



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Bethesda Evangelical Church

No (if any)
1149548

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2023

To

Period end date
31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings and donations	51,189	-	-	51,189	39,865
Property Fund donations		13,305	-	13,305	16,604
Grants, gifts and tax refunds received	14,126		-	14,126	13,472
Book stall income	333	-	-	333	157
Interest income	55	807	-	862	162
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	65,703	14,112	-	79,815	70,260
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	65,703	14,112	-	79,815	70,260
A3 Payments					
Employee costs	39,215	-	-	39,215	38,247
Gifts to Missionaries and Evangelists	9,105	-	-	9,105	8,290
Training and conferences	1,931	-	-	1,931	1,093
Property Fund expenditure	-	343	-	343	4,002
Repairs, renewals and equipment	971	-	-	971	467
Light, heat and water rates	660	-	-	660	3,097
Youth work	673	-	-	673	1,181
Printing, postage and stationery	391	-	-	391	104
Outreach	1,086	-	-	1,086	1,162
Book stall expenditure	413	-	-	413	124
Sundries	3,711	-	-	3,711	4,217
Legal and professional	894	-	-	894	2,357
Sub total	59,050	343	-	59,393	64,341
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	59,050	343	-	59,393	64,341
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,653	13,769	-	20,422	5,919
A5 Transfers between funds	-	2,392	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	26,604	171,348	-	197,952	192,033
Cash funds this year end	30,865	187,509	-	218,374	197,952

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank Ltd - Church Account	30,865	817	-
	CAF Bank Ltd - Property Account	-	166,018	-
	Kingdom Bank	-	20,674	-
	Total cash funds	30,865	187,509	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

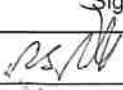
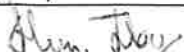
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-



	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ROBERT PICKETT	11/7/24
	Huw ILEY	14/7/24

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES		Independent examiner's report on the accounts	
Section A Independent Examiner's Report			
Report to the trustees/ members of		BETHESDA EVANGELICAL CHURCH	
On accounts for the year ended		31 December 2023	Charity no (if any) 1149548
Set out on pages		1-2	
Responsibilities and basis of report		<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.</p> <p>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").</p> <p>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.</p>	
Independent examiner's statement		<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or • the accounts do not accord with the accounting records <p>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.</p>	
Signed:			
Date:		25/07/2024	
Name:		Joanne Thomlinson FCA	
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):		Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales	
Address:		Dodd & Co Limited, FIFTEEN, Montgomery Way, Rosehill Industrial Estate, CARLISLE, CA1 2RW	
Section B Disclosure			
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.		Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).	

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B



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	01	2023		31	12	2023

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Bethesda Evangelical Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1149548

Charity's principal address

Bethesda Evangelical Church

Townfoot Industrial Estate

Brampton

Postcode

CA8 1SW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1 Paul Bacon			Trustees
2 Huw Iley	Pastor/Chair		Trustees
3 Robert Pickett	Secretary		Trustees
4 Russell John Noble			Trustees

Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed (16 th October 2012)
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

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Sunday Worship Services – weekly Sunday morning services, for people of all ages. Younger children usually join in for the first part of the service, and are then invited to their own group (called 'Sunday Club'), but we also have several all-age services per year. Services are designed to be accessible to those who wish to find out more about the Christian faith, as well as for those who have been Christians for some time. The service includes sung worship, prayer, reading and preaching of the Bible, news of what's happening in the church and local community; and people typically stay as long after the service for refreshments and time to chat! During summer months we also serve those visiting the area on holiday.

Sunday Club (School) – for children of primary school age. The group is available every Sunday, and numbers attending can vary from 5-18! Volunteer leaders work hard to prepare sessions that help children learn from the Bible (especially it's overall storyline) in an age-appropriate and fun way.

Community Groups – we have three groups, meeting weekly for friendship, group Bible study and prayer, some in-person and some continued on Zoom throughout the year. These have been a key source of friendship and encouragement, and have strengthened the church community.

Pathfinders – a group for secondary school aged children, meeting every Sunday afternoon in term time. This is designed for those young people who want some deeper Bible study in an informal environment, with food and games.

Make & Mend – one-off events, several times per year. Some designed for children (accompanied by parents/carers); others for youth and adults. A great opportunity to enjoy craft (including learning new skills), in a friendly welcoming environment. The weekly group has not yet re-started since the Covid pandemic.

Bethesda @ 5 - we began Bethesda @ 5 towards the end of 2022, and after review in 2023 it is now a valued part of church life. All ages are welcome, for a mixture of eating together, games, coffee & chat; followed by a topic to explore and time to pray. It has helped people of different ages and backgrounds to interact and grow in friendship.

Socials - we organised a range of social events over the year, some with specific age-groups in mind (e.g. retired age) and some for all. These popular events can enhance existing friendships, but are also very effective for newcomers to Brampton to meet people and settle in. Those for folk of retired age are developing into a regular group - 'Young at Heart'.

Special services - we have special services around Christmas, Easter, and Remembrance Sunday, some on our own and some in partnership with other churches in Brampton.

Holiday Clubs for children – Summer Holiday Club is organised in partnership with other churches in Brampton area, and provides

primary school age children the opportunity to explore the Christian faith, with lots of games, craft, singing, drama sketches, snacks and fun thrown in! It can also be a help to parents/carers. It ran in the first week of the school summer holidays. Prior to the Covid pandemic we ran an Easter Cub, in a similar way, on Good Friday. In 2023 we re-started it, but with a changed format. In partnership with other local churches, we ran 'Exploring Easter', as a one-off after school event, with different 'stations' for children and parents/carers to explore the Easter story, with crafts and other fun activities. It seemed to be a success and is likely to continue in this format.

Night Light – is a youth group aimed at those of secondary school age, on Friday evening, in school term time. The group aims to create a fun and safe environment where young people can learn something of the Christian faith. Night Light began as a joint initiative with other churches in Brampton area, and is now run by Network Youth Church, with support from local churches. We continue to help provide leaders and speakers for the Club.

Hope Explored - a new resource, produced by Christianity Explored ministries. We offered a course early in the year, and those who came along enjoyed some really good discussions. The course is shorter, very encouraging, and a good introduction to Christianity. It is likely we will offer it in future years, as well as Christianity Explored.

Public Benefit

We, as trustees, take our responsibility to ensure that our activities provide public benefit very seriously. We are confident that all the activities listed above provide such benefit. They are all open to members of the general public and are advertised in various ways.

We also very much encourage church attendants to invite friends and acquaintances to these activities and to serve the community in any way that they can. Some of our church services (e.g. Christmas) and the Christianity Explored course are especially geared towards those who might not normally come to church and give people an opportunity to learn more about the Christian Faith.

Add itional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2023 turned into an encouraging year of growth for Bethesda. At the start of the year, we were still significantly lower in terms of Sunday attendance compared to pre-Covid, which in turn had implications for the number of volunteers to serve, invite new people, and support the church financially. During the year, numbers increased and the amount of church activity was able to grow. By the end of the year, numbers attending were very similar to pre-Covid. As many were new, they need time and help to settle in, and find how they can best contribute to the church community, but it means we are in a more encouraging position as we head into 2024.

Newcomers are a wide mix of ages and backgrounds - some have moved into the area, some are returning to church after years away, others have moved from churches where they have been discouraged for a variety of reasons. It has been particularly encouraging to see people return to church after many years away, and their joy in re-connecting. Services continued to be available online, with 5-10% of those attending typically online.

Children (and parents/carers) have enjoyed Sunday Club. The Pathfinders group continued to grow, and it is encouraging to see the Bible discussions developing. Three from the group attended and enjoyed Christian summer camps, and we hope more will attend in future.

Community Groups, some in-person and some online, have been highly valued by those in them, and now play a key role in the prayer and community life of the church.

The summer Holiday Club went well, with the highest attendance we can remember, and lots of enthusiasm. It was limited to 3 days (plus a set-up day), and we will explore whether 4 days are possible in 2024. It also provided some good links with families in the town.

Bethesda @5 became an established ministry over the year, and provides good variety to our regular Sunday morning services, facilitates integration across the age groups in the church, and some have found it easy to invite others along to it.

Hope Explored is a positive new way for us to help people explore the hope that Jesus offers, and is likely to be useful in the future.

We continue to be encouraged by those from Bethesda who are currently away studying at university, as they have continued to grow and serve in new places and churches.

The informal fellowship in Haltwhistle has grown and developed over the year, friendships and vision have deepened. Bethesda continues to offer support and prayer that it will grow into a healthy church to serve Haltwhistle and the surrounding area in the longterm.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is our Charity's policy to hold at least three months expenditure in its unrestricted funds

Details of any funds materially in deficit

No funds are in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our income is primarily from the giving of members of the church congregation plus some additional external supporters.

Section F Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Huw Iley	Robert Stephenson Pickett
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Full name(s)

Huw NATHAN ILEY	ROBERT STEPHENSON PICKETT
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Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

CHAIR	SECRETARY
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Date

12/05/24
