



Charity Number 1133819

Annual Report and Accounts to the year ending 31 December 2022

Registered office

Mexborough Life Church
New Oxford Road
MEXBOROUGH
South Yorkshire
S64 0JL

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Our purpose and activities

The objective of the charity is for the benefit of the public:

- Promotion of the Christian religion
- Provision of public worship
- Provision of activities for the public benefit

The vision

Our Mission is: Making Jesus Christ known.

To help us put this into practice we have six key values that underpin all our activities:

- Relationships
- Prayer
- Worship
- Word and Spirit together in unity
- Discipleship
- Mission

The activities

To do this we had several activities happening throughout 2022:

- Weekly Sunday services
- Mid-weekly Bible Studies and Worship team
- Monthly Prayer meetings
- Weekly Community Toddler Group "Little Acorns"
- Sunday School
- Weekly Welcome Space/Drop in
- Website and Social Media
- Food distribution
- Community giving
- Christmas activities
- Tithing our income

Achievements through our activities from the year

The church believes that the Christian gospel is good news which should have a positive impact on the local community. Furthermore, the promotion of Christian faith comes on the back of positive intervention in the life of the local community, demonstrating the gospel in both word and deed.

The church also believes that a key role it has is to serve the local community in provision of services that may not otherwise be provided and in doing so introduce people to the Christian faith.

Report of the Trustees for the year 2021

Weekly Sunday services

The church maintained its weekly Sunday service throughout the year with services continuing to be broadcast on-line and in-person. With a new minister joining the Church in October, there has been an increase in the spiritual development and involvement of people in church life and its activities from within the congregation.

Mid-weekly meetings: Prayer, Bible Study and Worship

A regular pattern of Bible Study and Prayer meetings continued throughout the year - with themed studies.

Studies were led by both the minister and others from within the fellowship and attracted on average around 15 people.

The prayer meetings were usually held on the first Tuesday of the month and were the culmination of a day of prayer and fasting. The prayer topics were set by the Prayer Coordinator and then the Pastor, in conjunction with the leadership. The average attendance was around 12.

The worship team continued to meet throughout the year and drew new people into this area of church ministry.

Weekly Community Toddler Group "Little Acorns"

Our 'Little Acorns' toddler group continues to thrive each Thursday (during term time) will an average attendance of 25-30 parents/carers bringing their children.

Sunday School and Youth

Our Sunday School, called 'Roots' began to meet every Sunday from December.

An alternative Halloween Party for children was held on the 31st October and was well-attended.

The new minister went into the local Secondary School and conducted 4 Christmas-themed assemblies.

Website and Social Media

We continued to provide our services live online to those who have not returned from the COVID outbreak and for others who are on holiday or unable to attend the Sunday service.

Community action

We started to run a small 'Food Bank' (working with Rotherham Food Bank) from the church. Some needy individuals/families who attend our Drop-in on a Friday "warm welcome space" have been helped.

"Warm welcome space" drop-in runs from 12.00-2.00 each Friday and provides free hot drinks, food, games and an opportunity to chat. This was started in November 2022.

In November and December, during the World Cup football tournament, we showed the England matches in the church, provided snacks and drinks and some from the community enjoyed these times.

Christmas activities

We did do some carol singing and leaflet giving outside in the area to raise the real meaning of Christmas. We held Christmas activities for families and for the Little Acorns children. As stated, the minister undertook some assemblies on a Christmas theme at the local secondary school.

Tithing our income

The church continued to donate on a monthly basis into the work of a church leadership network in Zambia, pursuing the same objectives as we have. The balance of the income tithe will go to similar objective projects as decided by the Trustees. In 2022 this was sent to put a church roof on and provide the generator for a church building in Iraq.

Future Plans

The leaders and church took-on a temporary pastor in October this year. This has now become a permanent role since May 2023. There will also be more activities starting in 2023 – ladies' group, youth activities etc.

The church is also looking into improving and extending our facilities on New Oxford Road building.

Volunteers

We cannot run without our volunteers, and we had the following volunteers (some people in more than one role):

- Leaders 3 (1 paid)
- 3-5 active Trustees
- 5 Key roles and responsibilities
- 8 Little Acorns Team
- 3 Warm Welcome Space team

Structure and Governance

Type of governing document: trust deed, Wesleyan Reform Union Reference Deed

How the charity is constituted: A church of the Wesleyan Reform Union

Trustees, Key Volunteers, Staff and Advisors

Trustee name	Office (if any) – all voluntary	Dates acted if not for whole year
Jennifer Copley	Acting Chair, Treasurer and Payroll Officer	
Lorraine Slater		
Sarah Collins	Secretary	
Eric Mugabo		Until 11 th September 2022

Trustee selection methods: Recommendation made by and approved by the Leadership Team and Trustees; approached by the trustees, to ascertain their willingness to serve their appointment; and approved by the members of the church/charity.

Report of the Trustees for the year 2021

Staff/Volunteer role	Details
Leaders (Volunteers)	During 2022 the two volunteer leaders continued to create the strategy to enable the church to continue during the challenging times brought about by the last few years. Until March 2022 and since October 2022, they have had the support of a paid minister (as below)
Minister/Pastor/Senior Leader	Current permanent minister has been in position since the 1 st October 2022. Gives the key vision for the church, teaching and high-level pastoral care to its members.

Type of adviser	Name
Legal	AFVS (Now Trust Practice) until October when felt the advice they offer for free can be gained from internal knowledge. CLAS – see below
Wesleyan Reform Union https://thewru.com/about-us/confession-of-faith/	Our denomination, which also connects with CLAS (Churches Legal advisory service)

Policies and Procedures

During the year we started our large review of our Health and Safety policy – making sure the paperwork was in line with the actual arrangements put in place and working towards areas where work still to do. The draft is expected to be agreed in 2023.

We also reviewed our Safeguarding Policy and Employment policies, contracts and handbook.

We have the following policies some* of which are still awaiting formal approval after changes in 2019:

- Health and Safety* (including Fire* and First Aid)
- Safeguarding
- Key Holders
- Reserves Policy
- Privacy Notice and Data Protection Policy
- Conflicts of Interest Policy
- Code of Conduct for Trustees (including Anti-bribery & Corruption)
- Employment Handbook, including disciplinary and grievance policy, and appropriate risk assessments for lone working and homeworking
- Staff expenses policy

Financial Review

Reserves

Ongoing ability

As reported last year the ongoing ability to significant increase our bank balances continued as we only paid a minister for 6 months of 2022. Again the extra monies raised for this was set aside on purpose to take advantage of this time and God's goodness, to support our pastor recruitment and provide any new minister security.

Our normal needed reserves are 3 months regular (including monthly proportions of annual/quarterly costs) are: just under £10,000

Our unrestricted funds, as at 31/12/22, stand at £28,594, well within this value, (the additional £18,500 which is determined to support our pastor recruitment for a 3-year salary – which is now in place - while the congregation and its giving increase to cover all ongoing costs on a monthly basis.

Please note that, since mid-year and more towards the end of the year congregation attendance and growth have occurred and look promising for 2023 reserves. We are currently considering how we can re-allocate reserves as the ongoing costs since about December 2022 are now almost supported on a monthly basis.

Restricted and delegated reserves

The restricted funds, mainly for the building improvements, stand at £19,022 and the designated money, which is our tithe* we give away to charities of the same goal of spreading the gospel, stands at £0 as at 31 December 2023 as it was all given away on the last day of December.

Reserves held elsewhere

Also as stated last year due to a sale of a building we have additional financial resource available to us at WRU some for capital purposes and some for outreach. These are not within these accounts and remain with the WRU but have been set aside for us. £50k of this has been set aside for supporting the ministers wages ongoing until we can grow enough to support the wage on our own. The rest is set aside for the building improvements we are planning.

Overall changes in funds

Overall the increase in **overall funds** has gone from £37.9k to £47.6k, with **unrestricted balances** from £19k to £28.6k (this is wholly to do with only employing a minister for 6 months as the reserves increase is less than the saved salary). During the periods where a minister was employed, three of the six months we made a surplus (cash basis), but one of these included a backdated grant which otherwise would be in deficit.

However, as stated above as at December 2022 we are now almost breaking-even with our regular normal giving, on a monthly basis.

It is to be noted, that due to volunteers (started late 2021), M365 for charities, changing our internet provider and creating our own office space this year we have saved £1.3k from last year (annual equivalent saving of £2.1k).

Our restricted funds have not moved much in the year, the £2,550 value that came in was owed from 2021 spending. The £1,000 towards the improvements made to the online experience via technical equipment is still to be claimed in expenses.

The rest of the balance is for the building project (94.2% of the whole restricted balance), which has had delays and setbacks, but the Leaders and Trustees still have a strategy to bring the building into a better state to serve our needs as we outreach to the community.

Within reserves policy?

So as at the end of 2022 we were well within our reserves policy, and now even reached the 3-year amount agreed set aside for wages for the future plans, as explained in the section above.

The trustees aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily. The 3-year minister wages is being set aside because in 2022 if expenditure were as normal (i.e. 12 months of a paster), we would have made a £5k-£6k deficit (£10k-£11k in 2021) and so we wish to cover this while we have been able to save money.

As stated above in 2023 we have been looking to now release those 3-year wages reserves as the congregation has increased, praise be to God far quicker than we could “ever ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20) so that we already cover the usual expenditure from normal income.

Accounts - income and expenditure comments

Our funding this year came purely from: free will offerings and donations mainly from church members (81.7%); grant from the WRU to cover shortfall on minister salaries (7.1%); some hire rental (8.8%); the remaining was from donations from those who access our weekly activities. Of this income 10% of it was given for restricted purposes.

*The Trustees designate 10% of the gross unrestricted donations. This is for our biblical tithe principal to organisations doing the same work in promoting the Christian faith.

The restricted income all furthered our charity objectives.

Of the unrestricted income we used this to:

1. Further our charities activities within our charity (66.1%) – *note this doesn't include the 12.1% designated unrestricted giving to further our same charity aims at another charity*
2. For saving towards future minister to further our charitable activities even further (27.7%)
3. To ensure we are insured and following legal requirements for the charity law (2.6%)
4. Trading costs to raise further funds (3.6%) which raised about 3x the apportioned cost.

Overall our spending was 93.1% on charitable activities.

Assets

As part of clearing an office space at the church for our paid minister to stop the rental we paid for space for this, next door, we have had a rearrangement of office equipment. As part of this the following assets – previously (2021) on the asset listing, on page two of the accounts – were disposed of as stated:

Asset	Why disposed – any value for it
Office electrical equipment	<p>The former large printer was no longer necessary – as purchasing printing is much more economical and it was taking up unnecessary space in the small office space which we cleared out to save costs of renting space elsewhere. This had been donated to us over 15 years ago second-hand.</p> <p>It was replaced by a desktop one, much smaller and does all we need it to do. See assets purchased below.</p>

We purchased the following assets:

Office electrical equipment	Printer photocopier to replace big one £64.99
office equipment: small lockable files	To ensure data protection we purchased separate lockable files for gift aid (2023) and safeguarding (2022) which go inside the general locked filing cabinet. 2022 value = £23.01



Charity Name
Mexborough Life Church and Centre (New Oxford Road) 1133819

No (if any)

CC16a

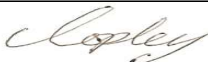
Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2022		31/12/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designed funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary Income	25,480	1,000	2,822	29,302	29,209
Activities for generating funds	3,143	-	-	3,143	230
Charitable Activities	711	-	-	711	62
Investment Income	23	39	7	69	2
Other Incoming Resources	-	2,550	-	2,550	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	29,357	3,589	2,829	35,775	29,503
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	29,357	3,589	2,829	35,775	29,503
A3 Payments					
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	19,417	965	3,886	24,268	23,644
Governance Costs	754	-	-	754	1,520
Fundraising Trading Costs	1,046	-	-	1,046	72
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,217	965	3,886	26,068	25,236
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,217	965	3,886	26,068	25,236
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,140	2,624	- 1,057	9,707	4,267
A5 Transfers between funds reversal last year cash basis of grant spending	1,700	- 1,700	-	-	-
A6 B/F funds - designated true b/f that in accounts shown as general	- 244	-	244	-	-
A6 B/f Cash funds	18,998	18,098	813	37,909	33,642
Cash funds this year end	28,594	19,022	-	47,616	37,909

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Account	28,248	19,022	-
	CASH	346	-	-
	Owed back		-	
			-	
	Total cash funds	28,594	19,022	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	New Oxford Road Building (legally belonging to Wesleyan Reform Union)		-	-
	PA equipment at NoR		-	-
	Old highthorn PA equipment at NoR			
	Hoovers (2) and cleaning equipment			
	3 old Laptops - various uses			
	2 more recent Laptops	General	960	
	Portable sound/projection/light. equip.		-	-
	Kitchen and café equipment NoR		-	-
	Toys and equipment for mums and tots group		-	-
	Crafts and games			
	Various DVDs and Books			
	Chairs/Tables at NoR		-	-
	NOR Lecturn and Storage boxes/drawer	General		
	Heater in NoR	General		
	Baptism tank: hot tub and pump etc	General		
	3 TVs (2 on stands)			
	Pool table on lower hall stage	General		
	Football table on lower hall stage	Youth/Outreach		
	Portable nets and various balls: NoR storage	Outreach		
	Christmas Tree and decorations			
	office equipment: chair cupboard/cabinets	General	380	
	office equipment: small lockable files (1)	General	23	
	Office electrical equipment: copier/printer (2), shredder	General	65	
	Conference Chairs and desks at MYC			
	Wireless Mircophone	General	106	
	Old Musical instruments that are ours: Old Piano at NoR; keyboard; old drum kit			
	4 Speakers and 1 amp			
	New Piano at NoR	General	478	
B5 Liabilities			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature 	Print Name Jennifer Copley	Date of approval approval of revised	



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

New Oxford Road Church (Mexborough Life Church and Centre)

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/12/2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1133819

Set out on pages

CC16A Sections A and B

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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,
- 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 independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 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 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 matter has 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; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting 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.

Signed: A Mumford

Date: 04/10/2023

Name: Andrew Mumford

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

Address: 30 Haigh Court, Brampton Bierlow
Rotherham, S63 6LP