a regular basis. The Trustees consider the Church very fortunate to have had such a caring and hard-working person as our spiritual leader since 2006. We look forward to the years ahead with him still serving as our Minister

Harvest celebrations took place in September 2023, and gifts of produce and monetary donations from this day were given to The Rushden Food Bank.

The Church has active Overseas and Home Missions funds – this money being made available by allocating 5% of church collections to each of these. Gifts from these funds have been sent to various deserving causes during the year, including – from Home Missions and The Church's Benevolent Fund – a number of local people who were finding the cost-of-living situation particularly difficult.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry out its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

Financial Reserves Policy

The Church currently has no Reserves Policy.

Sale of Church building / Future Hall Extension Plans

The Trustees and Officers have continued to meet to discuss the sale of the church building. The company who made the accepted offer (as included in the Trustee Annual Report for the last two years) have been unable to obtain planning permission for their proposed conversion of our church building and this sale accordingly has had to be abandoned.

The scheme to change and extend the church hall to provide additional meeting rooms and storage space has not yet been put into action due to a lack of finance to pay for the work.

The Year Ahead – Although the above Church Sale has failed to materialise, we are hopeful of getting further offers for the building – as evidenced by the other offers which were made when the sale was first advertised.

The planned increase in buffet meals together in the hall included in last year's Trustee report were all a success and will be repeated in future years. A full year of activities is planned for 2023/24.

Contacts with the surrounding population is difficult with our premises now being off the High Street, but ideas on overcoming this are currently being planned.

Independent Examiner's Report

to the

Trustees and members of Rushden Independent Wesleyan Church

This report on the accounts for the year ended 31 October 2023, which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As trustees of the Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- state whether particular matters come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church Council and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you 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 examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hannah Rawlings

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H R Rawlings

Denton Tavera Ltd
61a High Street South
Rushden
Northants
NN10 0RA

15 January 2024

Rushden High St Independent Wesleyan Church
Receipts and Payments Account for Year ended October 31st 2023

RECEIPTS

| | £ | £ | |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------|
| Collections | | 35,068.85 | Weekly avge £674 |
| Thankofferings - Hall Extn Fund | 1,908.64 | | |
| Thankofferings - Illuminate | 2,048.15 | 3,956.79 | |
| Donations: general | 96.75 | | |
| Christmas cards, Home Missions | 28.00 | | |
| Funeral | 217.00 | 341.75 | |
| Legacies & Memorials | | 1,000.00 | |
| Gift Aid - Church | 7,481.72 | | |
| Hall Extension Fund | 557.96 | 8,039.68 | |
| From Investment Fund: | | | |
| Stipend | 2,160.00 | | |
| S.School prizes/costs | 68.10 | 2,228.10 | |
| Hall income | | 14,500.50 | |
| Sundry: | | | |
| Easyfundraising | 40.91 | | |
| Misc sundries | 152.00 | | |
| Defibrillator | 1,211.00 | 1,403.91 | |
| Third party | | | |
| Christingle, Children's Society | 67.00 | | |
| Karen Baxter (Wed Fellowship) | 200.00 | | |
| Harvest - Water Aid | 165.00 | | |
| Christmas cards, Overseas Missions | 28.00 | | |
| It's Your Move books | 51.00 | | |
| Missionary Box donations | 90.00 | | |
| Investment Fund | 4,000.00 | | |
| MIND from Crafty Creations | 153.65 | | |
| Air Ambulance | 32.00 | | |
| Smarties appeal | 31.00 | | |
| NAYC from PTC Christmas Quiz | 141.05 | | |
| Allsorts Sponsored Child | 120.00 | | |
| Funeral fees | 217.00 | | |
| MacMillan coffee mornings | 244.20 | 5,539.90 | |
| Donations to Hall Extn Fund | | 0.00 | |
| Redwood Bank interest - Church | 1,109.36 | | |
| Hall Extension Fund | 577.00 | 1,686.36 | |
| Pantomime ticket Sales | | 650.00 | |
| Warm Space receipts | | 458.50 | |
| Bowls Club receipts | | 100.00 | |
| My Christmas Wish receipts | | 540.00 | |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kitchen Fund receipts | 505.00 |
| Youth Club Fund receipts | 0.00 |
| Benevolent Fund receipts | 0.00 |
| Total Receipts | <u>76,019.34</u> |

PAYMENTS

| | £ | £ |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Minister - Stipend | 21,282.75 | |
| Expenses | 1,349.00 | |
| Sundry costs (MPS) | 12.00 | |
| Pension costs | <u>1,864.24</u> | 24,507.99 |
| Manse costs - Council Tax | 2,591.10 | |
| Water | 474.00 | |
| Insurance | 290.10 | |
| Electrical work | 1,100.00 | |
| Thermostat | 180.00 | |
| Garage door replacement | 858.00 | |
| Carpets | 1,679.00 | |
| Boiler servicing and safety check | <u>96.00</u> | 7,268.20 |
| Hall & Church Property Costs: | | |
| Rotowash service agreement | 0.00 | |
| Gas | 2,415.71 | |
| Electricity | 2,363.23 | |
| Water | 620.71 | |
| Insurance | 2,727.93 | |
| Boiler servicing and repairs | 1,726.42 | |
| Electrical - Lighting | 3,910.00 | |
| Fire ext other eqpt servicing | 96.00 | |
| Repairs work - | 165.64 | |
| Hall replacement doors | 3,582.00 | |
| Waste disposal costs | 86.70 | |
| Cleaning materials | 234.21 | 17,928.55 |
| Assessment - WRU HQ | | 1,517.00 |
| Donations - WRU | 588.00 | |
| Other | <u>1,380.00</u> | 1,968.00 |
| Visiting Ministers | | 175.00 |
| S. School - Teaching books/eqpt | 68.10 | |
| Prizes | <u>0.00</u> | 68.10 |
| Third party | | |
| Christingle, Children's Society | 67.00 | |
| Karen Baxter (Wed Fellowship) | 200.00 | |
| Harvest - Water Aid | 165.00 | |
| Christmas cards, Overseas Missions | 28.00 | |
| It's Your Move books | 51.00 | |
| Missionary Box donations | 90.00 | |
| Investment Fund | 4,000.00 | |

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| MIND from Crafty Creations | 153.65 | |
| Air Ambulance | 32.00 | |
| NAYC from PTC Christmas Quiz | 141.05 | |
| Allsorts Sponsored Child | 120.00 | |
| Funeral fees | 217.00 | |
| MacMillan coffee mornings | <u>244.20</u> | 5,508.90 |

Sundry -

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Good News papers/Hope mags | 336.00 | |
| Auditor | 165.00 | |
| "It's Your Move" books | 51.00 | |
| Defibrillator | 1,211.00 | |
| Christmas banners | 64.32 | |
| Minister's holiday gift | 1,000.00 | |
| Conference fees | 200.00 | |
| Fire Risk Assessment | 540.00 | |
| Website costs | 136.80 | |
| Misc Sundry | 351.76 | |
| Coronation books | 169.10 | |
| Copyright Licence | 366.30 | |
| New handheld mic | <u>171.84</u> | 4,763.12 |

Catering costs

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------|
| Messy Church | 180.64 | |
| Warm Space costs | 143.35 | |
| Other | <u>342.44</u> | 666.43 |

Overseas Missionary Fund

1,768.35

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| My Christmas Wish withdrawals | 540.00 |
| Benevolent Fund withdrawals | 25.00 |
| Kitchen Fund withdrawals | 1,274.00 |
| Youth Club Fund withdrawals | 524.99 |

Total Payments

68,503.63

| | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Excess of income | | 7,515.71 | |
| Balances Brought Forward: | | | |
| Nat West | 19,746.91 | | |
| Redwood Bank | <u>65,001.00</u> | 84,747.91 | |
| Timing Difference in Payments made to HMRC | | 28.31 | |
| | | <u>92,291.93</u> | |
| Balances @ 31st Oct 2023 | | | |
| Nat West | 17,290.93 | | |
| Redwood Bank | <u>75,001.00</u> | <u>92,291.93</u> | |
| Bank Balances as above | 92,291.93 | | |
| Unpaid Invoices @ 31st Oct 2023 | 1,797.00 | | |
| Thankoffering to Illuminate project | -2,048.15 | | |
| Due to HMRC | -244.27 | | |
| Due from HMRC (Gift Aid for year) | <u>7,710.61</u> | <u>99,507.12</u> | |
| Church Funds | 55,094.37 | | Increase of £815.71 |
| Legacies & Memorials Fund | 14,133.17 | | Increase of £1000.00 |
| Hall Extension Fund | 26,429.40 | | Increase of £3583.60 |
| Home Missions Fund | 788.04 | | Increase of £252.35 |
| Bowls Club | 600.00 | | Increase of £100.00 |
| Kitchen Fund | 598.74 | | Decrease of £769.00 |
| Youth Club Fund | 1,026.61 | | Decrease of £524.99 |
| My Christmas Wish | 0.00 | | No change |
| Benevolent Fund | <u>836.79</u> | <u>99,507.12</u> | Decrease of £25.00 |
| | | | Increase of £4432.67 |

Rushden Independent Wesleyan Church

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st October 2023

Bank Balances

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------|
| Nat West Bank | 17,290.93 | |
| Redwood Bank | <u>75,001.00</u> | 92291.93 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|
| Debtors – Unpaid invoices | | 1,797.00 |
| Gift Aid for year due from HMRC | | 7,710.61 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------|
| Creditor – Due to HMRC | | -244.27 |
| Thankoffering to Illuminate Project | | -2248.15 |

| | | |
|-------|--|-----------------|
| Total | | <u>99507.12</u> |
|-------|--|-----------------|

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| General Church Funds | 55,094.37 | |
| Legacies & Memorial Fund | 14,133.17 | |
| Hall Extension Fund | 26,429.40 | |
| Home Missions Fund | 788.04 | |
| Bowls Club Funds | 600.00 | |
| Kitchen Fund | 598.74 | |
| Youth Club Fund | 1,026.61 | |
| Benevolent Fund | <u>836.79</u> | |
| | | <u>99,507.12</u> |

Other Assets

Church Investment Fund (Accounts shown separately)

Property

Church & Church Hall – High Street and Queen Street Rushden, Northants

Manse – 11 South Park, Rushden, Northants

Equipment

Church organ

Electric piano

Loop system

PA system in the church

Portable PA system

Portable & wall-mounted screens

Projectors

Folding tables and chairs

Upholstered chairs

Dishwasher

Cooker

Rotowash floor cleaner

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the
Trustees and members of Rushden Independent Wesleyan Church**

This report on the accounts of the Investment Fund for the year ended 31 October 2023, which are set out on the attached pages.

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Hannah Rawlings

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H R Rawlings

Denton Tavera Ltd
61a High Street South
Rushden
Northants
NN10 0RA

15 January 2024

Investment Fund as at 31st October 2020

(alternative statement of accounts)

| <u>Investments held :</u> | <u>At Cost £</u> | <u>Nominal Value £</u> | <u>Market Value £</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Short-term | 29599.03 | 24404.39 | 25781.48 |
| Medium-term | 18420.37 | 16555.90 | 17350.43 |
| Long-term | 987.36 | 732.04 | 785.92 |
| Lilian Freeman Memorial Trust fund | 1466.67 | 1207.77 | 1216.71 |
| Total Stock | 50473.43 | 42900.10 | 45134.54 |
| Cash at Bank | 7254.11 | 7254.11 | 7254.11 |
| (A) | 57727.54 | 50154.21 | 61408.74 |

Comprising :

| | |
|---|----------|
| Donations (incl Gift-Aid) - prior years | 16034.71 |
| this year (Incl Gift-Aid refund) | 0.00 |
| Total | 16034.71 |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Undistributed interest, dividends & investment gains/losses (incl LF Fund) | |
| - prior years | 41870.49 |
| this year | -177.66 (B) |
| Total | 41692.83 |
| | 57727.54 (A) |

Distribution of interest, dividends and investment gains this year

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Interest / dividends received (incl £60.38 L.F.Fund) | 2207.50 |
| Gains/losses on maturity of investments | 0.00 (C) |
| Interest Purchased | -87.06 |
| Contributions to minister's stipend | -2160.00 |
| Auditor | -70.00 |
| Sunday School expenditure | -68.10 |
| Undistributed this year | -177.66 (B) |

Investments matured / purchased / sold

| <u>Sold</u> | <u>proceeds £</u> | <u>Cost £</u> | <u>Gain/Loss</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| No stock matured during the year | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 (C) |

Purchased

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 6% Treasury Stock 2028 | 0.00 | 3912.94 | 0.00 |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|

Allocation of Total Fund:

| | <u>Start of Yr</u> <u>1/11/2022</u> | <u>Donations, Gift-</u> <u>Aid etc received</u> | <u>Investment</u> <u>gain/loss</u> | <u>Interest</u> <u>received</u> | <u>Payments</u> <u>made</u> | <u>End of yr</u> <u>31/10/2023</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| General Fund | 45350.65 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2147.12 | -2230.00 | 45267.77 |
| Less Interest Purchased | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -87.06 | -87.06 |
| Lilian Freeman Memorial Fund | 8121.65 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 60.38 | -68.10 | 8113.93 |
| Special Purposes Fund | 3928.12 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3928.12 |
| Youth Holiday Fund | 504.78 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 504.78 |
| Totals | 57905.20 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2207.50 | -2385.16 | 57727.54 |