

totnes united free church

56 Fore Street, Totnes, TQ9 5RP
Registered Charity Number 1147962



Church Family Night & AGM

Wednesday 18th October 2023

38 members were present and apologies had been received from 4 members. The meeting was quorate.

Dave Eaton, Chair of the Trustees welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer.

Phil Watson led those present in a time of worship.

Introduction & Purpose of the meeting Dave Eaton

Review of 2022

Our membership is currently 80, with several families moving in the past year, but we have welcomed new members too. Our Sunday service congregation is approximately 100.

As a church family, we commit to meeting twice a year to hear news of all that is going on in the life of the church. One of these meetings is our Annual General Meeting in which we present the Annual Financial Report, which will come later and a Report of Church Life to the church, ahead of presenting them to the Charity Commission.

This year you will hear a short summary from me and then each member of the prayer planning team will come forward and share more from different areas of church life. This will demonstrate the number of ministries and activities that the church supports every week.

Trustees meet every two months and are supported by the operations coordinator who minutes the meetings. Totnes United Free Church exists to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to make Him known.

This is fulfilled by a staff team of a pastor and operations coordinator. All other ministries are staffed by church members on a volunteer basis.

One of the key developments in 2022 was the decision to employ two interns with support from the South West Baptist Association. Therefore, in September 2022 we welcomed Lu to the

church and in November Meagan joined. We are grateful as a church family for those who opened their homes and lives to support Meg and Lu during their time in Totnes.

One of the key areas of ministry that was developed was the Living Room. This was an outreach to the town, a warm space over winter and an opportunity for deeper conversations over a coffee. The after party is a key aspect where members of the team share a small passage from the bible or a testimony and discussions flow. We have seen people take steps to come to church and become regular attendees through the outreach of the Living Room

As Trustees we received a request for a sabbatical from the Pastor. We were pleased to be able to support this request for a 3 month sabbatical in 2023.

To support the church family in the absence of a pastor the Prayer Planning Team was created to provide spiritual and pastoral support to the church family. They have continued in this as Ade Gascoyne left Totnes United Free church at the beginning of September to join the navy as a chaplain.

These are their reports:

The Living Room

Pauline Simpson

This term Living Room Cafe was firstly managed by our wonderful band of volunteers, until John & Penny recently took on managing this outreach, and they are doing a great job.

The Living Room Cafe is the front face of TUFC - open to all and it aims to be a place of warmth, love, peace, acceptance and a place for many encounters with the love of Jesus. Each Tuesday and Thursday you will find many people here ranging from a new born baby to a 95 year old! There are opportunities to chat and most people are happy to share their thoughts on faith and their experiences or concerns and happy to receive prayer. Some guests have also come into Create and Womens Scripture and some have come in on a Sunday.

Prayer

Pauline Simpson

There are many opportunities throughout every week to pray. It is vitally important that we pray!

Monday Evening 7-8pm

Led by Polly and me.

We use our Bibles which are our prayer books! We worship and pray for anything and everything!

Wednesday Morning 7.30 - 8am

Sundays

Jean Le Roux

WORSHIP & SERMON:

Our worship teams regularly lead us into the Presence of God as we worship, and the sermons we hear are inspiring and often challenging.

LOVING & WELCOMING CHURCH:

I want to say thank you for being part of such a welcoming church and for making newcomers feel welcomed and loved.

PRAYERS:

We have also started praying for situations; events and people groups that God puts on our hearts.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY:

For me I sense a general feeling of family, friendship and community being developed as we meet on Sunday mornings and have lunches together.

EXPECTANT HEART:

We are in an exciting time when, I believe, God wants to MOVE even more powerfully in our Sunday Services, so let's come to church with an EXPECTATION of God being WITH us and making His Presence known among us.

CAP

Phil Watson

Partner Churches

The South Hams CAP Centre has been well supported by individuals and by our partner churches. We now have five churches supporting our centre as follows:-

Dartmouth Baptist Church (DBC).

Flavel Church - in Dartmouth (joined us this year).

Kingsbridge Family Church (KFC).

South Hams Christian Fellowship (SHCF)- in Kingsbridge.

Totnes United Free Church (TUFC).

CAP has a Support Team, Debt Coaches and is managed by JEN SWEET - CAP South West Area Manager

Tech Teams - Sound and Projection

Phil Watson

Eric Oppong continues to the the lead for the sound and projection teams, for which we sincerely thank him. We are beginning to take a look at our equipment and see how it could be improved to facilitate a better outcome for our services.

Music Teams

- Liz Gopal has now stepped down as our Music Worship Leader, and we would once again like to thank her so much for all she has done with our worship teams over the past seven or so years. Her encouragement, vision and skill has led our music teams forward to the position we enjoy today.
- Tristan Snowsill has kindly taken on the task of producing rotas for the worship teams, and we thank him for that.
- Sunday mornings and the occasional midweek meetings are served by a number of worship leaders who take responsibility for their team from week to week. This arrangement seems to be working well, and thank you to all the worship leaders and musicians who make up these teams.

- Please pray about the possibility of God calling someone to take on the role of Worship Leader, as Liz has done in the past.

Church Groups & Alpha

Fraser Nute

There are nine different groups here at Totnes United Free and I'd like to give thanks and celebrate God's goodness to the Mission Communities in Bridgetown, Diptford, Ipplepen & Totnes, along with Create, Women's Scripture, Men's Group, Kintsugi Hope & Alpha.

As a church we believe in the value of small groups - groups of up to 12-15 people meeting together through the week. These groups are a microcosm of the larger church and provide pastoral support, fellowship and a way to share our lives. They also enable people to discover and develop their spiritual gifts, learn from God's word, worship and pray, and serve together. All these elements are integral to these friendship groups and they are open to everyone.

We'd like to say a big 'thank you' to the faithful and faith filled team of people who have led our groups over the last year: Phil & Lynn, Matt & Liz, John & Margaret, Pete & Pauline, Jean & Rachel, Humfrey & Rosemary.

Our Church mission statement is: 'Going with the Good News and Growing Followers of Jesus.' These small groups will always be doing that: helping people in the community meet Jesus and enabling everyone to grow in their faith and find a home in this church family. All the Mission Communities reported that they had met regularly throughout the year for fellowship and Bible study, supporting group members with prayer and practically.

Create: A group for arts and crafts on a Tuesday, with people enjoying discovering their artistic skills they didn't know they had, which is a great encouragement. The group chat and share as they paint or craft and it's been exciting to welcome one or two new people. People seem to feel comfortable and at home together. It's a great group.

Women's Scripture: We have about 12 women meeting together on Thursdays at 10 here in the Cream Room. The highlight this term has been members stepping out of their comfort zone and leading a Bible study with great support from the whole group. We have developed strong supportive relationships and have welcomed a couple of new people which is greatly encouraging. We share our prayer needs and pray for each other. It's a vibrant, lively support group of women seeking to know more of the Lord.

Men's Group: Men in our church and occasional others meet on Thursdays at 10am usually at the Quayside Bistro. Our discussions are purely Holy Spirit led and often go deep into the Word covering a vast range of topics.

Alpha: This year we have 11 guests on our Alpha course. Unusually our ages range from 17 - 75! Each guest is seriously seeking Jesus, and we already trust one another to disagree well,

and to laugh and to cry together. A big thank you to our faithful prayer team... we couldn't do this without strong spiritual support. Ric and Emma you're the best helpers we could ask for, thank you.

Youth and Children

Dave Eaton

Our creche children have grown and become school age children.

Children – Mary writes, it has been a tremendous privilege to lead the children ministry for almost 20 years. The team has lost some key members recently with Alex passing away and the Shilstons moving to a church closer to home. Despite this there is a team in place during this term.

Helen has stepped onto the team and is helping with back hall creative sessions which involve those who have just started school.

Mary is really sad to say goodbye to the children and the team and her hope is that someone will be found to lead this group.

Dave thanked Mary who has led the team so brilliantly and faithfully, and reiterated her call for an overseer to step up.

Youth: Paul & Hannah Dixon have stepped down from leading the youth, and we now have Hannah Harris in that role. She has asked for prayer for building relationships and for those who are no longer youth and have moved on.

Finance

Carol Leigh

The formal audit of accounts by Tony Jopson was received and accepted.

The year 2022 saw a significant percentage drop in income largely due to the effects of the Pandemic. The drop was significant that the auditor was considering issuing a qualification against the accounts which would have meant that we could not have continued to trade as a going concern. Praise God we are turning this around and many thanks to church members and friends for increased financial support.

Accounts 2022

Total Income: £67,746

Total Expenditure: £87,966

Loss: £20,220

Accounts Year to Date 2023

Total Income: £92,632

Total Expenditure: £78,963

Surplus: £13,669

Going Forward - The process for finding our next Pastor

Our envisioning evenings are happening here at church on:

Wednesday 15th November at 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd November at 7.30pm

Wednesday 29th November at 7.30pm

All of them will be facilitated by Carl Smethurst of the SW Baptist Union and he will set the format of the evenings, but they will in turn look at the Past, Present and Future of TUFC in order for us to then write our church profile.

The church profile will have:

An introduction

The church as it is now

Information on the surrounding community

The church we wish to see

Ministry we are seeking

History

Practical matters

We hope to have an online link for those who cannot be here for every meeting.

But our process starts now with our praying and that is the responsibility of all of us.

Special Guest

Ade Gascoyne

Ade had sent us a short video message.

His nickname is Bish (short for Bishop) and he's grateful that everyday he is able to share something of God and that the men expect him to pray before they go out training, change leaders etc. One young man said, 'I'm not religious, but your prayers move me.' Ade was able to share with him that this is the Holy Spirit making himself known. Some have joined the evening Communion service and he has had to order Bibles for some of the men.

He asked us to pray for him and Mary and the girls as they deal with the separation, that they would find a house; for his training on Dartmoor and his first posting on a destroyer in a month's time.

From the floor

Matt Gopal thanked the Trustees for their leadership of the church.

The evening closed with members praying in small groups.

We were encouraged to pray for Ade's requests and for the vision evenings and for the Pastor that God is calling to TUFC.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TOTNES UNITED FREE CHURCH

I report on the accounts of Totnes United Free Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 8 to 13 below.

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

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

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

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.

.....
A P Jopson
A P Jopson

.....
Date
Date

Member of Association of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
Tony Jopson & Co, 246 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

TOTNES UNITED FREE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(including income and expenditure account)

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary Income	2	51,270	832	52,102	69,296
Investment income	3	590	0	590	2,408
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Other activities	3	15,055	0	15,055	16,432
Total incoming resources		66,915	832	67,747	88,136
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	4	87,139	832	87,972	84,225
Total resources expended		87,139	832	87,972	84,225
Net incoming resources		(20,224)	0	(20,224)	3,911
Total funds at 1 January		57,819	0	57,819	53,908
Total funds at 31 December		37,595	0	37,595	57,819

TOTNES UNITED FREE CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

at 31 December

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		11,328		18,873
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	5,649		7,309	
Cash at bank and in hand		31,640		32,393	
		37,289		39,702	
CREDITORS: amounts					
falling due within one year	9				
Creditors		(8,807)		(556)	
Accruals		(2,215)		(200)	
		(11,022)		(756)	
Net current assets			26,267		38,946
NET ASSETS			37,595		57,819
Unrestricted funds			37,595		57,819
Restricted funds			0		0
TOTAL FUNDS			37,595		57,819

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the financial provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The financial statements on pages 9 to 13 were approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:-

Carol Leigh
Treasurer

Totnes United Free Church 2023

	Projected	Actual	Actuals year ends		
Description	Year End	Year End	2022	2021	2020
INCOME					
Offering - Non Gift Aid	6900	12010	6906	11699	9956
Gift Aid Receipts	42000	56410	42277	57297	55575
Restricted Giving Received	0	550	831	100	800
Tax Refunds on Gift Aid	12535	12606	10619	13432	16686
Dividends Received	15	29	21	32	5
Grants Received	0	0	0	444	2000
Legacies		0	2000		
Church Room Hire	4200	4900	1910	0	630
Lorry Use Income	0	0	0	2	150
Bank Interest Received	36	118	10	2406	13
Hendra Trust Interest	600	1675	580	120	550
Brite Festival	0	0		0	460
CAP designated donations	0	0	0	940	0
Lee Abbey	0	0		0	0
Living Room Donations	960	1538	86	460	127
Youth work Receipts	0	0		0	1205
Insurance Claims	0	0	0	0	559
Support for Interns		2500	2500		
Alpha Income	0	0	0	0	0
Other Income	0	296	6	2	
			0		
TOTAL INCOME	67246	92632	67746	86933	88716

DIRECT EXPENSES

TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES	3660	3556	3329	1888	3859
------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

GIVING

Support & Giving to Missions **	4920	4880	5660	5402	6044
Giving to Charitable Causes	0	0	0	0	0
CAP Charity	720	720	720	933	2000
Tear Fund	0	0	0	105	385
BP & HS Rex Missionaries	3200	3000	3000	3000	3000
Kinsugi Hope		360	361		
Prayer Wave	0	0	0	150	0
Speaker's Honorariums	400	100	200	2020	550
S W Baptist Association	1800	1800	1800	586	3000
Gifts for Congregation	400	533	113	160	387
Restricted Funds Used		300	832		
				0	0
TOTAL GIVING	11440	11693	12686	12357	15366

OVERHEADS

Employment Costs

Sub-Total	38683	41152	48509	47174	52022
------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Establishment Costs

0

Sub-Total	10250	11081	7809	6552	7260
------------------	-------	-------	------	------	------

Manse (Hendra)

0

0

3834	3680	3921	5516	4410	

Office

0

650	236	632	1003	1391	
-----	-----	-----	------	------	--

Fees & Subscriptions

1782	1992	2131	2244	2406	
------	------	------	------	------	--

Repairs Renewals & Maintenance

1200	1637	1145	675	2856	
------	------	------	-----	------	--

Other

0	0	3149	1073	893	
---	---	------	------	-----	--

Depreciation

Equipment Depreciation

3936	3936	4596		3936	
------	------	------	--	------	--

Sub-Total	3936	3936	4596		3785

Suspense

Sub-Total			59		
------------------	--	--	----	--	--

0

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	60059	67270	75280	66124	80336
TOTAL GIVING	11440	11693	12686	12357	16106

TOTAL OVERHEADS	71499	78963	87966	78481	96442
------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-4253	13670	-20220	8453	-7726
------------------------	-------	-------	--------	------	-------

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TOTNES UNITED FREE CHURCH

I report on the accounts of Totnes United Free Church for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 8 to 13 below.

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

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

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

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.

.....
A P Jopson
A P Jopson

.....
Date
Date

Member of Association of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
Tony Jopson & Co, 246 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4QG