

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH 2024

Company number: 07131310

Charity number: 1133954

**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

Contents

Page number

1 – 6	Trustees' Annual Report
7	Independent Examiner's Report
8	Statement of Financial Activities
9	Balance Sheet
10 – 14	Notes to the Financial Statements

**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of the church for the period ended 31st March 2024.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The church's purposes, as more fully set out in the objects which form part of its Memorandum of Association, are:

- to advance the Christian faith
- to provide relief for those who are in conditions of need, sickness or financial hardship and who may be aged and to relieve the distress caused thereby;
- to advance education
- to provide, or assist in providing, facilities in the interests of social welfare for individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Church's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Church operates in association with the Catalyst Sphere of Newfrontiers. All are welcome to attend our Sunday services when activities and groups are provided for children and youth, with a crèche for babies.

Major Developments April 2023 to March 2024

- The most significant developments during 2023-24 were the changes in staff roles and staff structure agreed in our previous Trustee meeting. In August 2023 our Site manager retired, and was replaced with a new Assistant Pastor role split between managing Open House and the administration and finances of the church. Also from January 2024, Jonathan was appointed as Senior Leader, and Tony stepped down from being formally employed. To support the above changes we had a gift day in June 2023 which raised £14k (£17k including gift aid.)
- Open House continues to run successfully and regularly hosts 30-35 clients at each session. There has been a successful transition to Dani as Open House manager and she is reviewing how she might wish to further develop Open House. Funding is reliant on grants, and currently we have funding until June 2024, with several further applications submitted.
- Edible High Town (EHT) is our focussed work in the community run in conjunction with the council. It is fully funded through grants for at least 12 months. We are seeking to integrate the EHT manager further into the staffing team at Hope Church with regular meetings.
- We are hosting a missionary from Brazil through Interserve, Filipe. Filipe is involved in several projects across Luton, with a focus on the Youth work and Refugee work at Hope Church. Filipe is running holistic Emotional Support Groups for those suffering trauma. We also continue with our English language lessons which serve an average of 35 refugees each week.
- The revised planning application for the development of the Lansdowne Club next door was passed by Luton Borough Council. The revised plan is for 3 smaller residential blocks with a total of 50 2-3 bedroom apartments. Our concerns about parking, road degradation and noise complaints were taken into account. We will lose the Lansdown car park during 2024.
- Following our previous Trustee meeting on 12/6/23, we have implemented the plan to transfer FACES employee relationships away from Hope Church and to being employed directly by FACES. This has taken place from 1st April 2024, with all outstanding invoices settled on 2/4/2024.

**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

- Our income from building hire has reduced due to a number of cancelled bookings from the NHS. We are looking for new reliable long-term lettings agreements, and also reviewing how we can use the car-park in light of our new automated parking control system.
- Our main Sunday service and 4pm congregation sizes have been stable through the year, with a number of new attendees and visitors, who we are seeking to welcome and integrate. Our 20th year celebrations were a great success, with a variety of special events and services.
- Overall our expenditure for the General Church fund has been very close to budget. With regards to Income, the success of the gift day covered our anticipated shortfall for the year, meaning that we conclude the financial year with a balance which is comfortably above our minimum reserve level.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income generation

The church's total income for the year was £232,976 (2023: £206,659). Donations of £142,988 have been received during the year (2023: £119,885). Activities for generating funds have decreased slightly to £18,207 (2023: £21,323). This is principally because of variations in lettings income due to cancellations and outstanding invoices.

Expenditures

Total Expenditures were £200,452 (2023: £201,240). Expenditure remained stable compared to prior year. Though there were increased expenses in areas such as catering and office supplies related to the 20th anniversary celebration, overall staff costs decreased.

Funds

Overall funds have increased by £32,524 throughout the year.

General funds have increased by £4,380 over the year as expenditure remained stable and giving increased through the Gift Day.

The Capital fund has increased by £18,457 due to cumulative mortgage payments being recognised.

Restricted funds have increased by £9,687 due to the successful accumulation of grants of the Edible High Town project and refugee ministry.

Reserves policy

The church holds unrestricted and restricted funds. Transfers are made from unrestricted to restricted funds in order to prevent restricted funds from going into deficit. Our overall policy for unrestricted funds is only to increase reserves above a minimum threshold necessary to operate the organisation (not more than 3 months expenditure) or where specific projects are being planned for subsequent years. We seek to hold a minimum of 1 month expenditure.

Trustees have reviewed the above policy in June 2023 to ensure clarity on minimum and maximum level of reserves required.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Hope Church Luton Trust is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 20th January 2010 and registered as a charity on 1st February 2010. The church previously operated as an unincorporated charity. The company was established by a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Appointment of responsible individuals and elders

The Church is governed by its responsible individuals, who are appointed according to the Articles of Association.

The responsible individuals and elders, who are Directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the period up to the date of this report are set out on page 5.

Responsible Individuals and Elders are closely involved in the church's operations prior to appointment and are appointed according to their ability to lead the church and the skills they bring to the post. Existing Responsible Individuals, Elders and new appointees have a good knowledge of the operation of the Church prior to appointment.

Responsible Individuals and Elders are aware of the legal requirements in connection with the charitable company. New appointees are supported in their posts by existing appointees. New appointees are also provided with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, latest financial statements and guidance from the Charity Commission, including the Charity Commission guide 'The Essential Trustee'.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the church is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations and finances of the church. The Trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate their exposure to major risk.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company Registration No: 07131310

Charity Registration No: 1133954

MANAGING TRUSTEES/DIRECTORS

Trustees/Directors: Jonathan Adams
Tony Thompson
John Telford
Michael Reynolds

REGISTERED ADDRESS Hope Church Luton
Villa Road
Off Old Bedford Road
Luton
Bedfordshire. LU2 7NT
England

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER Mervyn Thomas
(Coopted to attend Board meetings) 128 Putnoe Lane
Bedford, MK41 8LS

PRINCIPAL BANKERS NatWest Bank
501 Silbury Boulevard
Milton Keynes. MK9 3ER

**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees/Directors are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees/Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the Trustees/Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Comply with applicable accounting standards subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements: and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the church will continue its activities.

The Trustees/Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES

Jonathan Adams
21/06/2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Adams', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST

on the accounts for the year to 31st March 2024 as set out on pages 8 – 14 in this document.

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.

Independent examiner's statement

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.

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.

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

- 1) 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 that 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:



Mervyn Thomas
128 Putnoe Lane
Bedford MK41 8LS

Dated: 05/06/2024

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
ACTIVITIES**

At 31st. March 2024	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	Total Funds
	s	Funds	Fund	Funds	2023-2024	2022-2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources	3					
Voluntary income		160,203	14,919	-	175,122	146,756
Activities for generating funds		17,387	820	-	18,207	21,323
Charitable activities - Grants		-	39,647	-	39,647	38,580
Total Incoming Resources		177,590	55,386	-	232,976	206,659
Resources Expended	4					
Raising funds		140	-	-	140	-
Charitable activities		148,936	45,699	-	194,635	201,240
Total Resources Expended		149,076	45,699	-	194,775	201,240
Net income/(expenditure)		28,514	9,687	-	38,201	5,419
Transfers between funds		(18,457)		18,457	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,057	9,687	18,457	38,201	5,419
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		15,134	24,370	417,484	456,988	451,569
Total funds carried forward		25,191	34,057	435,941	495,189	456,988

(Continued)

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

BALANCE SHEET

At 31st March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023-2024 £	Total Funds 2022-2023 £
Fixed assets	5			598,712	598,712	596,948
Current assets						
Debtors (less than 1 year))	6	5,786			5,786	2,972
Cash at bank and in hand		24,778	23,006	-	47,784	36,533
Total current assets		30,564	23,006	-	53,570	39,505
Short Term Liabilities	7	-	-	-	-	-
Long term liabilities - Mortgage				(157,094)	(157,094)	(179,465)
Total assets less liabilities		30,564	23,006	441,618	495,188	456,988
Charity Funds	8					
Unrestricted funds		25,191			25,191	15,134
Restricted Funds			34,057		34,057	24,370
Endowment Fund				435,941	435,941	417,484
Total funds		25,191	34,057	435,941	495,189	456,988

For the year ending 31st March 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



Dated: 21st June 2024

**HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable

and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

1.2 Going concern

The Charity is a going concern. Income generation through members' donations is maintaining adequate reserves

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2.

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period.

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

2.2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the church. Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Transfers are made from unrestricted to restricted funds as necessary to prevent restricted funds from going into deficit. The Endowment or Capital fund is to hold the Church Property.

2.3 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the church becomes entitled to the income, it is more likely than not that it will receive the resources and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the SoFA when receivable. Grants are included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria above are met and in the case of performance-related grants income is recognised to the extent that the specified goods or services have been provided. Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

church where this can be measured reliably. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts. Investment income is included when received.

2.4 Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT that cannot be fully recovered, which is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the church (as a charitable company) and include the audit fees and costs linked to the church's legal constitution.

2.5 Fixed assets

No depreciation is provided on freehold land or buildings, following a change in accounting policy implemented in the Accounts for the period ended 31st March 2018.

2.6 Pension costs

Employees of the church are entitled to join a defined contribution pension scheme. The church contribution is limited to the contributions disclosed in note 3.

2.7 Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amounts advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

2.8 Creditors

Creditors (including accruals) are recognised when due at the balance sheet date.

3. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income				
Donations	129,863	13,125	142,988	119,885
Gift Aid	30,340	1,794	32,134	26,871
Total Voluntary Income	160,203	14,919	175,122	146,756
Activities for generating funds				
Building Hire	13,960	120	14,080	16,962
Car Park	2,040	-	2,040	2,390
Sales (Books, Courses and Events)	1,387	700	2,087	1,471
Bank Compensation				500
Total Activities for generating Funds	17,387	820	18,207	21,323
Charitable Activities				
Grants	-	39,647	39,647	38,580
Grand Total Incoming Resources	177,590	55,386	232,976	206,659

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

4 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Expenditure on raising funds	£	£	£	£
Total expenditure on raising funds	140	-	140	
Expenditure on Charitable Activities		-		
Employee Salaries	72,810	23,409	96,219	105,187
Employer's National Insurance	27,933	1	27,934	24,012
Pension Contributions	10,039	-	10,039	10,360
Sub Contractors	-	2,340	2,340	
Expenses	264	1,059	1,323	3,749
Visiting Speakers	400	205	605	2,357
Training	280	30	310	
Total Staff Costs	111,726	27,044	138,770	145,665
Utilities	9,241	-	9,241	6,491
Maintenance	4,080	-	4,080	3,803
Insurance	2,616	-	2,616	2,314
Office Services and Supplies	2,607	2,199	4,806	5,039
Subscriptions	2,478	297	2,775	1,749
Legal and professional	-	-	-	
Equipment	362	77	439	
Catering	725	-	725	7,525
Mortgage Interest	7,526	-	7,526	8,511
Governance	220	-	220	305
Bank Charges	266	-	266	304
Total Establishment Costs	30,121	2,573	32,694	36,041
Children	94	-	94	26
Youth	542	-	542	812
Conferences and Events	1,248	2,556	3,804	2,471
Resources	67	-	67	285
International	3,100	10,623	13,723	11,658
Direct Projects	8	2,078	2,086	
Local Donations	2,030	825	2,855	4,282
Total Ministry	7,089	16,082	23,171	19,534
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	149,076	45,699	194,775	201,240

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

4.4 Trustees Disclosures

Mr Tony Thompson received remuneration as Pastor of the Church until December 2023..

Mr Jonathan Adams receives remuneration as Pastor of the Church from January 2024.

No trustee has received expenses in connection with trustee-related matters.

5 Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings	Equipment & Fittings	Total
	£	£	£
Brought Forward	596,948	18,507	615,455
Disposals	-	-	-
Additions in the year at cost	1,764	-	1,764
Carried Forward	598,712	18,507	617,219

Depreciation

Brought Forward	-	18,507	18,507
Disposals	-	-	-
Additions in the year at cost	-	-	-
Carried Forward	-	18,507	18,507

Net Book Value

Net Book Value at March 2023	596,948	-	596,948
Net Book Value at March 2024	598,712	-	598,712

6 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Debtors less than 1 year	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid Receivable	5,786	4,004
Total	5,786	4,004

7 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Short term creditors and accruals	-	357
Long term creditors - Mortgage loan	157,094	221,185
Total	157,094	221,542

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

8. CHARITY FUNDS

8.1 Details of all funds with movements during the current reporting period 2023-2024

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Closing Balance
General Church	15,134	177,590	(149,076)	(18,457)	25,191
Total Unrestricted	15,134	177,590	(149,076)	(18,457)	25,191
Children Project	281	-	(298)	-	(17)
Newday	1,004	1,565	(1,971)	-	598
Social Fund	1,954	2,486	(1,690)	-	2,750
Refugees		6,400	(55)	-	6,345
Open House Lounge	10,178	11,500	(17,516)	-	4,162
High Town Community Projects	10,474	22,248	(13,546)	-	19,176
Toby & Heather Johnson	479	10,646	(10,623)	-	502
Springs		501	-	-	501
Building Fund		40	-	-	40
Total Restricted	24,370	55,386	(45,699)	-	34,057
Endowment	417,484	-	-	18,457	435,941
TOTAL FUNDS	456,988	232,976	(194,775)	-	495,189

8.2 Details of all funds with movements during the previous reporting period 2022-2023

Fund	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ Losses	Closing Balance
General Church	32,465	153,728	(149,593)	(21,466)		15,134
Total Unrestricted	32,465	153,728	(149,593)	(21,466)		15,134
Debt Advice	3	-	(3)	-		-
Understanding Islam	595	250	(925)	80		-
Children Project	1,224	-	(943)	-		281
Newday	2,277	3,430	(4,703)	-		1,004
Social Fund	1,971	3,857	(3,874)	-		1,954
Open House Lounge	12,931	17,492	(20,245)	-		10,178
The FEAST	-	-	-	-		-
High Town Community Projects	3,820	17,768	(11,114)	-		10,474
FACES	316	-	(316)	-		-
Toby & Heather Johnson	(131)	10,134	(9,524)	-		479

HOPE CHURCH LUTON TRUST
TRUSTEES REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Total Restricted	23,006	52,931	(51,647)	80	-	24,370
Endowment	396,098	-	-	21,386		417,484
TOTAL FUNDS	451,569	206,659	(201,240)	-	-	456,988

8.3 Transfers of funds in the current reporting period 2023-2024

The Transfer of £18,457 from the Unrestricted fund to the Endowment fund represents the reduction in the mortgage outstanding.