

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1139836

Details

Other names GEORGE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH ERDINGTON

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2011-01-13

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Connected Life Church
George Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B23 7RY

Phone 0121 682 0125

Email baradaniel@gmail.com

Website www.georgeroad.com

Activities

Objects: THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE BAPTIST DENOMINATION. THE CHURCH MAY ALSO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND CARRY OUT OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Activities: Regular open public worship. Pastoral work, among sick and bereaved. Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses, small groups. Youth club with Christian ethos. Promoting Christianity by staging events, meetings, and distribution of literature. Promoting mission via provision of activities for senior citizens, parents toddlers and special need groups. Supporting mission in the UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Birmingham City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£344,793	£122,022	-	-
2023-12-31	£176,944	£146,377	-	-
2022-12-31	£212,573	£76,049	-	-
2021-12-31	£98,984	£80,629	-	-
2020-12-31	£111,231	£83,312	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Daniel Bara	Chair	2014-04-16
Alexandru Raul Botos		2025-09-13
Andrew Thewles		2014-01-01
Avram Satmari		2022-05-22
Daniel Dogar		2024-03-23
Estera Bucur		2022-05-22
JEAN ELIZABETH MORTON		2017-01-01
Mark Kwabia		2022-01-01
Nicolae Marin		2025-01-01
Nicolae Mihai		2022-01-01
Refina Ferreira		2025-01-01
Sylvia Ellen Carter		2020-01-01
Valerie Campbell		2022-01-01

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139836

Accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH 2024

2024 marked the second anniversary of the newly named Connected Life Church, a church with roots in both England and Romania, and a church in which both cultures are celebrated within the context of the unity found in Jesus Christ, the head of the Church.

Connected Life Church is a multi-cultural church which is blessed with members linked to a variety of nations throughout the world.

This year we studied the gospel of Mark in our sermons and care groups, where we reflected on the importance of a persons' heart before God.

Throughout the year we have received visitors and guest speakers from different nations, and were pleased to be joined for our anniversary celebrations in June by a guest speaker from Romania.

On the Saturday of our anniversary weekend, we had a seminar entitled 'Servants in the Church' which addressed the subject of dealing with conflict. There was also a dedicated evening meeting for the youth. On the Sunday we celebrated with a joint worship meeting of both English and Romanian-speaking congregations followed by a shared meal. The anniversary message was on the biblical perspective of remembrance and reflection on God's goodness to us.

The anniversary events were well received for their instruction, encouragement and direction.

Regular groups continued at the church, including Parents & Toddlers', Youth, Care, and Prayer groups. Church rooms were also used by various community groups, including an Eritrean church who have a connection with us going back several years.

A Food bank operated from the church premises, and was supported by church members as well as other members of the community.

As a church we have continued to support the Erdington Street Pastors team which meets regularly for prayer for the community and to walk the High Street during the day, offering support to people and a listening ear.

Our Christmas celebrations included a concert where our children and young people warmed us all with their musical talents.

In his Christmas message our pastor reflected on the King of kings stepping into our broken world, not as a distant ruler but as a Saviour who has come near to heal, restore and dwell with His people.

May God continue to keep us serving him in the community where he has placed us.

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

<u>General Account</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Receipts	£	£
Weekly Offering	149,731 *	152,809 *
Other Income (inc donations)	176,824	12,005
Gift Aid	17,984	11,812
Bank Interest for HEBA account	254	318
Total	344,793	176,944
Payments		
Ministry	63,167	62,591
Church Equipment	4,242	30,383
Upkeep of Church Premises	30,133	30,395
Administration	9,909	6,107
Missionary Giving	12,521	12,845
Youth Work	2,051	4,019
Other Expenditure	-	37
Total	122,022	146,377
Surplus	222,770	30,567

Bank Balance as at 1st January	260,299	229,733
Bank Balance as at 31st December	483,070	260,300

*Excludes special project monies.

Special Project Funds

Bank Balance as at 31st December 2024	32,447	32,447
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH (Reg charity number 1139836.)

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ending 31st December 2024, which have been set before me.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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



Paul Allen
4 Swan Road
Draycott In The Clay
Ashbourne
DE6 5GW
Date: 25 October 2025

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139836

Accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH 2023

2023 brought further development of the new look church, now named Connected Life Church, and comprising both English and Romanian language services.

This year we studied the bible book of Nehemiah in our sermons and care groups, where we were challenged as individuals and as a congregation to consider building and restoration in our lives.

Regular groups continued, including Parents & Toddlers', Youth, Care, and Prayer groups.

Services and some other groups continued to be accessible by electronic means, although in person meetings are now standard.

An Erdington Food bank operated from the church premises, and was supported by church members.

Church rooms were used by various community groups, including the Romanian Consulate.

An Eritrean church fellowship continues to meet at the church premises for a weekly worship service.

As a church we have continued to support the Erdington Street Pastors team which meets regularly for prayer and to walk the High Street during the day, offering support to people and a listening ear.

We have been pleased to welcome several guest speakers this year, including representatives from Romania America Mission, Safe Families, and Urban Development Birmingham.

Our Easter and Church Anniversary meetings were supported by guest speakers from Romania, and a Romanian counsellour and pastor brought teaching and preaching on family communications over one weekend.

Some parents, including the Pastor, took a group of young people to Spain for an encouraging time of Christian reflection and sharing lives.

In November our Senior Pastor was given a one month break which included attendance of a national congress in Panama which proved to be inspirational.

As part of the Christmas celebrations, we had a delightful children's and young people's musical concert in the church.

We continue to give thanks to God for what he is doing among us.

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

<u>General Account</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts	£	£
Weekly Offering	152,809 *	79,748 *
Other Income (inc donations)	12,005	9,117
Gift Aid	11,812	13,082
Bank Interest for HEBA account	318	165
Transfer From Emmaus **	-	110,461
Total	176,944	212,573
Payments		
Ministry	62,591	54,150
Church Equipment	30,383	166
Upkeep of Church Premises	30,395	12,000
Administration	6,107	3,790
Missionary Giving	12,845	3,196
Youth Work	4,019	604
Other Expenditure	37	2,143
Total	146,377	76,049
Surplus	30,567	136,524

Bank Balance as at 1st January	229,733	82,532
Bank Balance as at 31st December	260,300	229,733

*Excludes special project monies.

Special Project Funds

Bank Balance as at 31st December 2023	32,447	32,447
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Transfer from Emmaus as at 31st December 2023 **101,464

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH (Reg charity number 1139836.)

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ending 31st December 2023, which have been set before me.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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



Paul Allen
4 Swan Road
Draycott In The Clay
Ashbourne
DE6 5GW
Date: 28 September 2024

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139836

Accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH 2022

This was a blessed year for the church. At the beginning of 2022 the church was known as George Road Baptist Church, but in May 2022 we celebrated George Road Baptist Church being joined by Emmaus Church under the same charity number but with the new name of Connected Life Church. The Vision statement of the church makes clear the intention to be a multicultural, multi-congregation church which recognises, embraces, and celebrates racial, cultural, gender, and other forms of diversity represented in the community and the church. There is an English language worship service on Sunday morning and a Romanian language worship service on Sunday evening.

The proposal to join was brought to the two churches for approval at the March Church Members Business meetings. There was unanimous agreement, and the new name of Connected Life Church was adopted.

The church now has a Senior Pastor, an Assistant Pastor, and a Congregational Pastor with special responsibility for the Romanian congregation. Trustees for Connected Life Church have been drawn from the George Road and Emmaus fellowships. The pastors bring spiritual oversight, with support from the trustees, but all members are ministers in the church, and we aim for everybody to work together to build one another up in love.

In May we had a Celebration Day for Connected Life Church which consisted of a morning and an afternoon gathering for worship, with a shared lunch in between. The services included recorded messages of encouragement and praise to God from friends of the church who had given support and encouragement during the planning process. We also had the pleasure of visiting guests from the Romania-America Mission who have been friends of the church for several years.

The packed church for the celebration services was pleasing evidence of a return to in-person events that had been interrupted by the pandemic, although we continued to supply Zoom access to those who could not attend services and meetings in person.

We were pleased this year to be able to welcome guest preachers and speakers to the worship services. This included a visit from Viorel Luga of the Baptist Union/Association of Romania, who spoke at several churches throughout England. He brought encouragement to both the morning and evening congregations.

The parents and toddlers' group continued, as did the youth work and crèche. Care groups and prayer meetings continued as a mixture of in-person and on Zoom. Erdington Food bank, operating from the church premises, and supported by church members, continued to serve many people from the community, and the church rooms were again made available for hire by the local community. An Eritrean church fellowship meets at our premises for a weekly worship service.

As a church we have continued to support the Erdington Street Pastors team which meets regularly for prayer and to walk the High Street during the day, offering support to people and a listening ear.

We were saddened by the deaths of some much-loved church members this year, but are thankful that they are with the Lord, having completed the work he gave them to do. We also said goodbye to three couples who have relocated to local churches closer to their homes. We finished the year with 188 members in Connected Life Church.

When Ukraine was invaded in the early part of the year our Romanian and Moldovan members were deeply affected on a personal level. The church has responded with prayer and aid to local churches and workers known to us.

In May we had the privilege of hosting the Romanian Consulate for several days. This allowed hundreds of local Romanians easy access to Romanian Consulate facilities for such things as visa processing. This local provision was so successful that the Consulate would like to repeat it next year.

In August we hosted a youth ministry from Scotland known as FireStarters. Their enthusiasm and liveliness were a joy to behold. Their aim is to work in partnership with local churches to provide an environment where young people can be inspired to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. They spent a week with local churches here in Erdington, meeting with local people and also with people attending the Commonwealth Games which came to Birmingham this year. The young people experienced a deeply meaningful time of sharing their faith and their lives together.

We ended the year with Carol Services in English and Romanian giving thanks for the gift of God Himself. Our pastor's Christmas message to us was that God is both With Us and For Us, for Jesus shared fully in all our human experience of temptation, except that he never sinned. We can therefore draw near to him, to receive mercy and grace to help every day of our lives.

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

<u>General Account</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Receipts	£	£
Weekly Offering	79,748 *	77,434 *
Other Income (inc donations)	9,117	7,807
Gift Aid	13,082	13,744
Bank Interest for HEBA account	165	-
Transfer From Emmaus	110,461	-
Total	212,573	98,984
Payments		
Ministry	54,150	49,148
Church Equipment	166	500
Upkeep of Church Premises	12,000	12,877
Administration	3,790	11,147 **
Missionary Giving	3,196	6,670
Youth Work	604	287
Other Expenditure	2,143	-
Total	76,049	80,629
Surplus	136,524	18,356

Bank Balance as at 1st January	82,532	64,176
Bank Balance as at 31st December	229,733 ***	82,532

*Excludes special project monies.

**Includes transfer between funds.

***Includes HEBA Account/monies.

Special Project Funds

Bank Balance as at 31st December 2022	32,447	32,447
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH (Reg charity number 1139836.)

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ending 31st December 2022, which have been set before me.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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



Paul Allen
4 Swan Road
Draycott In The Clay
Ashbourne

DE6 5GW

Date: 12 September 2023

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139836

Accounts

CHARITY REPORT GRBC 2021

We began the year with a worship service in the church building. The Pastor sent New Year Greetings with a reflection on 'This is the day that the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it' (psalm 118:24). After the difficult and life-changing, plague-affected year of 2020 we were reminded that we should aim to live 'one day at a time'. The Bible message is that Christians are called to live for today without being anxious for tomorrow. In living for today the key, for the Christian, is to stay close to God and follow him.

The need to remain flexible and live each day as the LORD makes it was immediately tested as the latest coronavirus variant led to us closing the church to 'in person' meetings until Easter. The only activity that remained on the church premises was the Erdington Food Bank, which was wonderfully supported by church members, community members, and local businesses.

Sunday services, midweek prayer meetings, midweek Care groups and monthly Trustee meetings continued to meet on zoom. Care groups of around 5-12 people enabled us to share our lives and faith at a deeper level than was possible at the Sunday service. The church, as the Body of Christ, is a uniquely connected family. We were therefore pleased to be able to open the church doors on Easter Sunday, with an immediate experience of the benefit of meeting in person.

The church continued with hybrid meetings for the rest of the year, as the community that gathered in the building were joined on zoom by those who were scattered throughout various homes. As restrictions were lifted during 2021, we were able to resume communal celebrations and other occasions. The church family celebrated an infant dedication and an adult baptism. We were also thankful to be able to mark the passing of a much-loved member of the church without restrictions.

The continued prevalence of coronavirus in the population, and various states of ill-health amongst the members has contributed to the numbers attending services in the building remaining low compared to pre-lockdown numbers. The number of members has, however, remained largely unchanged, with the death of one member leading to a reduction from 130 to 129.

We have maintained our links with 'Erdington Churches Together', through various prayer initiatives and through a new 'Street Pastors' ministry. The Street Pastors is a church-led initiative which also includes other like-minded volunteers from the community. Members of our church together with the rest of the Street Pastors team meet regularly for prayer and to walk the High Street during the day, offering support and a listening ear.

In May our church gathering connected online with other Baptist churches, scattered around the nation, in a National Baptist Sunday Worship Service. The message was of Christian Engagement; 'Heal all that is broken; in our hearts; our streets; our world'. The message being that our faith must be expressed in works of goodness and kindness. In November we had our first 'in person' Business meeting since February 2020. During the interim period we held 'Information Meetings', on zoom, to update members and give opportunity to ask questions.

Some gatherings were not suitable for zoom, so it was not until September that we were able to restart a parent and toddlers' group. Youth meetings were also started in September. The Merger group restarted in person meetings in May after a 15 month pause. This Merger group was formed from the two churches of George Road Baptist Church and Emmaus Church, with the intention of bringing a practical proposal for merging the two churches. We restarted in May by looking at bible teaching on delays. God prepares his people through delays; he humbles them as they see their dependency on him with greater clarity. God brings us closer to himself through setbacks; we saw that our relationship with him is more important than arriving at our destination. From this foundation we made good progress with the practicalities of the merger, with the aim to complete in the year 2022.

GEORGE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

<u>General Account</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Receipts	£	£
Weekly Offering	77,434 *	75,590
Other Income (inc donations)	7,807	4,994
Gift Aid	13,744	14,365
Total	98,984	94,949
Payments		
Ministry	49,148	44,810
Church Equipment	500	-
Upkeep of Church Premises	12,877	19,672
Administration	11,147 **	4,450
Missionary Giving	6,670	14,365
Youth Work	287	15
Total	80,629	83,312
Surplus	18,356	11,638

Bank Balance as at 1st January	64,176	52,538
Bank Balance as at 31st December	82,532	64,176

*Excludes special project monies.

**Includes transfer between funds.

Special Project Funds

Bank Balance as at 31st December 2021	32,447	25,575
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

GEORGE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1139836

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31/12/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

James Cyril Cairns

Date:

13/10/2022

Name:

James Cyril Cairns BSc FCA

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

Chartered Accountant
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

19 Garman Close, Great Barr,
Birmingham, B43 6NB

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

CONNECTED LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1139836

Accounts

George Road Baptist church annual report 2020

This was the year a global pandemic transformed the world. The impending storm was barely noticeable when our year began with a focus on The Humble Servant, which included a memorable act of foot washing as a symbol of humble service. The second week of January was a 'Mark the Spot' service where a newly appointed Pastoral Care Team was commissioned to serve the church. This team proved to be a blessing to the church in reaching out to scattered and isolated members when the national lock down was implemented in March.

At the end of January Pastor Daniel travelled to the USA for two weeks to fulfil a preaching invitation from USA-based Romanian churches. In a busy schedule Daniel sought to develop connections and bring encouragement to the churches there. During Daniel's brief absence the church was well served by visiting preachers; the HEBA Regional Minister and a local Baptist pastor.

The established activities of the church continued until the lock down in March:

- Morning services for the GRBC congregation and evening services for the Emmaus congregation
- Prayer meetings, including prayer breakfast and prayer tea
- Merger meetings for the proposed merging of the GRBC and Emmaus congregations
- Church Business meeting
- Super Kitchen
- Work Party for routine maintenance

Meetings in the church building came to an abrupt halt in March, but the church was able to continue to come together on Sunday mornings through zoom technology on computers and phones. We are thankful to God for the provision of technology and technology support from members of the GRBC and Emmaus congregations. Sunday services also included YouTube for sermons by both our Pastor and international contacts. One activity that continued on the church premises was Food bank, which expanded in response to greatly increased needs.

With the enforced isolation, which resulted from the national response to the readily transmissible coronavirus, the church strove to stay connected by various means, such as zoom technology, email, letters and phone calls. The newly formed Pastoral Care Team proved to be a divinely timed blessing for the church. Care Group leaders and Trustees also worked hard to serve the members of the church.

The church congregation continued to receive support and bible teaching through services, sermons and Care group meetings, and prayer meetings were resumed via zoom. The Gospel Lighthouse Choir managed to meet together on zoom and were able to edit together a splendid recorded performance, which was shared during a Sunday service as an act of worship to God and an encouragement to the Church. The combination of Home-Schooling and Essential Workers workload put immense pressure on our Pastor's time,

which was partly relieved by sharing of the sermon load for a while.

Churches were allowed to reopen in July, but we were not emotionally ready to open until September. The Trustees of GRBC and Emmaus worked hard to make the building safe and compliant for those returning to the building for Sunday services. We continued to broadcast on zoom for the benefit of those who were not able to attend in person.

The church was obliged to close its doors during November owing to another national lock-down, but was able to reopen in December. We were thankful to be able to celebrate Christmas Day in the church building, and on the Sunday before Christmas, in addition to the morning service in the building, we also met in the evening on zoom for carols and an online production of 'Hark' – a nativity drama produced by Saltmine Theatre.

During this most challenging of years we are thankful that there were no deaths in the congregation, not least because funeral arrangements were severely restricted during the year. There were no new members and no members left; the number of members remaining at 130. There were no baptisms. Although some numbers are unchanged, our lives have all been changed. At the end of the year our Pastor led us in a devotion on the scripture 1 Corinthians 1:8,9 'He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.'

We are a church, the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we acknowledge that we only remain standing because the Lord is our strength and our portion forever.

GEORGE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

<u>General Account</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Receipts	£	£
Weekly Offering	75590	76535
Other Income (inc donations)	4994	11285
Gift Aid rebate	14365	12673
Choir	0	491
Totals	94949	100983
Payments		
Ministry	44810	44678
Upkeep of Church Premises	19672	12723
Administration	4450	5729
Missionary giving & transfer to special proj	14365	12817
Youth work	15	291
Totals	83312	76437
Surplus	11638	24546

Bank Balance as at 1 st January 2020	52538
Bank Balance as at 31 December 2020	64175

Special Projects Account

Bank Balance as at 31 December 2020	25575
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
George Road Baptist Church

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1139836

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020M.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: Greta Ogar

Date: 29/10/2021

Name: Greta Ogar

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

AAT

Address:

25 Berkswell road

Birmingham

B24 9EE

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.