

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, WIGSTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1135831

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-05-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	2 Pipistrelle Way Oadby Leicester LE2 4QA
Phone	07785398770
Email	andydavis626@btinternet.com
Website	http://bethelefc.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH SHALL BE:-(1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIS OF FAITH PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN LEICESTERSHIRE AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD; AND SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS SHALL, IN THE OPINION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN GENERAL MEETING/THE MANAGING TRUSTEES FURTHER THE WORK OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: The Church holds two services on a Sunday, as well as additional meetings to teach the Christian faith and to provide opportunities for worship. In addition, the Church holds activities for all ages, which combine worship, teaching, evangelism and outreach. The Church supports others doing the same across the region, the nation and the world.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LEICESTERSHIRE
- Leicestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£58,130	£84,312	-	-
2023-12-31	£55,571	£78,252	-	-
2022-12-31	£66,773	£78,602	-	-
2021-12-31	£96,835	£62,403	-	-
2020-12-31	£110,929	£78,994	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDY DAVIS	Chair	
PETER HARRISON		2012-05-11
Rev DAN EAGLES		
WILLIAM EASTON		2012-05-10

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, WIGSTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1135831

Accounts

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135831

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics LE11 5XR

Tel: 01509 214163

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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1 - 4	Report of the Church officers
5	Independent Examiners' Report
6	Statement of Receipts and Payments
7	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
8 - 10	Notes forming part of the financial statements.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The officers present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 8 and comply with the Church's trust deed and applicable law.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Inland Revenue Charity Ref: XN 26557

Charity Number: 1135831

Holding Trustees:

A Davis
D Eagles
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Elders:

Rev D Eagles (Pastor)
A Davis
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Deacons:

Ivan Timson

Church Premises:

Burleigh Avenue, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 1FH

Independent Examiners:

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

Bankers:

NatWest plc

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Until 2010, the Church was constituted under a trust deed dated 9 December 1981, and was an “excepted” charity by virtue of its affiliation to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. However, in order to comply with the Charities Act 2006, a new Constitution dated 9 March 2011 using an approved governing document issued by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches has been adopted and the Church has become a “Registered Charity”.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, the Managing Trustees comprise those persons appointed as Pastors, Elders and Deacons. There is provision for a minimum of three trustees at any one time. A number of Holding Trustees are appointed from amongst the Managing Trustees to take responsibility for the Church buildings and property.

Trustee Induction and Training

As trustees are drawn solely from the ranks of Church Elders and Deacons, they are already very familiar with the workings of the Church. As such, no specific formal training is given to new trustees, although they are briefed to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and duties as trustees.

Organisation

The Holding Trustees and officers who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on page 1. Pastors, Elders and Deacons are Managing Trustees and must all be in full agreement with the Church's doctrinal basis and “Church Matters” policy document:

Pastor: The appointment of a Pastor shall be by the unanimous recommendation of the Elders and Deacons and by the wholehearted spiritual witness of the Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the wholehearted approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

Elders: Recognising the biblical pattern, the existing Elders are to be the ones who normally identify new Elders, with the membership being invited to give their wholehearted agreement (Titus 1:5) at the Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

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Missionary Support Policy

The Church has continued to support several missionaries, both in the UK and Overseas, through discretionary support and designated gifts. In addition, the Church is currently supporting two other missionary couples serving with missionary organisations on a monthly basis. Often, those supported have been sent out from Bethel to their new work and/or previously worked or served at Bethel Church.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024****OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The purposes of the Church shall be:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Wigston and the surrounding neighbourhood;
- And such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting and the Managing Trustees, further the work of the Church.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives in planning future activities and policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

All of the Church Sunday and midweek meetings are held in person, although the service is also available online or via DVD, for those who cannot attend in person.

The Church generally holds one service on a Sunday, as well as mid-week and ad-hoc meetings to teach the Christian faith and to provide opportunities for worship. Bethel Connect groups are part of the mid-week meetings and are house-group based to allow those attending to get to know each other better. In addition, the Church hosts activities for all ages, from tots and parents, through children, teenagers, young adults, ladies, men and 55+, which combine social activities with opportunities for teaching. The Church also arranges outreach events to raise awareness of the local Church in particular and the Christian faith in general. All the above activities and meetings are open to society in general and are not restricted to members of the Church.

Specific activities for children and young people include weekly Kids at the Corner and Youth Meetings, as well as special opportunities such as an Easter Children's Holiday Club, and the Bible Exhibition for local schools. The Church also holds regular meals, at least quarterly, to allow those attending to get to know each other better. For the wider community there is also a Summer BBQ and the Christmas Carols by Candlelight service, as well as special events.

"The Corner" coffee area and church hall are used widely by the Church, and also to provide an open door to the local community. This now hosts four regular sessions, Community Night (held on Monday evening) "Coffee and Company" (held on Wednesday Morning), Friendship Café (held on Thursday morning) and "Craft and Chat" (held on Friday evening), which are very well attended.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received during the year totalled £58,130, principally from donations to the Church, and was higher than the corresponding amount received in 2023 (£55,571). Note that 2023 also benefited from a £2,654 insurance refund. The underlying increase from 2023 to 2024 was mainly due to higher general giving, and this is expected to continue in 2025.

Total payments during the year were £84,312, which was higher than the expenditure in 2023 (£78,252), although 2024 included some exceptional one-off costs, including £10,945 to replace the church chairs and £6,723 for electrical surveys and remedial works. Overall, this meant that the Church reported a deficit for the year of £26,182 (2023: deficit of £22,681).

The church trustees felt comfortable running with a deficit in 2024 due to the one-off nature of some of the costs incurred, and also because there was visibility of significant legacy income in 2025 (£50,000 of which was received in April 2025).

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

RESERVES POLICY

Reserves are set aside to respond to any unforeseen funding difficulties. The Church officers produce a budget each year to forecast the amount of income that the Church expects to receive. Based on this, the Church will plan its expenditure for the future year, so that it keeps normal expenditure pegged to slightly below the level of income.

The overall budget is reviewed during the year at Church officer meetings to ensure that the Church can achieve its targets regarding planned expenditure and make any adjustments as necessary to keep within it.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The officers have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

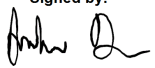
Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales require the officers to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the officers are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed
- subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue to function.

The officers are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and church officers on 30 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

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A Davis
Treasurer

30 June 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE OFFICERS OF
BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 10

Respective responsibilities of the Church officers and examiners

The Church officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Church officers consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) 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 Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church 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 you as officers 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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.

DocuSigned by:
Bob Gradon
07500400A2AD4D4...

D R Gradon
Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

6 July 2025

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	2024 Other Designated Funds	2024 General Funds	2024 Designated Building Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
Receipts:						
Donations and legacies		611	56965	-	57576	52198
Charitable activities:						
Use of Church facilities		-	120	-	120	50
Other income		-	-	-	-	125
Investment income		-	434	-	434	544
Insurance claim		-	-	-	-	2654
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		611	57519	-	58130	55571
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Payments:						
Charitable activities:						
Pastoral ministry	2	-	42544	-	42544	40355
Evangelism and outreach	3	-	2431	-	2431	3079
Establishment costs	4	-	38697	-	38697	34368
Gifts		640	-	-	640	450
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		640	83672	-	84312	78252
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net receipts/(payments)		(29)	(26153)	-	(26182)	(22681)
Transfers		29	(29)	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	(26182)	-	(26182)	(22681)
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank balances at 1 January 2024		-	45829	-	45829	68510
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	(26182)	-	(26182)	(22681)
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank balances at 31 December 2024		£-	£19647	£-	£19647	£45829
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 Other Designated Funds	2024 General Funds	2024 Designated Building Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Freehold land and buildings	5	-	292314	-	292314	292314
Fixtures and fittings	5	-	12501	-	12501	3342
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	304815	-	304815	295656
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Prepayments		-	-	-	-	-
Bank balances		-	19647	-	19647	45829
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	19647	-	19647	45829
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>						
Creditors and Accruals		-	1200	-	1200	1080
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
		-	18447	-	18447	44749
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>						
		-	323262	-	323262	340405
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>						
General Fund	6	-	323262	-	323262	340405
Restricted Fund	6	-	-	-	-	-
Designated Funds:						
Building Fund	6	-	-	-	-	-
Other Funds		-	-	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		£-	£323262	£-	£323262	340405
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Financial Statements on pages 6 to 10 were approved by the trustees on 6 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

 8A0A73F636BC4C8...

A Davis

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated for a particular use, in this case representing the Church's Buildings fund.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on the restricted purposes as specified by the donor.

2 PASTORAL MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

	2024 Other Designated Funds	2024 General Funds	2024 Designated Building Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
Pastoral remuneration and expenses	-	39763	-	39763	37652
Employer's Pension Contributions	-	981	-	981	923
Employer's NIC	-	-	-	-	-
Visiting preachers	-	-	-	-	580
Missionary support	-	1800	-	1800	1200
Training Costs	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	42544	-	42544	40355
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Church employs a Pastor. All of the Elders (including the Pastor) and Deacons are Managing Trustees, as they are all included in making decisions on how the charity's funds are expended. To avoid a conflict of interest, the Pastor continues to be excluded from all discussions relating to him and his remuneration. The Pastor is the only trustee to receive any remuneration or expenses; however other trustees have been reimbursed during the year for expenditure they have incurred on behalf of the Church.

3 EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

	2024 Other Designated Funds	2024 General Funds	2024 Designated Building Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
Bible exhibitions	-	1809	-	1809	2044
Outreach expenses	-	622	-	622	1035
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	2431	-	2431	3079
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4 ESTABLISHMENT COSTS

	2024 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2024 General <u>Funds</u>	2024 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2024 Total <u>Funds</u>	2023 Total <u>Funds</u>
Rates and water	-	1528	-	1528	1335
Insurance	-	1833	-	1833	1416
Light and heat	-	8446	-	8446	12875
Repairs and maintenance	-	10490	-	10490	11960
Cleaning	-	108	-	108	388
Telephone	-	1072	-	1072	422
Postage, stationery and photocopying	-	90	-	90	139
FIEC affiliation fees	-	1000	-	1000	800
Catering	-	1784	-	1784	2004
DBS Checks	-	178	-	178	162
Other miscellaneous costs	-	23	-	23	-
Independent examination and payroll fee	-	1200	-	1200	1320
Fixed Asset Purchases	-	10945	-	10945	-
Equipment Purchased	-	-	-	-	1547
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	38697	-	38697	34368
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

5 FIXED ASSETS

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Freehold Land and Buildings</u>	<u>Fixtures and Fittings</u>	<u>Total</u>
At 1 January 2024	292314	22654	314968
Additions	-	10945	10945
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2024	292314	33599	325913
<u>Depreciation</u>			
At 1 January 2024	-	19312	19312
Charge for the year	-	1786	1786
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2024	-	21098	21098
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 December 2024	292314	12501	304815
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	292314	3342	295656
	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

The Church's freehold properties comprise:

- a) The Church buildings situated in Burleigh Avenue, Wigston (acquired 14 October 1950).
- b) The Church hall, bookshop and flat situated at the corner of Burleigh Avenue and The Crescent, Wigston (acquired 24 November 1955).

The Church officers estimate that the market value of the Church's properties following the refurbishment project is about £750,000.

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	2024 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2024 General <u>Funds</u>	2024 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2024 Total <u>Funds</u>	2023 Total <u>Funds</u>
Fixed Assets	-	304815	-	304815	295656
Current Assets	-	19647	-	19647	45829
Current Liabilities	-	(1200)	-	(1200)	(1080)
	—	—	—	—	—
	-	323262	-	323262	340405
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

7 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Total donations received from the Trustees in the year was £15,990.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, WIGSTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1135831

Accounts

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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Specific activities for children and young people include weekly Kids at the Corner and Youth Meetings, as well as special opportunities such as an Easter Children's Holiday Club, and the Bible Exhibition for local schools. The Church also holds regular meals, at least quarterly, to allow those attending to get to know each other better. For the wider community there is also a Summer BBQ and the Christmas Carols by Candlelight service, as well as special events – for example in 2023 we organised cream teas for the local community to mark the King's Coronation.

“The Corner” coffee area and refurbished church hall are used widely by the Church, and also to provide an open door to the local community. This now hosts four regular sessions, Community Night (held on Monday evening) “Coffee and Company” (held on Wednesday Morning), Friendship Café (held on Thursday morning) and “Craft and Chat” (held on Friday evening), which are very well attended.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received during the year totalled £55,571, principally from donations to the Church, and was lower than the corresponding amount received in 2022 (£66,773). The reduction from 2022 to 2023 was mainly due to an expected reduction in giving for the Building Fund (£1,475) and lower insurance claim receipts (£5,556).

Total payments during the year were £78,252, which was lower than the expenditure in 2022 (£78,602). Overall, this meant that the Church reported a deficit for the year of £22,681 (2022: deficit of £11,829).

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

RESERVES POLICY

Reserves are set aside to respond to any unforeseen funding difficulties. The Church officers produce a budget each year to forecast the amount of income that the Church expects to receive. Based on this, the Church will plan its expenditure for the future year, so that it keeps normal expenditure pegged to slightly below the level of income.

The overall budget is reviewed during the year at Church officer meetings to ensure that the Church can achieve its targets regarding planned expenditure and make any adjustments as necessary to keep within it.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The officers have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

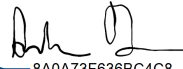
Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales require the officers to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the officers are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed
- subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue to function.

The officers are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and church officers on 20 June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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.....
A Davis
Treasurer

4 June 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE OFFICERS OF
BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 6 to 10

Respective responsibilities of the Church officers and examiners

The Church officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Church officers consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) 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 Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church 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 you as officers 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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.

D R Gradon
Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

DocuSigned by:
Bob Gradon
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4 June 2024

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

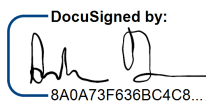
	<u>Notes</u>	2023 Other Designated Funds	2023 General Funds	2023 Designated Building Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Receipts:						
Donations and legacies		450	51748	-	52198	58510
Charitable activities:						
Use of Church facilities		-	50	-	50	-
Other income		-	125	-	125	-
Investment income		-	544	-	544	53
Insurance claim		-	2654	-	2654	8210
		<u>450</u>	<u>55121</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55571</u>	<u>66773</u>
Payments:						
Charitable activities:						
Pastoral ministry	2	-	40355	-	40355	38463
Evangelism and outreach	3	-	3079	-	3079	2439
Establishment costs	4	-	34368	-	34368	33970
Gifts		450	-	-	450	3730
		<u>450</u>	<u>77802</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78252</u>	<u>78602</u>
Total Payments		450	77802	-	78252	78602
Net receipts/(payments)		-	(22681)	-	(22681)	(11829)
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	(22681)	-	(22681)	(11829)
Bank balances at 1 January 2023		-	68510	-	68510	80339
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	(22681)	-	(22681)	(11829)
Bank balances at 31 December 2023		£-	£45829	-	£45829	£68510

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 Other Designated Funds	2023 General Funds	2023 Designated Building Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Freehold land and buildings	5	-	292314	-	292314	292314
Fixtures and fittings	5	-	3342	-	3342	3819
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	295656	-	295656	296133
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Prepayments		-	-	-	-	-
Bank balances		-	45829	-	45829	68510
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	45829	-	45829	68510
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>						
Creditors and Accruals		-	1080	-	1080	1080
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
		-	44749	-	44749	67430
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>						
		-	340405	-	340405	363563
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>						
General Fund	6	-	340405	-	340405	363563
Restricted Fund	6	-	-	-	-	-
Designated Funds:						
Building Fund	6	-	-	-	-	-
Other Funds		-	-	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	340405	-	340405	363563
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Financial Statements on pages 6 to 10 were approved by the trustees on 4 June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

 8A0A73F636BC4C8...

A Davis

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES****a) Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated for a particular use, in this case representing the Church's Buildings fund.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on the restricted purposes as specified by the donor.

2 PASTORAL MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

	2023 Other Designated Funds	2023 General Funds	2023 Designated Building Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
Pastoral remuneration and expenses	-	37652	-	37652	37305
Employer's Pension Contributions	-	923	-	923	915
Employer's NIC	-	-	-	-	-
Visiting preachers	-	580	-	580	-
Missionary support	-	1200	-	1200	-
Training Costs	-	-	-	-	243
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	40355	-	40355	38463
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Church employs a Pastor. All of the Elders (including the Pastor) and Deacons are Managing Trustees, as they are all included in making decisions on how the charity's funds are expended. To avoid a conflict of interest, the Pastor continues to be excluded from all discussions relating to him and his remuneration. The Pastor is the only trustee to receive any remuneration or expenses; however other trustees have been reimbursed during the year for expenditure they have incurred on behalf of the Church.

3 EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

	2023 Other Designated Funds	2023 General Funds	2023 Designated Building Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
Bible exhibitions	-	2044	-	2044	1952
Outreach expenses	-	1035	-	1035	487
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	3079	-	3079	2439
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4 ESTABLISHMENT COSTS

	2023 Other Designated Funds	2023 General Funds	2023 Designated Building Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
Rates and water	-	1335	-	1335	675
Insurance	-	1416	-	1416	1379
Light and heat	-	12875	-	12875	2909
Repairs and maintenance	-	11960	-	11960	17662
Cleaning	-	388	-	388	1370
Telephone	-	422	-	422	531
Postage, stationery and photocopying	-	139	-	139	427
FIEC affiliation fees	-	800	-	800	750
Catering	-	2004	-	2004	264
DBS Checks	-	162	-	162	267
Other miscellaneous costs	-	-	-	-	54
Independent examination and payroll fee	-	1320	-	1320	1080
Fixed Asset Purchases	-	-	-	-	6602
Equipment Purchased	-	1547	-	1547	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	34368	-	34368	33970
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

5 FIXED ASSETS

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Freehold Land and Buildings</u>	<u>Fixtures and Fittings</u>	<u>Total</u>
At 1 January 2023	292314	22654	314968
Additions	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2023	292314	22654	314968
<u>Depreciation</u>			
At 1 January 2023	-	18835	18835
Charge for the year	-	477	477
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2023	-	19312	19312
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	292314	3342	295656
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 December 2022	292314	3819	296133
	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The Church's freehold properties comprise:

- a) The Church buildings situated in Burleigh Avenue, Wigston (acquired 14 October 1950).
- b) The Church hall, bookshop and flat situated at the corner of Burleigh Avenue and The Crescent, Wigston (acquired 24 November 1955).

The Church officers estimate that the market value of the Church's properties following the refurbishment project is about £750,000.

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	2023 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2023 General <u>Funds</u>	2023 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2023 Total <u>Funds</u>	2022 Total <u>Funds</u>
Fixed Assets	-	295656	-	295656	296133
Current Assets	-	45829	-	45829	68510
Current Liabilities	-	(1080)	-	(1080)	(1080)
	—	—	—	—	—
	-	340405	-	340405	363563
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, WIGSTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1135831

Accounts

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2022

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135831

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics LE11 5XR

Tel: 01509 214163

**BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

CONTENTS

1 - 4	Report of the Church officers
5	Independent Examiners' Report
6	Statement of Receipts and Payments
7	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
8 - 10	Notes forming part of the financial statements.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The officers present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 8 and comply with the Church's trust deed and applicable law.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Inland Revenue Charity Ref: XN 26557

Charity Number: 1135831

Holding Trustees:

A Davis
D Eagles
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Elders:

Rev D Eagles (Pastor)
A Davis
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Deacons:

Ivan Timson (appointed 14th June 2022)

Church Premises:

Burleigh Avenue, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 1FH

Independent Examiners:

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

Bankers:

NatWest plc

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022****STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Until 2010, the Church was constituted under a trust deed dated 9 December 1981, and was an “excepted” charity by virtue of its affiliation to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. However, in order to comply with the Charities Act 2006, a new Constitution dated 9 March 2011 using an approved governing document issued by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches has been adopted and the Church has become a “Registered Charity”.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, the Managing Trustees comprise those persons appointed as Pastors, Elders and Deacons. There is provision for a minimum of three trustees at any one time. A number of Holding Trustees are appointed from amongst the Managing Trustees to take responsibility for the Church buildings and property.

Trustee Induction and Training

As trustees are drawn solely from the ranks of Church Elders and Deacons, they are already very familiar with the workings of the Church. As such, no specific formal training is given to new trustees, although they are briefed to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and duties as trustees.

Organisation

The Holding Trustees and officers who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on page 1. Pastors, Elders and Deacons are Managing Trustees and must all be in full agreement with the Church's doctrinal basis and “Church Matters” policy document:

Pastor: The appointment of a Pastor shall be by the unanimous recommendation of the Elders and Deacons and by the wholehearted spiritual witness of the Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the wholehearted approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

Elders: Recognising the biblical pattern, the existing Elders are to be the ones who normally identify new Elders, with the membership being invited to give their wholehearted agreement (Titus 1:5) at the Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

Deacons: Following the biblical pattern, Deacons shall be adult members who conform to the scriptural qualifications (1Tim 3:8-10, 12 and 13 Acts 6:3). Church members will give recommendations to the Elders and Deacons for their consideration. The Elders and Deacons will bring persons with their consent to the membership for their wholehearted agreement at a Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

The Pastors, Elders and Deacons shall normally serve without time limit up to the age of seventy, unless removed from office. However, Church Officers may be requested to continue in their office past this age, by the agreement of the other Church Officers and with an annual review. The following considerations should be taken into account when agreeing to continuation in office: health, gifts, mental capacity and the individual’s personal circumstances. A Pastor, Elder or Deacon may voluntarily resign by submitting in writing a letter to that effect to the remaining Church Officers. The Pastor will normally retire from office at the statutory retirement age.

Missionary Support Policy

The Church has continued to support several missionaries, both in the UK and Overseas, through discretionary support and designated gifts. Often, those supported have been sent out from Bethel to their new work and/or previously worked or served at Bethel Church.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the Church shall be:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Wigston and the surrounding neighbourhood;
- And such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting and the Managing Trustees, further the work of the Church.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives in planning future activities and policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In common with most of the country, the restrictions imposed on meeting together during the UK Covid outbreak have long since ended and all of the Church Sunday and midweek meetings are now held in person and all other groups are again operational. The service is also still available online or via DVD, for those who still cannot attend in person..

The Church generally holds one service on a Sunday, as well as mid-week and ad-hoc meetings to teach the Christian faith and to provide opportunities for worship. In addition, the Church hosts activities for all ages, from tots and parents, through children, boys, girls, teenagers, young adults, ladies, men and senior citizens, which combine social activities with opportunities for teaching. The Church also arranges outreach events to raise awareness of the local Church in particular and the Christian faith in general. All the above activities and meetings are open to society in general and are not restricted to members of the Church.

Specific activities for children and young people include weekly Kids at the Corner and Youth Meetings, as well as special opportunities such as an Easter Children's Holiday Club, and the Bible Exhibition for local schools, as well as the Christmas Carols by Candlelight service.

"The Corner" coffee area and refurbished church hall are now used widely by the Church, and also to provide an open door to the local community. This now hosts three regular sessions, Community Night (held on Monday evening) "Warm Place" (held on Wednesday Morning) and Friendship Café (held on Thursday morning), which are very well attended.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received during the year totalled £66,773, principally from donations to the Church, and was lower than the corresponding amount received in 2021 (£96,835). The reduction from 2021 to 2022 was mainly due to a planned reduction in special giving for the General Fund (£30,000) and for the Building Fund (£14,189), partly offset by higher regular, designated gifts and insurance claim receipts.

Total payments during the year were £78,602, which was higher than the expenditure in 2021 (£62,403). The 2022 expenditure included a church building and refurbishment costs of £6,602 (2021: £13,830) and some special redecoration/refurbishment costs of the upper hall, following a water leak, of £11,633. The "normal" 2022 expenditure of £60,368 is higher than the equivalent 2021 figure of £48,573 due to a higher level of designated gifts paid out and also a higher level of expenditure on replacement equipment and on general running costs as the Church returned to pre-Covid activity levels. Overall, this meant that the Church reported a deficit for the year of £11,829 (2021: surplus of £34,432).

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

RESERVES POLICY

Reserves are set aside to respond to any unforeseen funding difficulties. The Church officers produce a budget each year to forecast the amount of income that the Church expects to receive. Based on this, the Church will plan its expenditure for the future year, so that it keeps normal expenditure pegged to slightly below the level of income.

The overall budget is reviewed during the year at Church officer meetings to ensure that the Church can achieve its targets regarding planned expenditure and make any adjustments as necessary to keep within it.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The officers have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

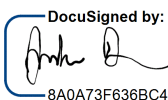
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The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales require the officers to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the officers are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed
- subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue to function.

The officers are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and church officers on 20 June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

8A0A73F636BC4C8...

.....
A Davis
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE OFFICERS OF
BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 6 to 10

Respective responsibilities of the Church officers and examiners

The Church officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Church officers consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) 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 Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church 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 you as officers 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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.

D R Gradon
Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

DocuSigned by:
Bob Gradon
07500400A2AD4D4...

20 June 2023

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	<u>Notes</u>	2022 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2022 General <u>Funds</u>	2022 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2022 <u>Total</u>	2021 <u>Total</u>
Receipts:						
Donations and legacies		3405	53630	1475	58510	94491
Charitable activities:						
Use of Church facilities		-	-	-	-	-
Other income		-	-	-	-	2344
Investment income		-	53	-	53	-
Insurance claim		-	8210	-	8210	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		3405	61893	1475	66773	96835
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Payments:						
Charitable activities:						
Pastoral ministry	2	-	38463	-	38463	37441
Evangelism and outreach	3	-	2439	-	2439	170
Establishment costs	4	-	27368	6602	33970	24792
Gifts		3730	-	-	3730	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		3730	68270	6602	78602	62403
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Net receipts/(payments)		(325)	(6377)	(5127)	(11829)	34432
Transfers		325	236	(561)	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	(6141)	(5688)	(11829)	34432
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank balances at 1 January 2022		-	74651	5688	80339	45907
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	(6141)	(5688)	(11829)	34432
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank balances at 31 December 2022		-	68510	-	68510	80339
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	<u>Note</u>	2022 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2022 General <u>Funds</u>	2022 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2022 Total <u>Funds</u>	2021 Total <u>Funds</u>
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Freehold land and buildings	5	-	292314	-	292314	285712
Fixtures and fittings	5	-	3819	-	3819	4365
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	296133	-	296133	290077
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Prepayments		-	-	-	-	-
Bank balances		-	68510	-	68510	80339
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	68510	-	68510	80339
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>						
Creditors and Accruals		-	1080	-	1080	1020
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
		-	67430	-	67430	79319
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>						
		-	363563	-	363563	369396
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>						
General Fund	6	-	363563	-	363563	363708
Restricted Fund	6	-	-	-	-	-
Designated Funds:						
Building Fund	6	-	-	-	-	5688
Other Funds		-	-	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	363563	-	363563	369396
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Financial Statements on pages 6 to 10 were approved by the trustees on 20 June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

 8A0A73F636BC4C8...

.....
 A Davis

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES****a) Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated for a particular use, in this case representing the Church's Buildings fund.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on the restricted purposes as specified by the donor.

2 PASTORAL MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

	2022 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2022 General <u>Funds</u>	2022 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2022 Total <u>Funds</u>	2021 Total <u>Funds</u>
Pastoral remuneration and expenses	-	37305	-	37305	35927
Employer's Pension Contributions	-	915	-	915	891
Employer's NIC	-	-	-	-	-
Visiting preachers	-	-	-	-	170
Missionary support	-	-	-	-	-
Training Costs	-	243	-	243	453
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	38463	-	38463	37441
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Church employs a Pastor. All of the Elders (including the Pastor) and Deacons are Managing Trustees, as they are all included in making decisions on how the charity's funds are expended. To avoid a conflict of interest, the Pastor continues to be excluded from all discussions relating to him and his remuneration. The Pastor is the only trustee to receive any remuneration or expenses; however other trustees have been reimbursed during the year for expenditure they have incurred on behalf of the Church.

3 EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

	2022 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2022 General <u>Funds</u>	2022 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2022 Total <u>Funds</u>	2021 Total <u>Funds</u>
Bible exhibitions	-	1952	-	1952	-
Outreach expenses	-	487	-	487	170
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	2439	-	2439	170
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4 ESTABLISHMENT COSTS

	2022 Other Designated Funds	2022 General Funds	2022 Designated Building Funds	2022 Total Funds	2021 Total Funds
Rates and water	-	675	-	675	933
Insurance	-	1379	-	1379	1409
Light and heat	-	2909	-	2909	2391
Repairs and maintenance	-	17662	-	17662	1829
Cleaning	-	1370	-	1370	190
Telephone	-	531	-	531	488
Postage, stationery and photocopying	-	427	-	427	-
FIEC affiliation fees	-	750	-	750	750
Catering	-	264	-	264	-
DBS Checks	-	267	-	267	146
Other miscellaneous costs	-	54	-	54	6
Independent examination and payroll fee	-	1080	-	1080	2820
Fixed Asset Purchases	-	-	6602	6602	13830
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	27368	6602	33970	24792
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

5 FIXED ASSETS

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Freehold Land and Buildings</u>	<u>Fixtures and Fittings</u>	<u>Total</u>
At 1 January 2022	285712	22654	308366
Additions	6602	-	6602
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2022	292314	22654	314968
<u>Depreciation</u>			
At 1 January 2022	-	18289	18289
Charge for the year	-	546	546
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2022	-	18835	18835
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 December 2022	292314	3819	296133
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 December 2021	285712	4365	290077
	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Church's freehold properties comprise:

- a) The Church buildings situated in Burleigh Avenue, Wigston (acquired 14 October 1950).
- b) The Church hall, bookshop and flat situated at the corner of Burleigh Avenue and The Crescent, Wigston (acquired 24 November 1955).

The Church officers estimate that the market value of the Church's properties following the refurbishment project is about £750,000.

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	2022 Other Designated Funds	2022 General Funds	2022 Designated Building Funds	2022 Total Funds	2021 Total Funds
Fixed Assets	-	296133	-	296133	290077
Current Assets	-	68510	-	68510	80339
Current Liabilities	-	(1080)	-	(1080)	(1020)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	363563	-	363563	369396
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Designated Funds are represented by:					
	B/Fwd <u>2021</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	C/Fwd <u>2022</u>
Building Fund	5688	1475	(6602)	(561)	-
Other Funds	-	3405	(3730)	325	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5688	4880	(10332)	(236)	-
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Building Fund represents money received from a legacy in 2014 together with donations, which have been set aside for a project to redevelop the Church's buildings. Work on the buildings commenced in 2018 and was completed in 2021.

Our ref: DRG/BET 007

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

A Davis Esq
Bethel Evangelical Free Church
2 Pipistrelle Way
Oadby
Leicester
LE2 4QA

2023

Dear Andy

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

I enclose your bound copy of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Please let me know if you require any further information. In the meantime, I enclose a note of our fees for your kind attention in due course.

Yours sincerely

D R Gradon MA FCA
for Cound & Co LLP

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, WIGSTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1135831

Accounts

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135831

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics LE11 5XR

Tel: 01509 214163

**BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

CONTENTS

1 - 4	Report of the Church officers
5	Independent Examiners' Report
6	Statement of Receipts and Payments
7	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
8 - 10	Notes forming part of the financial statements.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The officers present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 8 and comply with the Church's trust deed and applicable law.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Inland Revenue Charity Ref: XN 26557

Charity Number: 1135831

Holding Trustees:

A Davis
D Eagles
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Elders:

Rev D Eagles (Pastor)
A Davis
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Deacons:

(No Deacons serving during the year ended 31 December 2021)

Church Premises:

Burleigh Avenue, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 1FH

Independent Examiners:

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

Bankers:

NatWest plc

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021****STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Until 2010, the Church was constituted under a trust deed dated 9 December 1981, and was an “excepted” charity by virtue of its affiliation to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. However, in order to comply with the Charities Act 2006, a new Constitution dated 9 March 2011 using an approved governing document issued by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches has been adopted and the Church has become a “Registered Charity”.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, the Managing Trustees comprise those persons appointed as Pastors, Elders and Deacons. There is provision for a minimum of three trustees at any one time. A number of Holding Trustees are appointed from amongst the Managing Trustees to take responsibility for the Church buildings and property.

Trustee Induction and Training

As trustees are drawn solely from the ranks of Church Elders and Deacons, they are already very familiar with the workings of the Church. As such, no specific formal training is given to new trustees, although they are briefed to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and duties as trustees.

Organisation

The Holding Trustees and officers who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on page 1. Pastors, Elders and Deacons are Managing Trustees and must all be in full agreement with the Church's doctrinal basis and “Church Matters” policy document:

Pastor: The appointment of a Pastor shall be by the unanimous recommendation of the Elders and Deacons and by the wholehearted spiritual witness of the Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the wholehearted approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

Elders: Recognising the biblical pattern, the existing Elders are to be the ones who normally identify new Elders, with the membership being invited to give their wholehearted agreement (Titus 1:5) at the Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

Deacons: Following the biblical pattern, Deacons shall be adult members who conform to the scriptural qualifications (1Tim 3:8-10, 12 and 13 Acts 6:3). Church members will give recommendations to the Elders and Deacons for their consideration. The Elders and Deacons will bring persons with their consent to the membership for their wholehearted agreement at a Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

The Pastors, Elders and Deacons shall normally serve without time limit up to the age of seventy, unless removed from office. However, Church Officers may be requested to continue in their office past this age, by the agreement of the other Church Officers and with an annual review. The following considerations should be taken into account when agreeing to continuation in office: health, gifts, mental capacity and the individual’s personal circumstances. A Pastor, Elder or Deacon may voluntarily resign by submitting in writing a letter to that effect to the remaining Church Officers. The Pastor will normally retire from office at the statutory retirement age.

Missionary Support Policy

The Church has continued to support several missionaries, both in the UK and Overseas, through discretionary support and designated gifts. Often, those supported have been sent out from Bethel to their new work and/or previously worked or served at Bethel Church.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the Church shall be:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Wigston and the surrounding neighbourhood;
- And such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting and the Managing Trustees, further the work of the Church.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives in planning future activities and policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Following the UK Covid outbreak (March 2020), the Church moved all of its Sunday and midweek meetings on line and suspended the other groups. Regular meeting of members and friends was enabled on-line through Zoom. The Sunday morning service reverted to being held in person at the Church premises from June 2021. The service is also still available online or via DVD, for those who still cannot attend in person, although the vast majority of people have now returned to the Church on Sunday.

The Church normally holds one service on a Sunday, as well as mid-week and ad-hoc meetings to teach the Christian faith and to provide opportunities for worship. In addition, the Church hosts activities for all ages, from tots and parents, through children, boys, girls, teenagers, young adults, ladies, men and senior citizens, which combine social activities with opportunities for teaching. The Church also arranges outreach events to raise awareness of the local Church in particular and the Christian faith in general. All the above activities and meetings are open to society in general and are not restricted to members of the Church.

The regular meetings were disrupted (by Covid) throughout the first half of the year, but most activities resumed from the second half of the year, including Weekly Kids at the Corner and Youth Meetings, as well as special opportunities such as the Christmas family services and Carols by Candlelight. The Easter Children's Holiday Club, Youth Mix and the Bible Exhibition for local schools all restarted in the first half of 2022.

"The Corner" coffee area and refurbished church hall are now used widely by the Church and also to provide an open door to the local community. This now hosts two new regular sessions, Community Night (held on Monday evening) and Friendship Café (held on Thursday morning) which are very well attended.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received during the year totalled £96,835, principally from donations to the Church, and was lower than the corresponding amount received in 2020 (£110,929). The 2021 giving included £15,664 designated for the Building Fund (2020: £25,936). Included in Other income is the receipt from the insurance claim made from the flooding in the Church.

Total payments during the year were £62,403, which was lower than the expenditure in 2020 (£78,994). The 2021 expenditure included a church building and refurbishment costs of £13,830 (2020: £31,028). The "normal" 2021 expenditure of £48,573 is slightly higher than the equivalent 2020 figure of £47,966. Overall, this meant that the Church reported a surplus for the year of £34,432 (2020: £31,935).

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

RESERVES POLICY

Reserves are set aside to respond to any unforeseen funding difficulties. The Church officers produce a budget each year to forecast the amount of income that the Church expects to receive. Based on this, the Church will plan its expenditure for the future year, so that it keeps normal expenditure pegged to slightly below the level of income.

The overall budget is reviewed during the year at Church officer meetings to ensure that the Church can achieve its targets regarding planned expenditure and make any adjustments as necessary to keep within it.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The officers have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

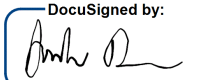
Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales require the officers to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the officers are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed
- subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue to function.

The officers are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and church officers on 14 June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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.....
A Davis
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE OFFICERS OF
BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 6 to 10

Respective responsibilities of the Church officers and examiners

The Church officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Church officers consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) 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 Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church 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 you as officers 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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.

D R Gradon
Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

DocuSigned by:

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14 June 2022

- 6 -

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

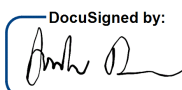
	<u>Notes</u>	2021 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2021 General <u>Funds</u>	2021 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2021 <u>Total</u>	2020 <u>Total</u>
Receipts:						
Donations and legacies		-	78827	15664	94491	110813
Charitable activities:						
Use of Church facilities		-	-	-	-	50
Other income		-	2344	-	2344	-
Investment income		-	-	-	-	66
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	81171	15664	96835	110929
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Payments:						
Charitable activities:						
Pastoral ministry	2	-	37441	-	37441	37970
Evangelism and outreach	3	-	170	-	170	937
Establishment costs	4	-	10962	13830	24792	40087
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments		-	48573	13830	62403	78994
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Net receipts/(payments)		-	32598	1834	34432	31935
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	32598	1834	34432	31935
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Bank balances at 1 January 2021		-	42053	3854	45907	13972
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	32598	1834	34432	31935
		-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Bank balances at 31 December 2021		-	74651	5688	80339	45907
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 Other Designated Funds	2021 General Funds	2021 Designated Building Funds	2021 Total Funds	2020 Total Funds
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Freehold land and buildings	5	-	285712	-	285712	271882
Fixtures and fittings	5	-	4365	-	4365	4989
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
		-	290077	-	290077	276871
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Prepayments		-	-	-	-	-
Bank balances		-	74651	5688	80339	45907
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
		-	74651	5688	80339	45907
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>						
Creditors and Accruals		-	1020	-	1020	2820
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
		-	73631	5688	79319	43087
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>						
		-	363708	5688	369396	319958
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>						
General Fund	6	-	363708	-	363708	316104
Restricted Fund	6	-	-	-	-	-
Designated Funds:						
Building Fund	6	-	-	5688	5688	3854
Other Funds		-	-	-	-	-
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
		-	363708	5688	369396	319958
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Financial Statements on pages 6 to 10 were approved by the trustees on 14 June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

 8A0A73F636BC4C8.....

A Davis

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021****1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES****a) Funds**

General funds represent the funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated for a particular use, in this case representing the Church's Buildings fund.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on the restricted purposes as specified by the donor.

2 PASTORAL MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

	2021 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2021 General <u>Funds</u>	2021 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2021 Total <u>Funds</u>	2020 Total <u>Funds</u>
Pastoral remuneration and expenses	-	35927	-	35927	35927
Employer's Pension Contributions	-	891	-	891	891
Employer's NIC	-	-	-	-	817
Visiting preachers	-	170	-	170	35
Missionary support	-	-	-	-	300
Training Costs	-	453	-	453	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	37441	-	37441	37970
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Church employs a Pastor. All of the Elders (including the Pastor) and Deacons are Managing Trustees, as they are all included in making decisions on how the charity's funds are expended. To avoid a conflict of interest, the Pastor continues to be excluded from all discussions relating to him and his remuneration. The Pastor is the only trustee to receive any remuneration or expenses; however other trustees have been reimbursed during the year for expenditure they have incurred on behalf of the Church.

3 EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

	2021 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2021 General <u>Funds</u>	2021 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2021 Total <u>Funds</u>	2020 Total <u>Funds</u>
Bible exhibitions	-	-	-	-	426
Outreach expenses	-	170	-	170	511
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	170	-	170	937
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4 ESTABLISHMENT COSTS

	2021 Other Designated Funds	2021 General Funds	2021 Designated Building Funds	2021 Total Funds	2020 Total Funds
Rates and water	-	933	-	933	1307
Insurance	-	1409	-	1409	1279
Light and heat	-	2391	-	2391	2763
Repairs and maintenance	-	1829	-	1829	2229
Cleaning	-	190	-	190	-
Telephone	-	488	-	488	438
Postage, stationery and photocopying	-	-	-	-	40
FIEC affiliation fees	-	750	-	750	750
Catering	-	-	-	-	107
DBS Checks	-	146	-	146	-
Other miscellaneous costs	-	6	-	6	146
Independent examination and payroll fee	-	2820	-	2820	-
Fixed Asset Purchases	-	-	13830	13830	31028
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	10962	13830	24792	40087
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

5 FIXED ASSETS

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Freehold Land and Buildings</u>	<u>Fixtures and Fittings</u>	<u>Total</u>
At 1 January 2021	271882	22654	294536
Additions	13830	-	13830
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2021	285712	22654	308366
<u>Depreciation</u>			
At 1 January 2021	-	17665	17665
Charge for the year	-	624	624
	-----	-----	-----
At 31 December 2021	-	18289	18289
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 December 2021	285712	4365	290077
	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 December 2020	271882	4989	276871
	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Church's freehold properties comprise:

- a) The Church buildings situated in Burleigh Avenue, Wigston (acquired 14 October 1950).
- b) The Church hall, bookshop and flat situated at the corner of Burleigh Avenue and The Crescent, Wigston (acquired 24 November 1955).

The Church officers estimate that the market value of the Church's properties following the refurbishment project is about £750,000.

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	2021 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2021 General Funds	2021 Designated Building Funds	2021 Total Funds	2020 Total Funds
Fixed Assets	-	290077	-	290077	276871
Current Assets	-	74651	5688	80339	45907
Current Liabilities	-	(1020)	-	(1020)	(2820)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	363708	5688	369396	319958
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Designated Funds are represented by:					
	B/Fwd <u>2020</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	C/Fwd <u>2021</u>
Building Fund	3854	15664	(13830)	-	5688
Other Funds	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	3854	15664	(13830)	-	5688
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Building Fund represents money received from a legacy in 2014 together with donations, which have been set aside for a project to redevelop the Church's buildings. Work on the buildings commenced in 2018 and was completed in 2021.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, WIGSTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1135831

Accounts

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2020

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1135831

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics LE11 5XR

Tel: 01509 214163

**BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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1 - 4	Report of the Church officers
5	Independent Examiners' Report
6	Statement of Receipts and Payments
7	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
8 - 10	Notes forming part of the financial statements.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The officers present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 8 and comply with the Church's trust deed and applicable law.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Inland Revenue Charity Ref: XN 26557

Charity Number: 1135831

Holding Trustees:

A Davis
D Eagles
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Elders:

Rev D Eagles (Pastor)
A Davis
W Easton
P Harrison

Church Deacons:

(No Deacons serving during the year ended 31 December 2020)

Church Premises:

Burleigh Avenue, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 1FH

Independent Examiners:

Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

Bankers:

NatWest plc

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Until 2010, the Church was constituted under a trust deed dated 9 December 1981, and was an “excepted” charity by virtue of its affiliation to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. However, in order to comply with the Charities Act 2006, a new Constitution dated 9 March 2011 using an approved governing document issued by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches has been adopted and the Church has become a “Registered Charity”.

Appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, the Managing Trustees comprise those persons appointed as Pastors, Elders and Deacons. There is provision for a minimum of three trustees at any one time. A number of Holding Trustees are appointed from amongst the Managing Trustees to take responsibility for the Church buildings and property.

Trustee Induction and Training

As trustees are drawn solely from the ranks of Church Elders and Deacons, they are already very familiar with the workings of the Church. As such, no specific formal training is given to new trustees, although they are briefed to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and duties as trustees.

Organisation

The Holding Trustees and officers who have served during the year and since the year-end are set out on page 1. Pastors, Elders and Deacons are Managing Trustees and must all be in full agreement with the Church's doctrinal basis and “Church Matters” policy document:

Pastor: The appointment of a Pastor shall be by the unanimous recommendation of the Elders and Deacons and by the wholehearted spiritual witness of the Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the wholehearted approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

Elders: Recognising the biblical pattern, the existing Elders are to be the ones who normally identify new Elders, with the membership being invited to give their wholehearted agreement (Titus 1:5) at the Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

Deacons: Following the biblical pattern, Deacons shall be adult members who conform to the scriptural qualifications (1Tim 3:8-10, 12 and 13 Acts 6:3). Church members will give recommendations to the Elders and Deacons for their consideration. The Elders and Deacons will bring persons with their consent to the membership for their wholehearted agreement at a Church Members’ Meeting, evidenced by the approval of at least three quarters of those present at the Church Members’ Meeting.

The Pastors, Elders and Deacons shall normally serve without time limit up to the age of seventy, unless removed from office. However, Church Officers may be requested to continue in their office past this age, by the agreement of the other Church Officers and with an annual review. The following considerations should be taken into account when agreeing to continuation in office: health, gifts, mental capacity and the individual’s personal circumstances. A Pastor, Elder or Deacon may voluntarily resign by submitting in writing a letter to that effect to the remaining Church Officers. The Pastor will normally retire from office at the statutory retirement age.

Missionary Support Policy

The Church has continued to support several missionaries, both in the UK and Overseas, through discretionary support and designated gifts. Often, those supported have been sent out from Bethel to their new work and/or previously worked or served at Bethel Church.

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the Church shall be:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Wigston and the surrounding neighbourhood;
- And such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting and the Managing Trustees, further the work of the Church.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commissions guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives in planning future activities and policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Following the UK Covid outbreak (March 2020), the Church moved all of its Sunday and midweek meetings on line and suspended the other groups. Regular meeting of members and friends was enabled on-line through Zoom.

At the time of writing (June 2021) The Sunday morning service has just reverted to being held in person at the Church premises, but it is also still available online or via DVD, for those who still cannot attend in person.

The Church normally holds one service on a Sunday, as well as mid-week and ad-hoc meetings to teach the Christian faith and to provide opportunities for worship. In addition, the Church hosts activities for all ages, from tots and parents, through children, boys, girls, teenagers, young adults, ladies, men and senior citizens, which combine social activities with opportunities for teaching. The Church also arranges outreach events to raise awareness of the local Church in particular and the Christian faith in general. All the above activities and meetings are open to society in general and are not restricted to members of the Church.

The regular meetings were disrupted (by Covid) throughout the year, including the special opportunities such as the Christmas family services, Carols by Candlelight, Easter Children's Holiday Club, Youth Mix and the Summer Sizzler outreach event, which would normally be attended by people of all ages, and also the Bible Exhibition hosted for local schools. Some of the other activities have been held on-line including weekly Kids at the Corner and Youth Meetings. Most groups are now starting to plan for a re-start, subject to Government Covid restrictions being lifted.

The refurbishment of the former youth hall has been completed during 2020 (and early 2021) so it is ready for the re-opening of Bethel's on-site outreach activities. All of the funds needed for this refurbishment, and the creation of 'The Corner' coffee area, were raised through special designated giving.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received during the year totalled £110,929, principally from donations to the Church, and was higher than the corresponding amount received in 2019 (£84,824). The 2020 giving included £25,936 designated for the Building Fund (2019: £27,981). The higher level of "normal" income in the year 2020 reflected a higher level of regular giving towards the general funds.

Total payments during the year were £78,994, which was lower than the expenditure in 2019 (£94,168). The 2020 expenditure included a church building and refurbishment cost of £31,028 (2019: £25,494). The "normal" 2020 expenditure of £47,966 is lower than the equivalent 2019 figure of £68,674 as the Trustees and Members brought expenditure more into line with projected income. Overall, this meant that the Church reported a surplus for the year of £31,935 (2019: £9,344 deficit)

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

RESERVES POLICY

Reserves are set aside to respond to any unforeseen funding difficulties. The Church officers produce a budget each year to forecast the amount of income that the Church expects to receive. Based on this, the Church will plan its expenditure for the future year, so that it keeps normal expenditure pegged to slightly below the level of income.

The overall budget is reviewed during the year at Church officer meetings to ensure that the Church can achieve its targets regarding planned expenditure and make any adjustments as necessary to keep within it.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The officers have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The laws applicable to charities in England and Wales require the officers to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the officers are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed
- subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue to function.

The officers are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and church officers on 14 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
A Davis
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT TO THE OFFICERS OF
BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 6 to 10

Respective responsibilities of the Church officers and examiners

The Church officers are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Church officers consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) 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 Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church 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 you as officers 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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.

D R Gradon
Cound & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Princes Court
Royal Way
Loughborough
Leics, LE11 5XR

15 June 2021

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	<u>Notes</u>	2020 Other Designated Funds	2020 General Funds	2020 Designated Building Funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
Receipts:						
Donations and legacies		748	84129	25936	110813	84595
Charitable activities:						
Use of Church facilities		-	50	-	50	213
Other income		-	-	-	-	-
Investment income		-	66	-	66	16
		748	84245	25936	110929	84824
Payments:						
Charitable activities:						
Pastoral ministry	2	300	37670	-	37970	51636
Evangelism and outreach	3	-	937	-	937	2729
Establishment costs	4	-	9059	31028	40087	39803
Total Payments		300	47666	31028	78994	94168
Net receipts/(payments)		448	36579	(5092)	31935	(9344)
Transfers		(448)	448	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	37027	(5092)	31935	(9344)
Bank balances at 1 January 2020		-	5026	8946	13972	23316
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		-	37027	(5092)	31935	(9344)
Bank balances at 31 December 2020		-	42053	3854	45907	13972

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 Other Designated Funds	2020 General Funds	2020 Designated Building Funds	2020 Total Funds	2019 Total Funds
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Freehold land and buildings	5	-	271882	-	271882	240854
Fixtures and fittings	5	-	4989	-	4989	5702
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
		-	276871	-	276871	246556
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Gift Aid tax recoverable		-	-	-	-	16872
Prepayments		-	-	-	-	-
Bank balances		-	42053	3854	45907	13972
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
		-	42053	3854	45907	30844
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>						
Creditors and Accruals		-	2820	-	2820	1620
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>NET CURRENT ASSETS</u>		-	39233	3854	43087	29224
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>		-	316104	3854	319958	275780
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
<u>FUND BALANCES</u>						
General Fund	6	-	316104	-	316104	264384
Restricted Fund	6	-	-	-	-	-
Designated Funds:						
Building Fund	6	-	-	3854	3854	11396
Other Funds		-	-	-	-	-
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
		-	316104	3854	319958	275780
		=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Financial Statements on pages 6 to 10 were approved by the trustees on 14 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

.....

A Davis

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Funds

General funds represent the funds of the Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated for a particular use, in this case representing the Church's Buildings fund.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on the restricted purposes as specified by the donor.

2 PASTORAL MINISTRY AND MISSIONARY SUPPORT

	2020 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2020 General <u>Funds</u>	2020 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2020 Total <u>Funds</u>	2019 Total <u>Funds</u>
Pastoral remuneration and expenses	-	35927	-	35927	36485
Assistant Pastor Salary	-	-	-	-	6364
Employer's Pension Contributions	-	891	-	891	820
Employer's NIC	-	817	-	817	1030
Visiting preachers	-	35	-	35	482
Missionary support	300	-	-	300	5975
Training Costs	-	-	-	-	480
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	300	37670	-	37970	51636
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Church employs a Pastor. All of the Elders (including the Pastor) and Deacons are Managing Trustees, as they are all included in making decisions on how the charity's funds are expended. To avoid a conflict of interest, the Pastor continues to be excluded from all discussions relating to him and his remuneration. The Pastor is the only trustee to receive any remuneration or expenses; however other trustees have been reimbursed during the year for expenditure they have incurred on behalf of the Church.

3 EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

	2020 Other Designated <u>Funds</u>	2020 General <u>Funds</u>	2020 Designated Building <u>Funds</u>	2020 Total <u>Funds</u>	2019 Total <u>Funds</u>
Bible exhibitions	-	426	-	426	1806
Outreach expenses	-	511	-	511	803
Bible clubs	-	-	-	-	120
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	937	-	937	2729
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

4 ESTABLISHMENT COSTS

	2020 Other Designated Funds	2020 General Funds	2020 Designated Building Funds	2020 Total Funds	2019 Total Funds
Rates and water	-	1307	-	1307	1015
Insurance	-	1279	-	1279	1482
Light and heat	-	2763	-	2763	3643
Repairs and maintenance	-	2229	-	2229	3367
Advertising	-	-	-	-	104
Telephone	-	438	-	438	576
Postage, stationery and photocopying	-	40	-	40	1187
FIEC affiliation fees	-	750	-	750	500
Catering	-	107	-	107	134
CCLI licence fee	-	-	-	-	498
Other miscellaneous costs	-	146	-	146	303
Independent examination and payroll fee	-	-	-	-	1500
Fixed Asset Purchases	-	-	31028	31028	25494
	-	9059	31028	40087	39803

5 FIXED ASSETS

<u>Cost</u>	<u>Freehold Land and Buildings</u>	<u>Fixtures and Fittings</u>	<u>Total</u>
At 1 January 2020	240854	22654	263508
Additions	31028	-	31028
At 31 December 2020	271882	22654	294536
<u>Depreciation</u>			
At 1 January 2020	-	16952	16952
Charge for the year	-	713	713
At 31 December 2020	-	17665	17665
Net Book Value at 31 December 2020	271882	4989	276871
Net Book Value at 31 December 2019	240854	5702	246556

BETHEL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Church's freehold properties comprise:

- a) The Church buildings situated in Burleigh Avenue, Wigston (acquired 14 October 1950).
- b) The Church hall, bookshop and flat situated at the corner of Burleigh Avenue and The Crescent, Wigston (acquired 24 November 1955).

The Church officers estimate that the market value of the Church's properties following the refurbishment project is about £750,000.

6 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	2020 Other Designated Funds	2020 General Funds	2020 Designated Building Funds	2020 Total Funds	2019 Total Funds
Fixed Assets	-	276871	-	276871	246556
Current Assets	-	42053	3854	45907	30844
Current Liabilities	-	(2820)	-	(2820)	(1620)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	316104	3854	319958	275780
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Designated Funds are represented by:					
	B/Fwd <u>2019</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	C/Fwd <u>2020</u>
Building Fund	11396	23486	(31028)	-	3854
Other Funds	-	748	(300)	(448)	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	11396	24234	(31328)	(448)	3854
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Building Fund represents money received from a legacy in 2014 together with donations, which have been set aside for a project to redevelop the Church's buildings. Work on the buildings commenced in 2018 and was completed in 2021.