

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 counsellor 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
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Date: 28 September 2024