

The Beacon Church Annual Report 2024

Welcome to the annual report of The Beacon Church, please see below the reports from the different areas of church life.

Church Secretary & Treasurer's Report 2024

What a year we have had as a Church Family, we have certainly been blessed again this year, and the year has certainly flown by.

It has been a year where we have had real problems with our buildings, particularly the flat roofs, it has been a blessing to see how the church family has rallied together so far to raise funds towards replacing the roofs. God has certainly blessed us mightily and as we look to seeking additional grants we would ask you to continue in prayer for the Fundraising team of Fiona, Keith & myself.

It has been exciting to see our Leadership Team grow with the addition of Martin, we are so blessed with a diverse team with many different gifts and we continually seek God as to the way forward for the Beacon Church.

We do thank God for our employees, from Vicky & Jane to the Preschool Aunties, without the dedication of each of them we could not do as much as we do for the community in which we live.

As per last year, we do thank our Volunteers teams too, without you Church life would not function, each of the volunteers for the following teams are such a blessing: -

Prayer Intercessory Team

Welcome & Refreshments Team

PA Team

Worship Team

Figbury Lodge Team

Youth & Children Groups Team

Just Be Team

Finance Team

Maintenance Team

Gardening Team

This is not an exhaustive list and there are many others of you who work tirelessly in the background, and we do thank you for all that you do.

As for our Finances, God is Jehovah Jira, without the Tithes/Offerings and gifts, lovingly given to the church, we would not be able to support those in need whether by providing a suite of buildings which needs endless maintenance or the support of Flame International on a monthly basis.

God has blessed us mightily this year in our finances, and without the work of Fiona & Jason, my life would be busier than it already is!

We are constantly upgrading and repairing our premises, and I would like to thank Keith, Martin & Dan for their work in keeping our premises, watertight and also looking good. We are continually looking at how we can use our premises more effectively for church life and the groups that we run to bring glory to God.

We said in our report last year, that if God isn't in it, we don't want it and that hasn't changed!

Please remember to review your tithing and giving as we go into 2025, it will be a challenging year due to rising employment costs and also to maintain a building that is central to the community we serve.

May God Bless you and keep you.

Mark

Secretary & Treasurer.

Elders Annual Report 2024

We start the elders annual report by giving thanks and praise to our Lord God almighty, who has sustained, provided and led us throughout 2024. As always God has been gracious to us as we have sought him for the direction and purpose of the Beacon Church. God is faithful and His word confirms this in Lamentations 3:22-23 - “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” The faithfulness of God is new every day, full of compassion and love.

2024 held many challenges as we looked to move the church forward. It’s fair to say that we haven’t got everything right, but in all things, we have attempted to do our best for the church. God has been faithful in all of this, gently directing our thoughts with words and pictures, whilst also allowing us to grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him.

During the year God gave us several scripture passages, some that were really challenging and others that were super encouraging. As always with God, whether challenged or encouraged, God is gentle and wants the best for us. Please have a read through the following and consider any wisdom that God gives to you, we would love to hear your feedback. Revelation 2:2-5, Jeremiah 3:11-15, 1 Chronicles 16:11 and Ezekiel 36:25-27.

Throughout 2024 we have had lots of great speakers encouraging us in our faith and expounding us to continue to seek God in all that we do. We have been encouraged in our prayer lives, to be people of faith and to continue to worship our amazing God. As elders we believe that God will continue to bless us through His awesome word and teach us to grow in our faith.

As elders we continue to meet weekly, to seek God, pray, study and do the business of the Beacon Church. The life of an elder is always busy with many functions and focuses, from seeking God to fixing roofs, from preaching the word to writing policies and from supporting the family of the Beacon church to weeding the patio.

As we enter 2025 let's look to continue in the mission that God has given us as a church to achieve. To be the Beacon Church who are called to be God's family who belong together, grow together and reach out together. We believe that by continuing wholeheartedly in this mission we will see the fruit of God come to life and the church in turn will grow in the way God wants it to.

We also want to thank you, our church family, for making the church what it is. We all have a part to play in the life of the church, however big or small, and please know that each person's efforts are valued and appreciated. One last thing we would ask from you, that is to continue to pray for the us and the church. Prayer is the life blood of the church, and we need it more than ever as we live out our faith in this fallen world.

In all things we want to look to God for all that we need, knowing that He will work for our good and will enable us to serve Him and the community around us.

God is amazing and we can trust Him for all things.

The Elders

Youth and Children's report 2024

The past 12 months, in all groups, have been a whirlwind with so many different activities and fun & games - but the highlight for all of us as leaders, was the fact that we really felt that we built some great relationships with the children, young people and their families alike.

Toddlers has continued to be a wonderful place to spend Monday mornings, the numbers have fluctuated up and down fairly frequently, but that is the life of a group where small children are involved. We have had a wonderful time chatting and supporting families as they have journeyed through the ups and downs of life with small people.

In the evening groups we have, over the terms, looked at topics such as, who God is, justice, parables and the beatitudes. We have used different things in the world around us to show us more about God and his love for us,

God has continued to really bless us through the year in lots of ways. And, though we are fully aware that numbers aren't everything, it has continued to be a wonderful blessing, that the numbers have continued to either stay at a higher number than they previously had – or indeed carried on growing! It's really an encouragement when people come and join us because they have heard about what we are doing and want to be a part of it. And we continue to really love it when people come with their children and want to have a quick look round because they used to come to the groups themselves!

The Restart residential was a huge success and was a really great way to start 2024 – and had such a positive impact on people's friendships etc. We ran a murder mystery weekend at Lulworth Cove Youth Hostel, and the young people and leaders alike threw themselves into their characters and made it A LOT of fun. We are off to Swanage in just a few weeks to enjoy this years treat!

Sunday mornings, we have continued only going out to groups every other week (ish), we just don't have the leaders we need to be able to run the groups more frequently. We really want to be able to meet more frequently, and are, as a leadership team, we are praying hard for God to make the way forward for us clear.

Last year we started another Youth Group on the second Sunday of the month called Reload. We meet to chat, grow in fellowship and read and discuss the bible together. We meet in a home and it has been lovely to know that it is a place of belonging and growth of faith and relationship.

As in previous years, I want to say a HUGE THANK YOU for ALL of the leaders for all our groups. These amazing people, turn up week-in and week-out – they give of themselves, their time and their love.

They are so amazing with the children and young people in the groups and it's been a real privilege to see how the children and young people who choose to spend time with us have begun to open up to us as leaders, to trust us with their worries and what's going on in their lives. God is really blessing this ministry and we are so very thankful to be part of it – and I'm so very thankful for the amazing team of people who give of themselves so much. And this year – more than before, I really want to say a huge thank you to all those who have stepped into help us out when we are short of leaders to make sure that our groups can continue to run! You are incredible!!! The young people (don't always say it) but are hugely thankful that you turn up, so they can too.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support over the year – I know that myself and the team have really felt them holding us up.

Vicky and all the Youth and Children's Teams

Building Maintenance

We are truly fortunate to have a building facility like ours. With the main church building, the St Andrews room and kitchen and the Beacon centre plus the surrounding gardens brings many a maintenance task.

One of our priorities is always to keep the building secure and with many users over the years we decided to replace the three main door locks and to recall the old keys and issue new keys to main users.

There are many users of our building, and we are always adapting and changing parts of the building which sometimes is necessary for groups to run. This included making changes to the gent's toilet next to the St Andrews room for the use of a baby changing station and the relocation of the door in the corridor.

Reducing our utility bills and reducing our carbon footprint has always been at the forefront of any new work or replacing items.

I am aware that most of the fluorescent ceiling lighting was now becoming dated and certainly not the most cost-effective source considering the amount of time the lights are on. So, all the fittings upstairs in the Simmons room, office and toilets have been replaced with LED lighting modules. The main corridor from the Beacon Centre also had the fluorescent fittings replaced with LED lighting.

Keeping on the same subject over this Christmas period all but a couple of the strip lighting behind the pelmets in the church have now been replaced by LED tubes and the rest will be completed in the new year. The plan is to replace all the fluorescent lighting in all the rooms in the coming months.

Due to the size of the building, trying to maintain a warm environment is not always easy and, in the past, we have had to keep the heating on to ensure the rooms being use by preschool were warm enough in the morning. The other issue we have had is that the heating left on either over night or the weekends when not in use.

This is as you can imagine can be very costly, so we have now installed a Hive system that monitors the building temperature in three areas, the church, St Andrews room and Beacon Centre. The Hive system allows main users to use an app on their phone to adjust the heating from home and schedule timers for the heating to go on and off when required.

I have saved the best for last..... the two flat roofs, one above the St Andrews Room and the other above the Simmons room. I am sure I do not need to go into detail but, they both need replacing. We have had a number of quotes received, and they vary between £100 – £200k+. This is why there has been a big push in raising funds, so a very big thank you to all who have donated so far.

Martin and I have done a reasonable repair in one of the major areas on the Beacon Centre roof which currently is doing the job, but this will not last forever!!!

Lastly a thank you to Jane for keeping the building well hoovered and spider free. Also, to Susanne, with help from Chris in keeping our flower borders under control and looking good throughout the year. I am sure I have missed a few things but hopefully gives

you an overview. Thank you to all who have helped me in the many tasks during this year.

Keith (H&S Elder and Handyman)

Preschool Report 2024

The preschool is open Monday to Friday 8.30-2.30pm and we are currently full. We have 6 children joining us this term and 4 booked in April and are now only taking new children for September 2025. This is a good position to be in. We have had 4 staff members leave us this year and are still a staff member down. Recruitment is difficult due to the high shortage of qualified Early Years Staff. The workforce is reducing due to low wages and higher children to staff ratios. Government schemes such as extending funded hours for working parents has put a huge pressure on an already depleting workforce. The cost of staff is rising each year and far outweighs monetary support given to support children with SEND and the Local Authority funding for all children.

Our current numbers are 22 children in Stars and 17 in Rainbows. Working parents funding has now changed the number of children on role as those attending are coming for longer i.e.: 30hours. From September 2025 working families of 2-year-olds will also receive 30 hours funded childcare. This impact will be felt by us as we are not purpose built for children this young. They would need to be able to sleep/rest, we are not a nursery, however the needs of these working parents' childcare may impact us negatively with admissions.

We set an ambitious action plan last January. The preschool also had their Ofsted inspection on 30th January 2024. The inspector was impressed with the plan and commented positively on the targets we had set ourselves. These high aspirations reflect the

confidence we have in the staff to deliver a great preschool experience to our children and their families. We received a 'strong Good' rating overall. An example of some of the targets we asset are:

Children will show good progress in all prime areas of the EYFS enabling them to move to the full EYFS curriculum outcomes relevant to their age and stage of development. Achieved – in July 2024 all of our children leaving for school had made good progress relevant to their age and stage of development. Ou new children from September 2024 continue to make good progress in all of their Prime areas.

Staff will be able to demonstrate clear and consistent practice. Achieved – despite changes to staffing this year our curriculum of Intent-Implementation and Impact underpinned all areas of both classrooms' practices.

Children will show appropriate behaviour for their age and stage of development. Achieved – we have worked hard on supporting appropriate behaviour despite parenting styles impacts. External agencies have been cut reducing the support for parents who are struggling, however we are proud of what we can do to support this area. Our focus for 2023-24 we have utilised all the help we could using the Covid Recovery Programme to introduce our 'Colour Monster' check in for feelings and regulation tools.

Children with SEND will make good progress in their development and their families feel supported and included in their child's education. Achieved – with the help of the URC SEND Support grant we feel this an area we are particularly proud of. Children with SEND make good progress and enjoy coming to preschool.

Children and their families with SEND in the community will have a group to attend where they feel their child's needs are understood and they feel supported by other SEND families, our specialised SEND practitioners will provide advice and

demonstration of development support ideas and have access and awareness of additional support from outside agencies. Part Achieved – Our SEND group ran until April of 2024. Unfortunately due to staffing we could not continue past this date and as yet have not confirmed a new date/time and staffing. During the time it did run we helped around 14 families with development support, signposting and wellbeing. This is something the preschool would still like to be involved in with support from the church.

All staff will have the training and knowledge to protect and safeguard the children in the setting and have a wide range of skills to support all the children to achieve their best. Staff will feel confident to support all children to achieve and ensure all available intervention is given. Achieved – we have had a big year for safeguarding in the preschool, this means we have had many families requiring a high level of support. We have been working very closely with agencies such as Children's First Response, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and Early Help to ensure these families receive the support they need to keep their children safe. Recording of incidents and remaining curious is a key part of this support for our children and we are proud of the difference we make.

We will be sending our Annual Parent Questionnaire out this week to receive the views of our families and use this information to complete our new Action Plan for 2024/25 with our AGM being held on Thursday 30th January 2025.

Kind Regards

Clair & Anne Preschool Managers

The Beacon Church – Preschool Treasurer’s Report – 2024

At the year end, we had £70k in the bank, an increase of £35k from the start of the year. This is testament to the efforts of everyone at the Preschool, particularly our Preschool Managers, Anne & Clair, keeping costs to a minimum whilst continuing to do the absolute best for the children. This is despite a large cost towards the end of the year to regularise the pension contributions.

The grants received from the Community Fund and the URC (for 23-24) have been fully spent and a small grant from Tesco remains available to be spent. We have not yet made a claim for the URC Grant for the 24-25 academic year (10k) so this will further boost the funds available to invest in the Preschool.



Just Be...

Just Be... came into existence in September 2024 following a review meeting we had regarding our Warm Welcome Spaces community coffee mornings. We wanted to stop, reflect and seek God for the future and direction of our meetings. It was felt that

rather than being a warm space that was ran at *The Beacon Church*, we needed to be *The Beacon Church* who ran a warm space. This may not feel like a big difference, but it actually meant our focus was right, with God at the centre of it all. So, after prayer and feedback from our questionnaire (Thank you again to those who took the time to fill these in) there were a few things needing to change. It was decided we needed a new name which emphasised what we were all about. So why “*Just Be...*”? Well, it was because we felt we needed to be a space for people to “*Just be... welcomed... supported... loved... still... family... home... church*”. Basically, a place where people could come and just be themselves. God is amazing and he led us so beautifully to the name and the ‘tag line’. Even though the name has changed, and our focus has slightly shifted we do continue to be a registered Warm Welcome Space during the winter months. We also moved from a Thursday to a Friday and changed the time from 9am to 10am. We also now work to a 4-week rolling programme which people can dip in and out of.

Week 1 = Carers week / Week 2= Crochet week / Week 3 = Supported week / Week 4 = Craft week.

We restarted in September 2024! Since then, we have had some busy weeks (our biggest number was 32) to some quieter weeks where we only had 7. However, we average around 12 people. We have been joined once a month by the Pramalife carers group who relocated to us as their pervious venue was becoming too small. This makes our carers week the busiest. Our crochet group has seen some new faces and has proven popular. This has been helped massively by having our own resident crochet superstar, Carol, who has been amazing at being on hand and helping those who have needed it. For our supported weeks we have so far held

a MacMillian coffee morning, offered information on local support services, welcomed Ridgewater Energy and provided breakfast to those who wanted it and as part of our craft week we have done card marking, macrame and a wreath workshop.

Each week we offer free hot drinks and biscuits as well as sometimes having pastries and cake. We have a folder containing leaflets to help signpost people to support services available throughout the area and, as the weather has started to get cooler, have a supply of winter gloves, hats, and scarfs for free for anyone who needs them (Donations welcome!).

One thing we felt strongly about was the need to continue to offer our refreshments for free, so not to exclude anyone who wishes to come (any donations made go to the Roof Fund). To date all bar one of our craft sessions have been free too, the exception was the wreath making workshop which did have a small charge due to the cost of materials. However, this was kept this to a minimum, thanks to the kind donations of many in our church. We have also recently received a small grant thanks to Keith and Sue at Pramalife, who applied for it on our behalf, which means we can continue to offer our sessions for free and look at what else we can offer – watch this space! As a donation to the church, Pramalife, pay for our tea and coffee supplies! We have also received 2 kind donations from the local knit and Knatter group which went to the Roof Fund. God's provision has been amazing.

Our Just Be... coffee morning couldn't take place without those who give up their time each week to help set up, pack away, serve refreshments and do all things technical. So, a huge thank you to Keith, Vicky, Jackie, Carol and Dan for all their time and efforts. It is so appreciated. A thank you also needs to go to the leadership team who have supported this new group (and me!) so much with

their prayers, encouragement and presence. Also thank you to all those who have attended or who pray for the sessions, you are greatly appreciated. But ultimately the thanks and praise must go to God for all that He has done and will continue to do in the future.

Over the next year we are hopeful to see numbers increase which will enable us to offer more to the community as God leads and provide for us to do so. Therefore, please do continue to pray for '*Just Be...*' that it will be meet the need of the community and make a difference to those who come. Also pray that we will continue to seek God in all that we do.

Blessings

Fiona

On behalf of '*Just Be...*'

Report on Services at Figbury Lodge 2024

The short services which started in March 2023 have continued every month for all the year 2024. That is apart from 2 months, when due to Covid and a cough amongst those presenting the service, the service had to be cancelled. Again the services have taken place on the last Friday of each month but from the autumn of 2024 the starting date has changed to 2-30pm at the request of the staff in Figbury. This has enabled them to, more easily, get all the residents settled after their midday meal.

The core group carrying out the service consisted of Diana Hutton, Heather Fairweather Ray Fairweather and Les Hutton who have planned and prepared the services each month. Sadly during May of 2024 Ray was taken ill and passed away. But others have augmented the team. They include Ann Scot, Sue Sprack

and Jackie Woolley who have attended most services and helped fill the gap left by Ray. The services normally consist of up to 5 worship songs, a short talk by a member of the team augmented by poems and prayers.

We have continued to have a good relationship with the Staff at Figbury in particular with Becky and Cheryl who are the main carers. The normal attendance at our services has tended to increase through the year so that recently about 20 residents and up to about 5 carers attend our service. As throughout our mission to Figbury after the service we stay to chat to the residents and staff so that we are building up some rapport with them. The whole visit takes about 1 hour. It was particularly encouraging that the Christmas Carol service was so well attended. I think about 30 attended not including ourselves. So I think both the staff and residents now look on these services as a regular and welcome part of their monthly programme of activities.

Diana & Les

CANFORD HEATH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Registered Charity No 1134115

Canford Heath United Reformed Church Charity

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024			2023		
	Restricted funds	£ Unrestricted funds	£ Total	Restricted funds	£ Unrestricted funds	£ Total
Incoming resources						
Tithes and offerings		82,256	82,256		81,878	81,878
Fundraising and donations		1,644	1,644		-	-
Youth income		8,868	8,868		7,519	7,519
Gift aid tax repayments		9,981	9,981		8,273	8,273
Pre-School fees and vouchers		193,522	193,522		144,036	144,036
Property income		2,915	2,915		2,634	2,634
Other income		205	205		206	206
Grants received	12,765	-	12,765	7,617	-	7,617
Bank interest		385	385		178	178
Activity income		-	-		229	229
Total incoming resources	12,765	299,776	312,541	7,617	244,953	252,570
Resources expended						
URC Ministry and Mission fund		16,800	16,800		16,900	16,900
Utilities		17,150	17,150		19,908	19,908
Repairs and maintenance		12,884	12,884		15,019	15,019
Printing, postage and stationery		3,712	3,712		4,283	4,283
Staff expenses	14,491	164,989	179,480	1,198	154,182	155,380
Catering and sundries		4,431	4,431		4,698	4,698
Mission giving		1,304	1,304		1,470	1,470
Accountancy fees		1,411	1,411		-	-
Activity expenses		-	-		350	350
Youth expenses		962	962		1,808	1,808
Other resources	2,962	9,262	12,224	1,106	8,593	9,699
Subscriptions and memberships		-	-		-	-
Pre-School consumables	125	473	598		478	478
Pre-School parties and gifts		-	-		-	-
Total resources expended	17,578	233,378	250,956	2,304	227,689	229,993
Net movement in funds	(4,813)	66,398	61,585	5,313	17,264	22,577
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	5,313	42,656	47,969		25,392	25,392
Total funds carried forward	500	109,054	109,554	5,313	42,656	47,969

CANFORD HEATH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH CHARITY

CONTENTS

	Page
Statement of Financial Activities	1
Balance Sheet	2
Notes to the accounts	3
Independent Examiners Report	4

Canford Heath United Reformed Church Charity

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	2	-	-
		-	-
Current assets			
HSBC Current Account		1,641	369
HSBC Savings Account		34,654	12,129
HSBC Beacon Centre		70,098	35,471
Prepayments		4,379	-
		110,772	47,969
Current liabilities			
Accruals		1,218	-
Net assets		109,554	47,969
Funds of the charity			
Retained profits		109,554	47,969
		109,554	47,969

Approved by the trustees on _____

and signed on their behalf by:

Mark Maidment (Church Treasurer)

Canford Heath United Reformed Church Charity

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) and applicable accounting standards. The particular accounting policies adopted by the trustees are described below.

2 Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue on a going concern basis.

3 Fixed assets

The church and manse buildings are owned by the URC Synod Trust who hold them on trust for purposes connected with Canford Heath URC.

Canford Heath United Reformed Church Charity

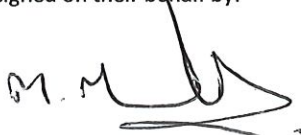
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	2	-	-
		-	-
Current assets			
HSBC Current Account		1,641	369
HSBC Savings Account		34,654	12,129
HSBC Beacon Centre		70,098	35,471
Prepayments		4,379	-
		110,772	47,969
Current liabilities			
Accruals		1,218	-
Net assets		109,554	47,969
Funds of the charity			
Retained profits		109,554	47,969
		109,554	47,969

Approved by the trustees on 12/1/25

and signed on their behalf by:



Mark Maidment (Church Treasurer)

Canford Heath United Reformed Church Charity

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Respective responsibilities of the 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 period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 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 you as 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 examiners 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 2011 Act; and
 - ♦ to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Emma Northover MAAT
Ward Bosence
443 Ashley Road
Parkstone
Poole
BH14 0AX



Date: 30/10/2025