

THE BEACON CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1150685

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2013-02-04

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

Contact

Address 2 Coralin Way
Bryn
Wigan
Lancashire
WN4 0ET

Phone 07467 245952

Email contact-us@beacon-church.org.uk

Website www.beacon-church.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 3.1 THE OBJECTS OF THE CHURCH ARE, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT:- 3.1.1 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 FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT; 3.1.2 TO RELIEVE SICKNESS AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND TO PROMOTE AND PRESERVE GOOD HEALTH BY THE PROVISION OF FUNDS, GOODS OR SERVICES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PROVISION OF COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT, IN SUCH WAYS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT; AND 3.1.3 TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN SUCH WAYS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT.

Activities: The advancement of the Christian Gospel of salvation by the grace of God through Christ Jesus. The relief of sickness and financial hardship and the promotion and preservation of good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind, counselling and support. The advancement of education. In such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may think fit.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WORLDWIDE
- Wigan

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£72,879	£64,295	-	-
2023-12-31	£78,876	£57,799	-	-
2022-12-31	£72,244	£68,044	-	-
2021-12-31	£61,307	£61,312	-	-
2020-12-31	£50,647	£54,456	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MR J R POLLARD	Chair	2012-12-03
MR D J CARSON		2012-12-03
MR G TITHER		2012-12-03
MR P S STANDISH		2012-12-03

THE BEACON CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1150685

Accounts



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Expanding God's Kingdom by loving & serving Jesus, each other & our community

Trustees' Annual Report for 2024

Trustees holding office during the year

Mr D J Carson, Mr J R Pollard (Chairman), Mr P S Standish & Mr G Tither

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

Registered Address: 2 Coralin Way, Bryn, Wigan, Lancashire WN4 0ET

The Beacon Church celebrated its twelfth anniversary during 2024, the first Sunday Morning service having been held on 21 October 2012. The church is centred in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire and during 2024 its Sunday worship services have been held at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church on Bolton Road in the town.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The full name of the charity is The Beacon Church.

The charity was registered in England on 4 February 2013 with registered number 1150685.

It is an unincorporated association and its governing document is its constitution which was adopted on 3 December 2012 (as amended on 5 July 2015 and 22 August 2018).

Church Leadership

Antony Billington has been the church's Senior Pastor since September 2018 and, since James Lycett stepped down from the role of Associate Pastor in October 2022, has in fact been the church's only Pastor. As a former lecturer at the London School of Theology and later Head of Theology at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) Antony has brought with him to the role a wealth of experience in teaching the Word of God.

In 2024, Antony covered the majority of the regular teaching ministry of the church along with providing pastoral support for all those attending.

Alongside his role as Pastor, Antony dedicates the equivalent of one day per week to his other roles, including serving as an associate lecturer for Union School of Theology and the Irish Bible Institute, as a regional tutor for Crosslands, and as an occasional consultant and speaker for the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

The Leadership Team continued to operate as Elders and Deacons in 2024 with Antony as Pastor meeting with both groups as appropriate. Joe Heyes resigned as a Deacon in February 2024.

The other members of the Leadership Team each have membership of one of these two groups as follows: -

Pastor: Antony Billington

Elders: Glyn Tither
David Case
James Lycett

Deacons: Daniel Carson
Craig Galloway
Chris Gaskell
Joseph Heyes – resigned February 2024
Phillip Standish

Although these groups meet separately to discuss their respective areas of responsibility the Leadership Team as a whole still continues to meet on a regular basis as necessary and most of the time meets once every month.

Location

The church is based in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire. and during 2024 made use of a number of hired premises for the purposes of the various meetings which were held and the numerous ministries which were in operation as follows:

Building/Venue	Usage/Meeting
Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church	Sunday Morning Service Kids' Church Sunday Evening Service Fellowship/Members'/Church Meetings Beacon Beebies Youth Club Lighthouse Ignite Connect Beacon Women MOACA

For greater detail concerning the various meetings and ministries see later on in this report.

Risk Management

The Church's finances are subject to independent examination. The Trustees comply with Charity Commission advice and directives in the running of the church. The Trustees are satisfied that major risks are being assessed and systems put in place for their mitigation. We have re-assessed our financial position post the COVID-19 pandemic and are satisfied as to our ability to operate as a going concern. Financially, the church continues to be well supported by those who attend and remains able to meet all commitments.

Following the cessation of the weekly cash collection in 2020, members who previously gave to the church in that way continued to contribute instead by way of monthly standing order. In June 2022, the church purchased a 'giving station' which has enabled the receipt of gifts by way of chip and PIN or contactless card payment.

The church is committed to protecting children and any vulnerable adults with whom we come into contact. As part of this we have developed a policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults produced with the support of Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)). We have Designated Officers and comply with the Code of Practice set out by Thirtyone:eight in matters of confidentiality and safe keeping of records. During 2024, all paid workers and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults received specialist safeguarding training.

We comply with the Equality Act 2010 in relation to those with disabilities and make every effort to be inclusive of anyone, whatever their disability. Access to all of the premises which we hire for our various meetings and other ministries is at ground level and accessible for wheelchairs.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objects

The charity's principal objective and activity continues to be the promotion of Christianity and the teachings of the Bible. This objective is met through the operation of a church and its associated activities such as Sunday services (both morning and evening), house groups and other Bible study groups for adults, a Sunday school ('Kids' Church'), missionary trips and support of missionary organisations, community evangelism, weekly clubs and activities for children of all ages and a monthly club for those with disabilities.

Further charitable objects of the church are the relief of sickness and financial hardship and the promotion and preservation of good health and also the advancement of education. One way in which the first is met is through a ministry which the church operates which provides meals to those who have just come out of hospital or are otherwise recuperating from illness and their families, including new parents following the birth of their children.

Following the closure of The Pantry Café, at Stubshaw Cross, in December 2021, the work has continued through the work of Ashton Foodbank (formerly Ashton Pantry) which is based at St Thomas's Church of England church in Ashton-in-Makerfield in which several members of the church congregation continue to be involved.

The second further charitable object of advancing education is met principally through the provision of a Sunday School ('Kids' Church'), the Lighthouse, Youth Club and Ignite groups and the studies which take place during the week in the house groups, including the Beacon Women and MOACA Bible study groups.

Public Benefit

The church Trustees can confirm that they have given due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in accordance with Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006. Significant activities that the church undertook during the year that demonstrate public benefit are set out on the pages that follow.

The church seeks at all times to ensure public benefit and accordingly: -

- a. The regular services of the church are open to all members of the public;
- b. There are no restrictions based on geographical location or otherwise;

- c. No charge is made for attendance at any of the services or the other meetings, groups and activities of the church;
- d. Any charges that are made are for goods or services supplied e.g. to purchase literature or refreshments or towards venue admission costs on organised trips, are charged on a non-profit-making basis, often being subsidised by the church to ensure affordability for all.

Significant Activities

The church runs a range of activities for all ages at The Beacon Church.

In January 2022, the Prime Minister announced that the COVID-19 measures put in place at the end 2021 in England were to be lifted. During 2024, the church continued to meet in person on Sunday morning and also continued to stream services via the Zoom video conferencing platform for those who chose to stay away due to health concerns or who were unable to attend for other reasons. All Sunday morning services are recorded and uploaded online to the church's channel on the YouTube video-sharing platform as are certain other meetings such as some of the Sunday evening services and/or Bible studies.

- Sunday Morning Services

In 2024 the Sunday morning services ran from 9:45am to roughly 11:00am every week. Typically, the music group led the congregation in songs appropriate for all ages, announcements regarding the church's activities were shared, the congregation were led in corporate prayer and a portion of the Bible read and expounded upon by the speaker for that day. Before and after the service there was an opportunity for people to meet together to talk and encourage one another. Antony Billington was the primary speaker at the morning services.

- Sunday Evening Services

The church holds Sunday evening services between 7pm and 8pm. The evening services are primarily aimed at adults with a greater focus on prayer and praise and expounding the teachings of the Bible. The third Sunday evening service of the month is normally a Breaking of Bread service which, along with the Breaking of Bread element of the morning service which normally takes place on the first Sunday of the month, allows people the opportunity to break bread together in this way on roughly a fortnightly basis.

- Kids' Church

'Kids' Church' is the name given to the Sunday school through which the church offers a programme on a Sunday morning catering for children from age 2 upwards. The classes are run by regular volunteers from the congregation and seek to teach the children the truths of the Bible in a fun and interactive way.

Kids' Church meets in person during the Sunday morning service.

A crèche area is provided for parents of children under the age of 2 to take their children and play along with other babies and toddlers whilst listening to the meeting via live link.

- House Groups

These groups are held at various times throughout the week and all who attend the church are encouraged wherever possible to attend one. They represent an opportunity to meet with other Christians in a relaxed setting for discussion based upon the teaching which was given in the Sunday morning service and also for prayer and to allow time for those attending to get to know one another better.

House group meetings run on three nights a week: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. leaving Thursday night free to accommodate any other meetings within the church.

- MOACA

This is a group where older men from within the church congregation can meet together twice weekly to discuss the Bible and pray in a relaxed setting.

In 2024, the group met in person, with the option to join the meetings on Zoom for those who chose to stay away due to health concerns or who were unable to attend for other reasons.

- Beacon Women

A women's group which meets once a month or on other occasions either for Bible study or for social events.

- Beacon Beebies

The toddler group 'Beacon Beebies' has been running since January 2013. During 2024, around 17 to 22 children attended each week, plus their parents/careers. Those attending this group are regularly invited to other events and activities taking place within The Beacon Church including all age services, carol services, Easter services and holiday clubs for older siblings and their wider family. One way in which this group is used is to get to know people within the local community in a relaxed environment. There is no cost to attend Beebies, although a donations pot is put out by the coffee hatch to cover the cost of the drinks, toast and other resources used.

- Lighthouse

Lighthouse has been running since September 2018, replacing the previous club which was called Beacon Kids. It has the aim of teaching the children the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith in a relaxed environment with ample opportunity for fun and games along the way.

The club is open to all children in the area, is organised and run wholly by volunteers from the church and is provided free of charge.

- Youth Club

This is a club for young people of secondary age which again is co-ordinated and organised by regular volunteers from the congregation. A typical week includes games followed by a short talk designed to explain the truths of the Bible and what Christians believe.

- Ignite

Ignite was a club which was run for young people from the age of 14+ (Year 9+ at school) and which during 2024 met on a Friday evening from 7:30pm till 9:30pm at the church's main base at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church. The club provided an opportunity to socialise and for those attending to get to know one another better and also a teaching and discussion time through which the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith and their practical application were taught in a way which was most relevant to the issues concerning young people of that age. Unfortunately Ignite has not been running since late November 2024 but if suitable volunteers can be found to re-start a ministry to young people of this age group then the church would like to do so.

- Connect

This is a group for those with additional needs and their families or carers which normally meets once a month on a Saturday evening. There is a group of between 10 and 15 with a range of disabilities and the aim is to make sure that all feel welcome and included in the programme.

Over the course of the year there are a range of activities on offer, and it is intended that the programme be varied each month. Sometimes the meeting is a games night with suitable activities, there are also craft, musical and photographic evenings.

The aim of the group is to present the Christian message in a way that is understandable for those who might not find church teaching accessible and so wherever possible a speaker is invited who is able to do a short talk for this purpose.

- 'Mobile Meals' (Meals for the families of those recuperating from illness or the birth of a child)

This is a ministry whereby a team made up mostly of members of the church congregation prepare and deliver meals to those who are suffering with or are recovering from the effects of illness, or an operation or following the birth of a child, and their families. Amongst the recipients of these meals some have been families who regularly attend the church; however many have been those from outside the church whose need has been identified to the team and in this way the church has been able to show compassion to many who are not themselves Christians as a practical outworking of our Christian faith.

- Compass

Compass provides support as and when needed for asylum seekers in the local area who are in need of help with various things which, being new to the UK, they might encounter difficulty dealing with on their own e.g. completion of forms etc. Those involved seek to provide help in whatever ways they can whilst forming lasting connections with those whom they support.

Volunteers

The charity's different activities are run almost exclusively by volunteers from the church. Almost all of the activities run at The Beacon Church would not be possible without the input of volunteers on a weekly basis.

Staff

During 2024 the church had one staff member, Pastor Antony Billington, our Pastor.

Financial Review

Overall giving totalled £58,605 which when added to tax/top-up payments of £11,919 reclaimable/claimable under the Gift Aid scheme and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS), repayment interest of £449 on the same and deposit interest received of £1,906 gives total income for 2024 of £72,879. Giving to the church under the Gift Aid scheme totalled £46,588 before tax reclaims, gifts qualifying for a top-up payment under the GASDS totalled £1,089 and ordinary offerings (those not made under the Gift Aid scheme) totalled £10,928.

Although these figures represent an almost 8% decrease in income compared to 2023. the church continued to meet all of its financial commitments for the year and ended the year having generated a surplus of £8,584. Giving for 2024 did not this time include any one-off gifts from families within the church (in 2023 such gifts totalled £5,600). Excluding those special gifts which were given in the previous year, regular giving during 2024 was of a very similar level to what it was in 2023.

Regular giving under the Gift Aid scheme reduced by 1% in 2024 as compared to 2023. At 31 December 2024 Trustees' funds stood at £133,622 (2023: £125,038). The Trustees are satisfied that the funds held should be sufficient to meet any immediate contingencies that may arise. The Trustees consider it prudent to retain a certain level of funds in reserve at all times and that this should be at least sufficient to cover running 6 months' costs i.e. around £35,000 (based on current commitments to staff salaries/stipends).

With regard to the additional reserves which are being held the Trustees will in due course consider the best use of these funds. However, at the current time it remains a possibility that the church may seek to purchase premises of its own should the opportunity arise or undertake improvements or alterations to hired, leased or shared premises and this impacts upon the amount of reserves which may reasonably be required to be held going forward. In particular the church's relationship with Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church is such that it seems only a matter of time until it may be appropriate to spend some of these funds in helping develop their premises for the better use of the church and the advancement of its charitable purposes.

In 2024, the church continued to commit to spend around 11% of its regular annual income supporting missionaries, missionary organisations and projects.

Donations were made to the following charitable organisations / missionary work during the year:

- AsiaLink - £3,100
- European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) - £1,000
- Welcome Churches - £1,000
- Cumbria Christian Youth Camp (CCYC) - £800
- US2Uganda4Life - £400
- UFM Worldwide - £100
- United Beach Missions (UBM) - £1,000
- Pantry Parcels (formerly Ashton Churches Together (ACT) Foodbank) - £400
- Joe Heyes (children's work in local schools) - £600

The Trustees have resolved to accept the accounts of the church for 2024 as a true record and approve their submission to the Charity Commission in due course.

The Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice); make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

.....
J R Pollard – Chairman

.....
D J Carson – Treasurer



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

INCOME	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2024		125,038		103,961
Ordinary Offerings - Regular	10,878		8,382	
- Exceptional	-		600	
Gift Aid Offerings - Regular	46,568		47,008	
- Exceptional	-		5,000	
GASDS Offerings	1,049		1,386	
Tax reclaimable under Gift Aid scheme	11,647		13,002	
Tax reclaimable under GASDS	272		384	
Interest on tax reclaimed	449		226	
	70,863		75,988	
Special Collections - Ordinary	50		400	
Special Collections - Gift Aid	20		-	
Special Collections - GASDS	40		147	
Building Society interest	1,906	72,879	2,341	78,876
TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME		197,917		182,837
EXPENDITURE	2024		2023	
Venue hire and shared premises costs	5,509		4,093	
Salary costs, including pension provision	36,446		33,366	
Insurance	467		592	
Equipment	4,185		4,368	
Website hosting and online streaming costs	298		274	
Copyright and software licensing	385		341	
Refreshments	786		638	
Kids' Church	2,101		1,309	
Clubs for children, youth and adults with additional needs	1,304		721	
Beacon Women	297		342	
Compass - support for those seeking asylum	-		186	
Safeguarding costs for children and vulnerable adults	2,245		695	
Support for missionary work	8,400		9,040	
Advertising and evangelistic literature and materials	448		903	
Fellowship teaching materials and books	376		152	
Payroll services	273		260	
Cashless giving platform and transaction fees	154		139	
Elders' Gifts	130		-	
Other sundry expenditure	491		380	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		64,295		57,799
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2024		133,622		125,038
Financial Position at End of Year	2024		2023	
Debtors / Accrued Income	13,349		14,836	
Prepayments / (Accruals)	(1,615)		(1,694)	
Cash at Bank	16,252		28,186	
Cash at Building Society	105,636		83,710	
Total Trustees' Funds		133,622		125,038
Total Income for the Year		72,879		78,876
Less: Total Expenditure for the Year		64,295		57,799
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		8,584		21,077

**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of The Beacon Church**
(Registered Charity No. 1150685)

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), instead 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 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

I have completed my examination and confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do 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.

Name:

Address:

Date:

THE BEACON CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1150685

Accounts



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Expanding God's Kingdom by loving & serving Jesus, each other & our community

Trustees' Annual Report for 2023

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Church Leadership

In March 2018 the church invited Antony Billington to be its next Senior Pastor starting in September 2018. As a former lecturer at the London School of Theology and later Head of Theology at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) Antony has brought with him to the role a wealth of experience in teaching the Word of God.

In 2023, Antony has covered the majority of the regular teaching ministry of the church along with providing pastoral support for all those attending.

Alongside his role as Senior Pastor, Antony dedicates the equivalent of one day per week to his other roles, including serving as an associate lecturer for Union School of Theology and the Irish Bible Institute, as a regional tutor for Crosslands, and as an occasional consultant and speaker for the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.

In October 2022 the church's former Associate Pastor James Lycett made the decision to stand down from his role in order to take up a senior leadership position with United Beach Missions. A decision was made not to immediately replace James but instead to keep the church's staffing requirements under review for the time being.

The Leadership Team continued to operate as Elders and Deacons in 2023 with Antony as Senior Pastor meeting with both groups as appropriate. In November 2023, having taken a year's break in order to settle into his new employment and adjust to his change of role within the church, James re-joined the Leadership Team in the position of Elder.

The other members of the Leadership Team each have membership of one of these two groups as follows: -

Senior Pastor: Antony Billington

Elders: Glyn Tither
David Case
James Lycett – from November 2023

Deacons: Daniel Carson
Craig Galloway
Chris Gaskell
Joseph Heyes
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Although these groups meet separately to discuss their respective areas of responsibility the Leadership Team as a whole still continues to meet on a regular basis as necessary and most of the time meets once every month.

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Several members of the church congregation continue to be involved the work of Pantry Parcels which is based at St Thomas's Church of England church in Ashton-in-Makerfield and delivers emergency food parcels to local people in financial crisis.

The church is part of the Welcome Network of churches co-ordinated by the charity Welcome Churches which is designed to identify churches around the UK who are committed to welcoming refugees. This commitment is put into action in many ways including access to live translation of our Sunday services via the mobile phone application Microsoft Translator, support via our Compass ministry detailed below and the provision of a meal and Christmas party following the Christmas Day morning service which is in fact open to anyone who might otherwise might be alone that day.

The church also enables a weekly meeting of the local Narcotics Anonymous (UKNA) group to be held in the church building who provide support to those recovering from drug addiction.

The second further charitable object of advancing education is met principally through the provision of a Sunday School ('Kids' Church'), the Lighthouse, Youth Club and Ignite groups and the studies which take place during the week in the house groups, including the Beacon Women and MOACA Bible study groups.

Public Benefit

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The church seeks at all times to ensure public benefit and accordingly: -

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Significant Activities

The church runs a range of activities for all ages at The Beacon Church.

During 2023 the church continued to meet in person on Sunday morning in the way that it had prior to the COVID-19 pandemic of recent years and also continued to stream services via the Zoom video conferencing platform for those who chose to stay away due to health concerns or who were unable to attend for other reasons.

- Sunday Morning Services

In 2023 the Sunday morning services ran from 9:45am to roughly 11:00am every week. Typically, the music group led the congregation in songs appropriate for all ages, announcements regarding the church's activities were shared, the congregation were led in corporate prayer and a portion of the Bible was read and expounded upon by the speaker for that day. Before and after the service there was an opportunity for people to meet together to talk and encourage one another. Antony Billington was the primary speaker at the morning services.

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Since September 2015 (apart from at certain times during the COVID-19 pandemic) the church has held Sunday evening services running from 7pm to around 8pm. The evening services are primarily aimed at adults with a greater focus on prayer and praise and expounding the teachings of the Bible. The third Sunday evening service of the month is normally a Breaking of Bread service which, along with the Breaking of Bread element of the morning service which would usually take place on the first Sunday of the month, allows people the opportunity to break bread together in this way on roughly a fortnightly basis.

- Kids' Church

'Kids' Church' is the name given to the Sunday school through which the church offers a programme on a Sunday morning catering for children from age 2 upwards. The classes are run

by regular volunteers from the congregation and seek to teach the children the truths of the Bible in a fun and interactive way.

Kids' Church meets in person during the Sunday morning service.

A crèche area is provided for parents of children under the age of 2 to take their children and play along with other babies and toddlers whilst listening to the meeting via live link.

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These groups are held at various times throughout the week and all who attend the church are encouraged wherever possible to attend one. They represent an opportunity to meet with other Christians in a relaxed setting for discussion based upon the teaching which was given in the Sunday morning service and also for prayer and to allow time for those attending to get to know one another better.

House group meetings run on three nights a week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. leaving Thursday night free to accommodate any other meetings within the church.

- MOACA

This is a group where older men from within the church congregation can meet together twice weekly to discuss the Bible and pray in a relaxed setting.

In 2023, the group met in person, with the option to join the meetings on Zoom for those who chose to stay away due to health concerns or who were unable to attend for other reasons.

- Beacon Women

A women's group which meets once a month or on other occasions either for Bible study or for social events.

- Beacon Beebies

The toddler group 'Beacon Beebies' has been running since January 2013. Since that time numbers have grown from between 18 and 20 children attending to between 20 and 30 children each week, plus their parents/careers. Those attending this group are regularly invited to other events and activities taking place within The Beacon Church including all age services, carol services, Easter services and clubs for older siblings and their wider family. One way in which this group is used is to get to know people within the local community in a relaxed environment. There is no cost to attend Beebies, although a donations pot is put out by the coffee hatch to cover the cost of the drinks, toast and other resources used.

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Lighthouse has been running since September 2018, replacing the previous club which was called Beacon Kids. It has the aim of teaching children the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith in a relaxed environment with ample opportunity for fun and games along the way.

The club is open to all children in the area, is organised and run wholly by volunteers from the church and is provided free of charge.

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This is a club for young people of secondary age which again is co-ordinated and organised by regular volunteers from the congregation. A typical week includes games followed by a short talk designed to explain the truths of the Bible and what Christians believe.

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Ignite is a club which is run for young people from the age of 14+ (year 9+ at school). The club provides an opportunity to socialise and for those attending to get to know one another better and also a teaching and discussion time through which the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith and their practical application are taught in a way which is most relevant to the issues concerning young people of that age.

- Connect

This is a group for those with additional needs and their families or carers which normally meets once a month on a Saturday evening. The group have a range of disabilities and/or additional needs and the aim is to make sure that all feel welcome and included in the programme.

Over the course of the year there are a range of activities on offer, and it is intended that the programme be varied each month. Sometimes the meeting is a games night with suitable activities, there are also craft, musical and photographic evenings.

The aim of the group is to present the Christian message in a way that is understandable for those who might not find church teaching accessible and so wherever possible a speaker is invited who is able to do a short talk for this purpose.

- 'Mobile Meals' (Meals for the families of those recuperating from illness or the birth of a child)

This is a ministry whereby a team made up mostly of members of the church congregation prepare and deliver meals to those who are suffering with or are recovering from the effects of illness, or an operation or following the birth of a child, and their families. Amongst the recipients of these meals some have been families who regularly attend the church; however many have been those from outside the church whose need has been identified to the team and in this way the church has been able to show compassion to many who are not themselves Christians as a practical outworking of our Christian faith.

- Compass

Compass operates a weekly drop in "surgery" at the home of the church's Senior Pastor for asylum seekers in the local area to seek help with various things which, being new to the UK, they might encounter difficulty dealing with on their own e.g. completion of forms etc. Those involved seek to provide help in whatever ways they can whilst forming lasting connections with those who attend.

Volunteers

The charity's different activities are run almost exclusively by volunteers from the church. Almost all of the activities run at The Beacon Church would not be possible without the input of volunteers on a weekly basis.

Staff

During 2023 the church had one staff member, Antony Billington, our Senior Pastor.

Financial Review

The church Trustees have been encouraged that the level of giving over this year has increased from 2022, despite the expected impact following the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall giving totalled £62,923 which when added to tax/top-up payments of £13,386 reclaimable/claimable under the Gift Aid scheme and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS), £226 interest on those payments and deposit interest receivable of £2,341 gives total income for 2023 of £78,876. Giving to the church under the Gift Aid scheme, excluding special collections for specific purposes, totalled £52,008 before tax reclaims, gifts qualifying for a top-up payment under the GASDS totalled £1,533 and ordinary offerings (those not made under the Gift Aid scheme) totalled £8,982. These amounts include £1,817 which was collected during the year via the new 'giving station' which the church purchased in order to enable gifts to be received by way of chip and PIN or contactless card payment.

These figures represent a 9% increase in income compared with 2022 and the church continued to meet all of its financial commitments for the year and ended the year having generated a surplus of £21,077. Giving for 2023 included one-off gifts from families within the church totalling £5,600 (2022: £7,610). Excluding these particular gifts, regular giving increased by almost 10% compared to 2022.

Regular giving under the Gift Aid scheme increased by 18% in 2023 as compared to 2022. At 31 December 2023 Trustees' funds stood at £125,038 (2022: £103,961). The Trustees are satisfied that the funds held should be sufficient to meet any immediate contingencies that may arise. The Trustees consider it prudent to retain a certain level of funds in reserve at all times and that this should be at least sufficient to cover running 6 months' costs i.e. around £35,000 (based on current commitments to staff salaries/stipends).

With regard to the additional reserves which are being held the Trustees will in due course consider the best use of these funds. However, at the current time it remains a possibility that the church may seek to purchase premises of its own should the opportunity arise or undertake improvements or alterations to hired, leased or shared premises and this impacts upon the amount of reserves which may reasonably be required to be held going forward. In particular the church's relationship with Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church is such that it seems only a matter of time until it may be appropriate to spend some of these funds in helping develop their premises for the better use of the church and the advancement of its charitable purposes.

The church increased its missionary support in 2023, committing to spend around 11% of its regular annual income supporting missionaries, missionary organisations and projects.

Donations were made to the following charitable organisations / missionary work during the year:

- Asia Link - £3,700
- European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) - £400
- Welcome Churches - £1,100
- North West Gospel Partnership - £400
- Cumbria Christian Youth Camp (CCYC) - £400
- Jireh Children's Centre, Uganda - £400
- United Beach Missions (UBM) - £1,100
- Pantry Parcels (formerly Ashton Churches Together (ACT) Foodbank) - £500
- Joe Heyes (children's work in local schools) - £700

The Trustees have resolved to accept the accounts of the church for 2023 as a true record and approve their submission to the Charity Commission in due course.

The Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice); make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

.....
J R Pollard – Chairman

.....
D J Carson – Treasurer



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

INCOME	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2023		103,961		99,761
Ordinary Offerings - Regular	8,382		10,625	
- Exceptional	600		1,610	
Gift Aid Offerings - Regular	47,008		39,901	
- Exceptional	5,000		6,000	
GASDS Offerings	1,533		1,745	
Tax reclaimable under Gift Aid scheme	13,002		11,480	
Tax reclaimable under GASDS	384		436	
Interest on tax reclaimed	226		20	
	76,135		71,817	
Special Collections - Ordinary	400		270	
Special Collections - Gift Aid	-		20	
Bank Interest Received	2,341	78,876	137	72,244
TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME		182,837		172,005
EXPENDITURE	2023		2022	
Venue hire and shared premises costs		4,093		3,233
Salary costs, including pension provision		33,366		49,584
Insurance		592		378
Equipment		4,368		2,754
Website hosting and online streaming costs		274		658
Copyright and software licensing		341		448
Refreshments		638		554
Kids' Church		1,309		769
Clubs for children, youth and adults with additional needs		721		159
Beacon Women		342		83
Compass - support for those seeking asylum		186		-
Safeguarding costs for children and vulnerable adults		695		240
Support for missionary work		9,040		7,600
Advertising and evangelistic literature and materials		903		519
Fellowship teaching materials and books		152		359
Payroll services		260		248
Cashless giving platform and transaction fees		139		85
Other sundry expenditure		380		373
TOTAL PAYMENTS		57,799		68,044
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2023		125,038		103,961
Financial Position at End of Year	2023		2022	
Debtors / Accrued Income		14,836		11,916
Prepayments / (Accruals)		(1,694)		(5,452)
Cash at Bank		28,186		14,678
Cash at Building Society		83,710		82,819
Total Trustees' Funds		125,038		103,961
Total Income for the Year		78,876		72,244
Less: Total Expenditure for the Year		57,799		68,044
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		21,077		4,200

**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of The Beacon Church**
(Registered Charity No. 1150685)

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), instead 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 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

I have completed my examination and confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do 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.

Name: Julie Davies-Brown *JADaviesBrown*

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACA, CTA

Address: *8 HARVEST DRIVE
WHITTE-LE-WOODS, PR67QL*

Date: *10/07/2024*

THE BEACON CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1150685

Accounts



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Expanding God's Kingdom by loving & serving Jesus, each other & our community

Trustees' Annual Report for 2022

Trustees holding office during the year

Mr D J Carson, Mr J R Pollard (Chairman), Mr P S Standish & Mr G Tither

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

Registered Address: 2 Coralin Way, Bryn, Wigan, Lancashire WN4 0ET

The Beacon Church celebrated its tenth anniversary during 2022, the first Sunday Morning service having been held on 21 October 2012. The church is centred in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire and during 2022 its Sunday worship services have been held at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church on Bolton Road in the town.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The full name of the charity is The Beacon Church.

The charity was registered in England on 4 February 2013 with registered number 1150685.

It is an unincorporated association and its governing document is its constitution which was adopted on 3 December 2012 (as amended on 5 July 2015 and 22 August 2018).

Church Leadership

James Lycett had been the church's Associate Pastor since November 2016, having already worked for the church for two years prior to that in a different capacity since November 2014. Having earned his degree in theology at university James spent a number of years in secular employment before feeling called to full time Christian ministry and completing The North West Gospel Partnership's Ministry Training Course before taking up his current role.

During the year James made the decision to stand down from his role of Associate Pastor with effect from 31 October 2022 in order to take up a senior leadership position with United Beach Missions. A decision was made not to immediately replace James but instead to keep the church's staffing requirements under review for the time being.

In March 2018 the church invited Antony Billington to be its next Senior Pastor starting in September 2018. As a former lecturer at the London School of Theology and later Head of Theology at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) Antony has brought with him to the role a wealth of experience in teaching the Word of God.

Until October 2022, Antony and James covered the majority of the regular teaching ministry of the church along with providing pastoral support for all those attending. Since November 2022 Antony has covered the majority of the church's teaching ministry supported occasionally by others in the church.

Alongside his role as Senior Pastor Antony continues to dedicate one day each week to working as a Theology Adviser for LICC, Crosslands Seminary and The Union School of Theology.

The Leadership Team continued to operate as Elders and Deacons in 2022 with Antony as Senior Pastor and James as Associate Pastor meeting with both groups as appropriate. As mentioned above, James left his role of Associate Pastor at the end of October 2022. At the start of 2022, in light of Government advice relating to the COVID-19 pandemic (Plan B), in person church meetings continued to be allowed but with face coverings being worn. This restriction was lifted on January 27th and church events returned to operating in the way that they did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The other members of the Leadership Team each have membership of one of these two groups as follows: -

Senior Pastor:	Antony Billington
Associate Pastor:	James Lycett – until October 2022
Elders:	Glyn Tither
	David Case – from May 2022
Deacons:	Daniel Carson
	Craig Galloway
	Chris Gaskell
	Joseph Heyes
	Phillip Standish

Although these groups meet separately to discuss their respective areas of responsibility the Leadership Team as a whole still continues to meet on a regular basis as necessary and most of the time meets once every month.

Location

The church is based in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire. and during 2022 made use of a number of hired premises for the purposes of the various meetings which were held and the numerous ministries which were in operation as follows:

Building/Venue	Usage/Meeting
Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church	Sunday Morning Service Kids' Church Sunday Evening Service Fellowship/Church Meetings Beacon Beebies Youth Club Lighthouse Connect Beacon Women MOACA

For greater detail concerning the various meetings and ministries see later on in this report.

Risk Management

The Church's finances are subject to independent examination. The Trustees comply with Charity Commission advice and directives in the running of the church. The Trustees are satisfied that major risks are being assessed and systems put in place for their mitigation. We have re-assessed our financial position post the COVID-19 pandemic and are satisfied as to our ability to operate as a going concern. The charity did not seek any Government support which may have been available in response to the pandemic. Financially, the church continues to be well supported by those who attend and remains able to meet all commitments.

Following the cessation of the weekly cash collection in 2020, members who previously gave to the church in that way continued to contribute instead by way of monthly standing order. In June 2022, the church purchased a 'giving station' which has enabled the receipt of gifts by way of chip and PIN or contactless card payment.

The church is committed to protecting children and any vulnerable adults we come into contact with. As part of this we have developed a policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults produced with the support of Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)). We have Designated Officers and comply with the Code of Practice set out by Thirtyone:eight in matters of confidentiality and safe keeping of records. During 2022, all paid workers and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults received specialist safeguarding training.

We comply with the Equality Act 2010 in relation to those with disabilities and make every effort to be inclusive of anyone, whatever their disability. Access to all of the premises which we hire for our various meetings and other ministries is at ground level and accessible for wheelchairs.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objects

The charity's principal objective and activity continues to be the promotion of Christianity and the teachings of the Bible. This objective is met through the operation of a church and its associated activities such as Sunday services (both morning and evening), house groups and other Bible study groups for adults, a Sunday school ('Kids' Church'), missionary trips and support of missionary organisations, community evangelism, weekly clubs and activities for children of all ages and a monthly club for those with disabilities.

Further charitable objects of the church are the relief of sickness and financial hardship and the promotion and preservation of good health and also the advancement of education. One way in which the first is met is through a ministry which the church operates which provides meals to those who have just come out of hospital or are otherwise recuperating from illness and their families, including new parents following the birth of their children.

Following the closure of The Pantry Café, at Stubshaw Cross, in December 2021, the work continued through the work of Ashton Pantry which is based at St Thomas's Church of England church in Ashton-in-Makerfield in which several members of the church congregation continue to be involved.

The second further charitable object of advancing education is met principally through the provision of a Sunday School ('Kids' Church'), which in 2022 resumed meeting in person (see below) but also through the Lighthouse, Youth Club and Ignite groups and the studies which take place during the week in the house groups, including the Beacon Women and MOACA Bible study groups.

Public Benefit

The church Trustees can confirm that they have given due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in accordance with Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006. Significant activities that the church undertook during the year that demonstrate public benefit are set out on the pages that follow.

The church seeks at all times to ensure public benefit and accordingly: -

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Significant Activities

The church runs a range of activities for all ages at The Beacon Church.

In January 2022, the Prime Minister announced that the COVID-19 measures put in place at the end 2021 in England were to be lifted. As a result the church reverted to meeting in person in the way that it had prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The church continued to stream services via the Zoom video conferencing platform for those who chose to stay away due to health concerns or who were unable to attend for other reasons.

- Sunday Morning Services

In 2022 the Sunday morning services ran from 9:45am to roughly 11:00am every week. Typically, the music group led the congregation in songs appropriate for all ages, announcements regarding the church's activities were shared, the congregation were led in corporate prayer and a portion of the Bible read and expounded upon by the speaker for that day. Before and after the service there was an opportunity for people to meet together to talk and encourage one another. Antony Billington and James Lycett were the primary speakers at the morning services until James left his position as Associate Pastor at the end of October 2022 after which Antony was the primary speaker.

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- Kids' Church

'Kids' Church' is the name given to the Sunday school through which the church offers a programme on a Sunday morning catering for children from age 2 upwards. The classes are run by regular volunteers from the congregation and seek to teach the children the truths of the Bible in a fun and interactive way.

Kids' Church meets in person during the Sunday morning service.

A crèche area is provided for parents of children under the age of 2 to take their children and play along with other babies and toddlers whilst listening to the meeting via live link.

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House group meetings run on three nights a week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. leaving Thursday night free in order to accommodate any other meetings within the church.

- MOACA

This is a group where older men from within the church congregation can meet together twice weekly to discuss the Bible and pray in a relaxed setting.

At the start of 2022, the group reverted to meeting in person following the COVID-19 pandemic, with the option to join the meetings on Zoom for those who chose to stay away due to health concerns or who were unable to attend for other reasons.

- Beacon Women

A women's group which meets once a month or on other occasions either for Bible study or for social events.

- Beacon Beebies

The toddler group 'Beacon Beebies' has been running since January 2013. Since that time numbers have grown from between 18 and 20 children attending to between 20 and 30 children each week, plus their parents/careers. Those attending this group are regularly invited to other events and activities taking place within The Beacon Church including all age services, carol services, Easter services and holiday clubs for older siblings and their wider family. One way in which this group is used is to get to know people within the local community in a relaxed environment. There is no cost to attend Beebies, although a donations pot is put out by the coffee hatch to cover the cost of the drinks, toast and other resources used.

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- Ignite

Ignite is a club which is run for young people from the age of 14+ (Year 9+ at school) and which during 2020 met on Friday and Sunday evenings in leaders' homes as well as during the Sunday morning service. The club provides an opportunity to socialise and for those attending to get to know one another better and also a teaching and discussion time through which the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith and their practical application are taught in a way which is most relevant to the issues concerning young people of that age.

At the beginning of 2021 these meetings took place online using the Zoom video conferencing platform as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, however this group has now resumed meeting in person. In February 2022 the group reverted to meeting in person.

- Connect

This is a group for those with additional needs and their families or carers which normally meets once a month on a Saturday evening. There is a group of between 20 and 30 with a range of disabilities and the aim is to make sure that all feel welcome and included in the programme.

Over the course of the year there are a range of activities on offer, and it is intended that the programme be varied each month. Sometimes the meeting is a games night with suitable activities, there are also craft, musical and photographic evenings.

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This is a ministry whereby a team made up mostly of members of the church congregation prepare and deliver meals to those who are suffering with or are recovering from the effects of illness, or an operation or following the birth of a child, and their families. Amongst the recipients

of these meals some have been families who regularly attend the church; however many have been those from outside the church whose need has been identified to the team and in this way the church has been able to show compassion to many who are not themselves Christians as a practical outworking of our Christian faith.

- Compass

Compass operates a weekly drop in “surgery” at the home of the church’s Senior Pastor for asylum seekers in the local area to seek help with various things which, being new to the UK, they might encounter difficulty dealing with on their own e.g. completion of forms etc. Those involved seek to provide help in whatever ways they can whilst forming lasting connections with those who attend.

Volunteers

The charity's different activities are run almost exclusively by volunteers from the church. Almost all of the activities run at The Beacon Church would not be possible without the input of volunteers on a weekly basis.

Staff

During 2021 the church had two staff members, our Associate Pastor James Lycett and Antony Billington, our Senior Pastor. In October 2022 James Lycett stood down from his role as Associate pastor to take up a senior leadership position with United Beach Missions and has not been replaced, pending discussion on the future staffing structure of the church.

Financial Review

The church Trustees have been encouraged that the level of giving over this year has increased from 2021, despite the expected impact following the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall giving totalled £60,171 which when added to tax/top-up payments of £11,949 reclaimable/claimable under the Gift Aid scheme and Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) and deposit interest received of £137 gives total income for 2022 of £72,257. Giving to the church under the Gift Aid scheme, excluding special collections for specific purposes, totalled £45,971 before tax reclaims, gifts qualifying for a top-up payment under the GASDS totalled £1,745 and ordinary offerings (those not made under the Gift Aid scheme) totalled £12,455.

These figures represent an almost 18% increase in income compared to 2021. and, despite funding the salaries of two full time pastors for nine months of the year, the church was still able to meet all of its financial commitments for the year and ended the year having generated a surplus of £4,213. Giving for 2022 included one-off gifts from families within the church totalling £7,560 (2021: £11,000). Excluding these particular gifts, regular giving increased by almost 29% compared to 2021.

Regular giving under the Gift Aid scheme increased by a third in 2022 as compared to 2021. At 31 December 2022 Trustees’ funds stood at £103,974 (2021: £99,761). The Trustees are satisfied that the funds held should be sufficient to meet any immediate contingencies that may arise. The Trustees consider it prudent to retain a certain level of funds in reserve at all times and that this should be at least sufficient to cover running 6 months’ costs i.e. around £35,000 (based on current commitments to staff salaries/stipends).

With regard to the additional reserves which are being held the Trustees will in due course consider the best use of these funds. However, at the current time it remains a possibility that the church may seek to purchase premises of its own should the opportunity arise or undertake improvements or alterations to hired, leased or shared premises and this impacts upon the amount of reserves which may reasonably be required to be held going forward. In particular the church’s relationship with Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church is such that it seems only a matter of time until it

may be appropriate to spend some of these funds in helping develop their premises for the better use of the church and the advancement of its charitable purposes.

The church increased its missionary support in 2022, committing to spend around 11% of its regular annual income supporting missionaries, missionary organisations and projects.

Donations were made to the following charitable organisations / missionary work during the year:

- Asia Link - £3,500
- European Missionary Fellowship - £500
- Welcome Churches - £1,000
- Jireh Children's Centre, Uganda - £500
- United Beach Missions (UBM) - £1,000
- Pantry Parcels (formerly Ashton Churches Together (ACT) Foodbank) - £500
- Joe Heyes (children's work in local schools) - £600

The Trustees have resolved to accept the accounts of the church for 2022 as a true record and approve their submission to the Charity Commission in due course.

The Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice); make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

.....
J R Pollard – Chairman

.....
D J Carson – Treasurer



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

INCOME		2022	2021
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2022		99,761	99,766
Ordinary Offerings - Regular	10,625		12,601
- Exceptional	1,610		11,000
Gift Aid Offerings - Regular	39,901		29,799
- Exceptional	6,000		-
GASDS Offerings	1,745		-
Tax Reclaimable under Gift Aid Scheme	11,500		7,461
Tax Reclaimable under GASDS	436		-
	71,817		60,861
Special Collections - Ordinary	270		50
Special Collections - Gift Aid	20		231
Bank Interest Received	137	72,244	165
TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME		172,005	161,073
EXPENDITURE		2022	2021
Venue Hire & Shared Premises Costs		3,233	1,861
Salary Costs		49,584	48,641
Insurance		378	350
Equipment		2,754	(74)
Refreshments		554	141
Kids' Church		769	486
Clubs for Children, Youth and Adults with Additional Needs		159	379
Beacon Women		83	340
Child Protection		240	1,695
Support for Missionary Work		7,600	5,119
Advertising and Evangelistic Literature & Materials		519	10
Fellowship Teaching Materials & Books		359	510
Elders' Gifts		223	684
Other Sundry Expenditure		1,589	1,170
TOTAL PAYMENTS		68,044	61,312
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2022		103,961	99,761
Financial Position at End of Year		2022	2021
Debtors / Accrued Income		11,916	7,508
Prepayments / (Accruals)		(5,452)	(1,423)
Cash at Bank		14,678	10,995
Cash at Building Society		82,819	82,681
Total Trustees' Funds		103,961	99,761
Total Income for the Year		72,244	61,307
Less: Total Expenditure for the Year		68,044	61,312
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		4,200	(5)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of The Beacon Church**
(Registered Charity No. 1150685)

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), instead 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 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

I have completed my examination and confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do 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.

Name: Julie Davies-Brown

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACA, CTA

Address:

Date:

THE BEACON CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1150685

Accounts



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Expanding God's Kingdom by loving & serving Jesus, each other & our community

Trustees' Annual Report for 2021

Trustees holding office during the year

Mr D J Carson, Mr D A Leach,
Mr J R Pollard (Chairman), Mr P S Standish & Mr G Tither

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

Registered Address: 2 Coralin Way, Bryn, Wigan, Lancashire WN4 0ET

The Beacon Church celebrated its ninth anniversary during 2021, the first Sunday Morning service having been held on 21 October 2012. The church is centred in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire and whenever physical in person Sunday worship has been possible those services have been held at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church on Bolton Road in the town.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The full name of the charity is The Beacon Church.

The charity was registered in England on 4 February 2013 with registered number 1150685.

It is an unincorporated association and its governing document is its constitution which was adopted on 3 December 2012 (as amended on 5 July 2015 and 22 August 2018).

Church Leadership

James Lycett has been the church's Associate Pastor since November 2016, having already worked for the church for two years prior to that in a different capacity since November 2014. Having earned his degree in theology at university James spent a number of years in secular employment before feeling called to full time Christian ministry and completing The North West Gospel Partnership's Ministry Training Course before taking up his current role.

In March 2018 the church invited Antony Billington to be its next Senior Pastor starting in September 2018. As a former lecturer at the London School of Theology and later Head of Theology at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) Antony has brought with him to the role a wealth of experience in teaching the Word of God.

Together Antony and James cover the majority of the regular teaching ministry of the church along with providing pastoral support for all those attending.

Alongside his role as Senior Pastor it was agreed that Antony would continue to dedicate one day each week to working as a Theology Adviser for LICC.

The Leadership Team continued to operate as Elders and Deacons throughout 2021 with Antony as Senior Pastor and James as Associate Pastor meeting with both groups as appropriate. At the start of 2021, in light of Government advice relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in person church meetings and events remained temporarily suspended but the ministry of the church continued nonetheless working within the Government's guidance and taking advantage wherever possible of technology which allowed congregation members to meet virtually.

The other members of the Leadership Team each have membership of one of these two groups as follows: -

Senior Pastor:	Mr Antony Billington	Associate Pastor:	Mr James Lycett
Elders:	Mr Glyn Tither	Deacons:	Mr Daniel Carson Mr Craig Galloway Mr Chris Gaskell Mr Joseph Heyes Mr Phillip Standish

Although these groups meet separately to discuss their respective areas of responsibility the Leadership Team as a whole still continues to meet on a regular basis as necessary.

Location

The church is based in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire. and during 2021 made use of a number of hired premises for the purposes of the various meetings which were held and the numerous ministries which were in operation as follows:

Building/Venue	Usage/Meeting
Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church	Sunday Morning Service, Kids' Church Sunday Evening Service, Fellowship/Church Meetings Beacon Beebies Youth Club Lighthouse Connect Compass
Stubshaw Cross Community Centre, Ashton-in-Makerfield	Kids' Church

Other meetings such as Ignite, Beacon Men ('The Shed'), Beacon Women, MOACA and the house groups were held online at the start of the year but later moved to taking place as a combination of online meetings and in person meetings in people's homes.

For greater detail concerning the various meetings and ministries see later on in this report.

Risk Management

The Church's finances are subject to independent examination. The Trustees comply with Charity Commission advice and directives in the running of the church. The Trustees are satisfied that major risks are being assessed and systems put in place for their mitigation. We have re-assessed our

financial position in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and are satisfied as to our ability to operate as a going concern. The charity did not seek any Government support which may have been available in response to the pandemic. Financially, the church continues to be well supported by those who attend, both online and in person, and remains able to meet all commitments.

Despite the cessation of weekly cash collections in March 2020, income was not significantly impacted as a number of members who previously gave to the church in that way continued to contribute instead by way of monthly standing order.

The church is committed to protecting children and any vulnerable adults we come into contact with. As part of this we have developed a policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults produced with the support of Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)). We have Designated Officers and comply with the Code of Practice set out by Thirtyone:eight in matters of confidentiality and safe keeping of records. During 2021, all paid workers and volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults received specialist safeguarding training.

We comply with the Equality Act 2010 in relation to those with disabilities and make every effort to be inclusive of anyone, whatever their disability. Access to all of the premises which we hire for our various meetings and other ministries is at ground level and accessible for wheelchairs.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objects

The charity's principal objective and activity continues to be the promotion of Christianity and the teachings of the Bible. This objective is met through the operation of a church and its associated activities such as Sunday services (both morning and evening), house groups, a Sunday school ('Kids' Church'), missionary trips and support of missionary organisations, community evangelism, weekly clubs and activities for children of all ages and a monthly club for those with disabilities.

Further charitable objects of the church are the relief of sickness and financial hardship and the promotion and preservation of good health and also the advancement of education. One way in which the first is met is through a ministry which the church operates which provides meals to those who have just come out of hospital or are otherwise recuperating from illness and their families, including new parents following the birth of their children.

The church also supported the The Pantry Café located at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church in conjunction with other local churches. The café was part of the 'Real Junk Food' movement and involved procuring donations of food from suppliers, which would otherwise be disposed of, to serve in the café on a not for profit basis, in order primarily to help support the poor in the community by providing them with a meal for whatever they feel they are able to afford to pay. Following its temporary closure from March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the café reopened in September 2021 but, due to low numbers using it, sadly closed in December 2021. The work however continues through the work of Ashton Pantry which is based at St Thomas's Church of England church in Ashton-in-Makerfield in which several members of the church congregation continue to be involved.

The second further charitable object of advancing education is met principally through the provision of a Sunday School ('Kids' Church'), which at the start of 2021 was still being run online prior to the Sunday morning service but during the year resumed meeting in person – see below), but also through the Lighthouse, Youth Club and Ignite groups and the studies which take place during the

week in the house groups, including the 'The Shed', Beacon Women and MOACA Bible study groups.

Public Benefit

The church Trustees can confirm that they have given due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in accordance with Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006. Significant activities that the church undertook during the year that demonstrate public benefit are set out on the pages that follow.

The church seeks at all times to ensure public benefit and accordingly: -

- a. The regular services of the church are open to all members of the public;
- b. There are no restrictions based on geographical location or otherwise;
- c. No charge is made for attendance at any of the services or the other meetings, groups and activities of the church;
- d. Any charges that are made are for goods or services supplied e.g. to purchase literature or refreshments or towards venue admission costs on organised trips, are charged on a non-profit-making basis, often being subsidised by the church to ensure affordability for all.

Significant Activities

The church runs a range of activities for all ages at The Beacon Church. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resultant temporary closure of the church building, a number of these activities were carried out online from 17 March 2020 onwards but resumed meeting in person at different times during 2021.

- Sunday Morning Services

During 2021 the Sunday morning services ran from 10:30am to roughly 11:45am every week. Once in person services resumed, typically, the music group led the congregation in songs appropriate for all ages, announcements regarding the church's activities were shared, the congregation were led in corporate prayer and a portion of the Bible read and expounded upon by the speaker for that day. Before and after the service there was an opportunity for people to meet together to talk and encourage one another. Antony Billington and James Lycett are the primary speakers at the morning services.

At the beginning of 2021 the church continued to hold its weekly Sunday morning worship services online. The services were streamed live using the Zoom video conferencing platform whereby participants could view the service live and participate where invited to do so. A recording of the Zoom meeting was then later uploaded to YouTube and a link published on both the church's website and our Facebook social media page.

Use was also made of the 'breakout rooms' function available within the Zoom platform whereby participants could be split into smaller groups to meet together after the meeting to socialise and provide encouragement to one another as they might have done previously following in person services.

From 16 April 2021 the online Sunday morning meeting began to be streamed live from the church building with up to 30 people able to attend in person whilst observing social distancing and such other Government guidelines that were in place at that time. From Sunday 25 July 2021 onwards Government restrictions concerning COVID-19 were no longer applicable meaning that more people were able to join the Sunday morning meetings in person from that

point forward until from October 2021 onwards services returned to a similar format to what they were prior to the pandemic with attendance also fairly quickly returning to pre-pandemic levels.

- Sunday Evening Services

Since September 2015 the church has held Sunday evening services running from 7pm to around 8pm. The evening services were primarily aimed at adults with a greater focus on prayer and praise and expounding the teachings of the Bible. The third Sunday evening service of the month has normally been a Breaking of Bread service which, along with the Breaking of Bread element of the morning service which would usually take place on the first Sunday of the month, allowed people the opportunity to break bread together in this way on roughly a fortnightly basis.

However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic evening services were temporarily suspended from 17 March 2020 onwards but they later resumed from Sunday 20 September 2020 as in person meetings in the church building following the easing of Government restrictions and continued throughout most of 2021. Nevertheless, most of these meetings continued to be streamed live using the Zoom video conferencing platform and recorded and uploaded to YouTube for those unable to attend or apprehensive about doing so due to the ongoing pandemic.

- Kids' Church

'Kids' Church' is the name given to the Sunday school through which the church offers a programme on a Sunday morning catering for children from age 2 upwards. The classes are run by regular volunteers from the congregation and seek to teach the children the truths of the Bible in a fun and interactive way.

After the church moved to online services on a Sunday morning from mid-March 2020 the Kids' Church programme also moved online and would take place using the Zoom video conferencing platform between 9:45am and 10:15am prior to the main service. After a little while the younger age group, consisting of children between the ages of 2 and 5, began to have a separate online meeting from the other children at the same time in order to best cater for their needs which are slightly different to those of the older children.

Kids' Church now, as previously, meets in person during the Sunday morning service.

A crèche area is provided for parents of children under the age of 2 to take their children and play along with other babies and toddlers whilst listening to the meeting via live link.

- House Groups

These groups are held at various times throughout the week and all who attend the church are encouraged wherever possible to attend one. They represent an opportunity to meet with other Christians in a relaxed setting for discussion based upon the teaching which was given in the Sunday morning service and also for prayer and to allow time for those attending to get to know one another better.

House group meetings run on three nights a week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. leaving Thursday night free in order to accommodate any other meetings within the church.

At the start of the year these meetings were continuing to take place online using the Zoom video conferencing platform as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, later in the year they were once again able to take place in person in the homes of members of the church congregation.

- MOACA

This is a group where older men from within the church congregation can meet together every week to discuss the Bible in a relaxed setting.

From the start of 2021, and throughout the year, these meetings took place online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Beacon Men (aka 'The Shed')

A men's group which meets once a month or on other occasions either for Bible study or for social events.

- Beacon Women

A women's group which meets once a month or on other occasions either for Bible study or for social events.

Although these meetings were suspended for a time as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group's members continued to support each other in a variety of ways during that period and remained in touch constantly via the group chat which they have which is hosted on the WhatsApp platform. The group has now resuming meeting in person as it did previously.

- Beacon Beebies

The toddler group 'Beacon Beebies' has been running since January 2013. Since that time numbers have grown from between 18 and 20 children attending to between 20 and 30 children each week, plus their parents/careers. Those attending this group are regularly invited to other events and activities taking place within The Beacon Church including all age services, carol services, Easter services and holiday clubs for older siblings and their wider family. One way in which this group is used is to get to know people within the local community in a relaxed environment. There is no cost to attend Beebies, although a donations pot is put out by the coffee hatch to cover the cost of the drinks, toast and other resources used.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for all of 2021 this group's meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Lighthouse

Lighthouse has been running since September 2018, replacing the previous club which was called Beacon Kids. It has the aim of teaching the children the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith in a relaxed environment with ample opportunity for fun and games along the way.

The club is open to all children in the area, is organised and run wholly by volunteers from the church and is provided free of charge.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for all of 2021 this group's meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Youth Club

This is a club for young people of secondary age which again is co-ordinated and organised by regular volunteers from the congregation. A typical week includes games followed by a short talk designed to explain the truths of the Bible and what Christians believe.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for all of 2021 this group's meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Ignite

Ignite is a club which is run for young people from the age of 14+ (Year 9+ at school) and which during 2020 met on Friday and Sunday evenings in leaders' homes as well as during the Sunday morning service. The club provides an opportunity to socialise and for those attending to get to know one another better and also a teaching and discussion time through which the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith and their practical application are taught in a way which is most relevant to the issues concerning young people of that age.

At the beginning of 2021 these meetings took place online using the Zoom video conferencing platform as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, however this group has now resumed meeting in person.

- Connect

This is a group for those with additional needs and their families or carers which normally meets once a month on a Saturday evening. There is a group of between 20 and 30 with a range of disabilities and the aim is to make sure that all feel welcome and included in the programme.

Over the course of the year there are a range of activities on offer, and it is intended that the programme be varied each month. Sometimes the meeting is a games night with suitable activities, there are also craft, musical and photographic evenings.

The aim of the group is to present the Christian message in a way that is understandable for those who might not find church teaching accessible and so wherever possible a speaker is invited who is able to do a short talk for this purpose.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for all of 2021 this group's meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 'Mobile Meals' (Meals for the families of those recuperating from illness or the birth of a child)

This is a ministry whereby a team made up mostly of members of the church congregation prepare and deliver meals to those who are suffering with or are recovering from the effects of illness, or an operation or following the birth of a child, and their families. Amongst the recipients of these meals some have been families who regularly attend the church; however many have been those from outside the church whose need has been identified to the team and in this way the church has been able to show compassion to many who are not themselves Christians as a practical outworking of our Christian faith.

- Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child

Some of the members of the church congregation support the running of a collection and processing centre for shoe boxes which are then distributed internationally by the charity Samaritan's Purse to disadvantaged children overseas. The shoe boxes are filled with Christmas gifts which are either donated by members of the congregation or funded by monetary gifts from the church or from individual congregation members.

The church continues to support this initiative but the collection and processing centre has now moved to a bigger premises elsewhere.

- Compass

Compass is a group which operates a drop in facility at the church building for asylum seekers in the local area to seek help with various things which, being new to the UK, they might encounter difficulty dealing with on their own e.g. completion of forms etc. Those involved seek to provide help in whatever ways they can whilst forming lasting connections with those who attend.

Volunteers

The charity's different activities are run almost exclusively by volunteers from the church. Almost all of the activities run at The Beacon Church would not be possible without the input of volunteers on a weekly basis.

Staff

During 2021 the church had two staff members, our Associate Pastor James Lycett and Antony Billington, our Senior Pastor.

Financial Review

The church Trustees have been encouraged that the level of giving over this year has remained at a similar level to 2019 and 2020, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall giving totalled £53,681 which when added to tax of £7,461 reclaimable under the Gift Aid scheme and deposit interest received of £165 gives total income for 2021 of £61,307. Giving to the church under the Gift Aid scheme, excluding special collections for specific purposes, totalled £30,030 before tax reclaims and ordinary offerings (those not made under the Gift Aid scheme) totalled £23,601.

These figures represent a 21% increase in income compared to 2020. However, despite now funding the salaries of two full time pastors and the financial pressures likely to have been experienced by some of the church's donors during the period as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the church was still able to meet all of its financial commitments for the year and ended the year having incurred only a very small deficit of around £5. Note, however, that giving for 2021 included one-off gifts from families within the church totalling £11,000 (2020: £Nil). Excluding these particular gifts there was no significant increase in overall giving from one year to the next.

Giving under the Gift Aid scheme decreased by 3% in 2021 as compared to 2020.

At 31 December 2021 Trustees' funds stood at £99,761. The Trustees are satisfied that the funds held should be sufficient to meet any immediate contingencies that may arise. The Trustees consider it prudent however to retain a certain level of funds in reserve at all times and that this should be at least sufficient to cover running 6 months' costs i.e. around £30,000 (based on current commitments to staff salaries/stipends).

With regard to the additional reserves which are being held the Trustees will in due course consider the best use of these funds. However at the current time it remains a possibility that the church may seek to purchase premises of its own should the opportunity arise or undertake improvements or alterations to hired, leased or shared premises and this impacts upon the amount of reserves which may reasonably be required to be held going forward. In particular the church's relationship with Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church is such that it seems only a matter of time until it may be appropriate to spend some of these funds in helping develop their premises for the better use of the church and the advancement of its charitable purposes.

The church increased its missionary support in 2021, committing to spend around 10% of its regular annual income supporting missionaries, missionary organisations and projects.

Donations were made to the following charitable organisations during the year:

- Asia Link - £2,500
- Welcome Churches - £500
- Operation Christmas Child (OCC) - £500
- Jireh Children's Centre, Uganda - £504
- Caring for Life - £315
- United Beach Missions (UBM) - £500
- Pantry Parcels (formerly Ashton Churches Together (ACT) Foodbank) - £300

The Trustees have resolved to accept the accounts of the church for 2021 as a true record and approve their submission to the Charity Commission in due course.

The Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice); make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

.....
J R Pollard – Chairman

.....
D J Carson – Treasurer



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

INCOME		2021	2020
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2021		99,766	103,575
Ordinary Offerings - Regular	12,601		10,585
- Exceptional	11,000		-
Gift Aid Offerings - Regular	29,799		30,724
- Exceptional	-		-
Tax Reclaimable under Gift Aid Scheme	7,461		7,750
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)	-		294
	60,861		49,353
Special Collections - Ordinary	50		535
Special Collections - Gift Aid	231		200
Bank Interest Received	165	61,307	559
TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME		161,073	154,222
EXPENDITURE		2021	2020
	£	£	£
Venue Hire & Shared Premises Costs		1,861	2,136
Salary Costs		48,641	46,635
Insurance		350	339
Refreshments		141	79
Kids' Church		486	173
Clubs for Children, Youth and Adults with Additional Needs		379	253
Beacon Women		340	220
Child Protection		1,695	313
Support for Missionary Work		5,119	2,904
Advertising and Evangelistic Literature & Materials		10	306
Fellowship Teaching Materials & Books		510	-
Elders' Gifts		684	-
Other Sundry Expenditure		1,096	1,098
TOTAL PAYMENTS		61,312	54,456
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2021		99,761	99,766
Financial Position at End of Year		2021	2020
	£	£	£
Debtors / Accrued Income		7,508	1,909
Prepayments / (Accruals)		(1,423)	1,779
Cash at Bank		10,995	13,561
Cash at Building Society		82,681	82,517
Total Trustees' Funds		99,761	99,766
Total Income for the Year		61,307	50,647
Less: Total Expenditure for the Year		61,312	54,456
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(5)	(3,809)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of The Beacon Church**
(Registered Charity No. 1150685)

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), instead 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 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

I have completed my examination and confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do 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.

Name: Julie Davies-Brown

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACA, CTA

Address: 8 Harvest Drive; Whittle-le-Woods; Chorley; PR6 7QL

Date: 27/10/2022

THE BEACON CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1150685

Accounts



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Expanding God's Kingdom by loving & serving Jesus, each other & our community

Trustees' Annual Report for 2020

Trustees holding office during the year

Mr D J Carson, Mr D A Leach, ,
Mr J R Pollard (Chairman), Mr P S Standish & Mr G Tither

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NY

Registered Address: 2 Coralin Way, Bryn, Wigan, Lancashire WN4 0ET

The Beacon Church celebrated its eighth anniversary during 2020, the first Sunday Morning service having been held on 21 October 2012. The church is centred in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire and whenever physical in person Sunday worship has been possible those services have been held at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church on Bolton Road in the town. From mid-March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the church made the decision not to hold in person services in the church building for a time but to move to holding virtual meetings online using the Zoom video conferencing platform. Further details can be found later on in this report.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The full name of the charity is The Beacon Church.

The charity was registered in England on 4 February 2013 with registered number 1150685.

It is an unincorporated association and its governing document is its constitution which was adopted on 3 December 2012 (as amended on 5 July 2015 and 22 August 2018).

Church Leadership

James Lycett has been the church's Associate Pastor since November 2016, having already worked for the church for two years prior to that in a different capacity since November 2014. Having earned his degree in theology at university James spent a number of years in secular employment before feeling called to full time Christian ministry and completing The North West Gospel Partnership's Ministry Training Course before taking up his current role.

In March 2018 the church invited Antony Billington to be its next Senior Pastor starting in September 2018. As a former lecturer at the London School of Theology and later Head of Theology at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC) Antony has brought with him to the role a wealth of experience in teaching the Word of God.

Together Antony and James cover the majority of the regular teaching ministry of the church along with providing pastoral support for all those attending.

Alongside his role as Senior Pastor it was agreed that Antony would continue to dedicate one day each week to working as a Theology Adviser for LICC.

The Leadership Team continued to operate as Elders and Deacons throughout 2020 with Antony as Senior Pastor and James as Associate Pastor meeting with both groups as appropriate. On 17 March 2020, in light of Government advice relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, all church meetings and events were temporarily suspended but in the time that followed many of the church's various ministries resumed, albeit in some cases in a different form.

The other members of the Leadership Team each have membership of one of these two groups as follows: -

Senior Pastor:	Mr Antony Billington	Associate Pastor:	Mr James Lycett
Elders:	Mr Glyn Tither	Deacons:	Mr Daniel Carson Mr Craig Galloway
			Mr Chris Gaskell Mr Joseph Heyes
			Mr Phillip Standish

Although these groups meet separately to discuss their respective areas of responsibility the Leadership Team as a whole still continues to meet on a regular basis as necessary.

Location

The church is based in the town of Ashton-in-Makerfield near Wigan, Lancashire and during 2020 made use of a number of hired premises for the purposes of the various meetings which were held and the numerous ministries which were in operation as follows:

Building/Venue	Usage/Meeting
Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church	Sunday Morning Service, Kids' Church Sunday Evening Service, Fellowship/Church Meetings Beacon Beebies Youth Club Lighthouse Connect
The Diamond Club, Ashton-in-Makerfield	Coffee Pot (until 17 March 2020)
Queen's Road Methodist Church, Ashton-in-Makerfield	Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child collection and processing centre. Not used during 2020 due to COVID-19.

The use of Queen's Road Methodist Church, which had been used in previous years as a processing centre for Operation Christmas Child, was discontinued as the organisation moved this function to bigger premises in another location.

Other meetings such as Ignite, Beacon Men ('The Shed'), Beacon Women, MOACA and the house groups were held in people's homes until mid-March when they moved to online meetings.

For greater detail concerning the various meetings and ministries see later on in this report.

Risk Management

The Church's finances are subject to independent examination. The Trustees comply with Charity Commission advice and directives in the running of the church. The Trustees are satisfied that major risks are being assessed and systems put in place for their mitigation. We have re-assessed our financial position in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and are satisfied as to our ability to operate as a going concern. The charity did not seek any Government support which may have been available in response to the pandemic. Financially, the church continues to be well supported by those who attend, both online and in person, and remains able to meet all commitments.

Despite the cessation of weekly cash collections in March, income was not significantly impacted as a number of members who supported the church in that way began to contribute instead by way of monthly standing order.

The church is committed to protecting children and any vulnerable adults we come into contact with. As part of this we have developed a policy for the protection of children and vulnerable adults produced with the support of Thirtyone:eight (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS)). We have Designated Officers and comply with the Code of Practice set out by Thirtyone:eight in matters of confidentiality and safe keeping of records.

We comply with the Equality Act 2010 in relation to those with disabilities and make every effort to be inclusive of anyone, whatever their disability. Access to all of the premises which we hire for our various meetings and other ministries is at ground level and accessible for wheelchairs.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objects

The charity's principal objective and activity continues to be the promotion of Christianity and the teachings of the Bible. This objective is met through the operation of a church and its associated activities such as Sunday services (both morning and evening), house groups, a Sunday school ('Kids' Church'), missionary trips and support of missionary organisations, community evangelism, weekly clubs and activities for children of all ages and a monthly club for those with disabilities.

Further charitable objects of the church are the relief of sickness and financial hardship and the promotion and preservation of good health and also the advancement of education. One way in which the first is met is through a ministry which the church operates which provides meals to those who have just come out of hospital or are otherwise recuperating from illness and their families, including new parents following the birth of their children.

The church also supports the Fur Clemt café (now known as The Pantry Café) located at Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church in conjunction with other local churches. The café is part of the 'Real Junk Food' movement and involves procuring donations of food from suppliers, which would otherwise be disposed of, to serve in the café on a not for profit basis, in order primarily to help support the poor in the community by providing them with a meal for whatever they feel they are able to afford to pay. The café was forced to close temporarily in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but has reopened in 2021.

Members of the church congregation also previously helped to run a collection and processing centre for Operation Christmas Child via the charity Samaritan's Purse (see below) but this involvement has now come to an end.

The second further charitable object of advancing education is met principally through the provision of a Sunday School ('Kids' Church'), which in 2020 took place during the Sunday morning service (until after 17 March 2020 when it moved online at a different time – see below), but also through the Lighthouse, Youth Club and Ignite groups and the studies which take place during the week in the house groups, including the 'The Shed', Beacon Women and MOACA Bible study groups.

Public Benefit

The church Trustees can confirm that they have given due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in accordance with Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006. Significant activities that the church undertook during the year that demonstrate public benefit are set out on the pages that follow.

The church seeks at all times to ensure public benefit and accordingly: -

- a. The regular services of the church are open to all members of the public;
- b. There are no restrictions based on geographical location or otherwise;
- c. No charge is made for attendance at any of the services or the other meetings, groups and activities of the church;
- d. Any charges that are made are for goods or services supplied e.g. to purchase literature or refreshments or towards venue admission costs on organised trips, are charged on a non-profit-making basis, often being subsidised by the church to ensure affordability for all.

Significant Activities

The church runs a range of activities for all ages at The Beacon Church. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resultant temporary closure of the church building, a number of these activities were carried out online from 17 March 2020 onwards.

- Sunday Morning Services

At the beginning of 2020 the Sunday morning service ran from 9:30am to roughly 10:45am every week. Typically, the music group led the congregation in songs appropriate for all ages, announcements regarding the church's activities were shared, the congregation were led in corporate prayer and a portion of the Bible read and expounded upon by the speaker for that day. Prior to March 2020 tea and coffee were served with cake and biscuits before and after the service with the opportunity for people to meet together to talk and encourage one another. Antony Billington and James Lycett are the primary speakers at the morning services.

From Sunday 22 March 2020 onwards the church moved to holding its weekly Sunday morning worship services online. Initially the service was pre-recorded and uploaded to the YouTube online video sharing platform, with a link placed on the church website, so that it was able to be viewed at any time from 10:30am onwards on the Sunday morning. However, from Easter Sunday 12 April 2020 onwards, the services were streamed live using the Zoom video conferencing platform whereby participants could view the service live and participate where invited to do so. A recording of the Zoom meeting was then later uploaded to YouTube and a link published on both the church's website and our Facebook social media page.

Later on in the year use was also made of the 'breakout rooms' function available within the Zoom platform whereby participants could be split into smaller groups to meet together after the meeting to socialise and provide encouragement to one another as they might have done previously following in person services.

The online Zoom meetings, and prior to that the YouTube broadcasts, were similar in format to the church's usual in person meetings with the exception that there was no sung worship. This is because the online platforms did not seem to adequately provide for this and timing differences between different participants' audio connections meant that to sing together whilst also hearing one another was not really feasible. Instead throughout 2020 links were provided alongside the online services to a playlist of specifically chosen songs which were publicly accessible on YouTube for people to use for private worship. Later in the year this changed and there was once again sung worship during the online services with participants singing to the music with their microphones muted whilst the lyrics were shown on screen.

- Sunday Evening Services

Since September 2015 the church has held Sunday evening services running from 7pm to around 8pm. The evening services were primarily aimed at adults with a greater focus on prayer and praise and expounding the teachings of the Bible. The third Sunday evening service of the month has normally been a Breaking of Bread service which, along with the Breaking of Bread element of the morning service which would usually take place on the first Sunday of the month, allowed people the opportunity to break bread together in this way on roughly a fortnightly basis.

However as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic evening services were temporarily suspended from 17 March 2020 onwards. However they later resumed from Sunday 20 September 2020 as in person meetings in the church building following the easing of Government restrictions. Nevertheless these meetings continued to be streamed live using the Zoom video conferencing platform and recorded and uploaded to YouTube for those unable to attend or apprehensive about doing so due to the ongoing pandemic. During the month of November there was a second period of lockdown due to the pandemic during which these meetings took place solely online.

- Kids' Church

'Kids' Church' is the name given to the Sunday school through which the church offers a programme on a Sunday morning catering for children from age 2 upwards. The classes are run by regular volunteers from the congregation and seek to teach the children the truths of the Bible in a fun and interactive way.

After the church moved to online services on a Sunday morning from mid-March the Kids' Church programme also moved online and would take place using the Zoom video conferencing platform between 9:45am and 10:15am prior to the main service. After a little while the younger age group, consisting of children between the ages of 2 and 5, began to have a separate online meeting from the other children at the same time in order to best cater for their needs which are slightly different to those of the older children.

During the Sunday morning church services up until Sunday 15 March 2020 a crèche area was provided for parents of children under the age of 2 to take their children and play along with other babies and toddlers whilst listening to the meeting via live link. This will resume once the church returns to in person services on a Sunday morning.

- House Groups

These groups are held at various times throughout the week and all who attend the church are encouraged wherever possible to attend one. They represent an opportunity to meet with other Christians in a relaxed setting for discussion based upon the teaching which was given in the Sunday morning service and also for prayer and to allow time for those attending to get to know one another better.

House group meetings run on three nights a week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. leaving Thursday night free in order to accommodate any other meetings within the church.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year these meetings took place online using the Zoom video conferencing platform as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- MOACA

This is a group where older men from within the church congregation can meet together every week to discuss the Bible in a relaxed setting.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year these meetings took place online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Beacon Men (aka 'The Shed')

A men's group which meets once a month or on other occasions either for Bible study or for social events.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year these meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Beacon Women

A women's group which meets once a month or on other occasions either for Bible study or for social events.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year these meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However the groups members continued to support each other in a variety of ways during this period and remained in touch constantly via the group chat which they have which is hosted on the WhatsApp platform.

- Beacon Beebies

The toddler group 'Beacon Beebies' has been running since January 2013. Since that time numbers have grown from between 18 and 20 children attending to between 20 and 30 children each week, plus their parents/careers. Those attending this group are regularly invited to other events and activities taking place within The Beacon Church including all age services, carol services, Easter services and holiday clubs for older siblings and their wider family. One way in which this group is used is to get to know people within the local community in a relaxed environment. There is no cost to attend Beebies, although a donations pot is put out by the coffee hatch to cover the cost of the drinks, toast and other resources used.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year this group's meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Lighthouse

Lighthouse has been running since September 2018, replacing the previous club which was called Beacon Kids. It has the aim of teaching the children the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith in a relaxed environment with ample opportunity for fun and games along the way.

The club is open to all children in the area, is organised and run wholly by volunteers from the church and is provided free of charge.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year this group's meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Youth Club

This is a club for young people of secondary age which again is co-ordinated and organised by regular volunteers from the congregation. A typical week includes games followed by a short talk designed to explain the truths of the Bible and what Christians believe.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year this group's meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Ignite

Ignite is a club which is run for young people from the age of 14+ (Year 9+ at school) and which during 2020 met on Friday and Sunday evenings in leaders' homes as well as during the Sunday morning service. The club provides an opportunity to socialise and for those attending to get to know one another better and also a teaching and discussion time through which the truths of the Bible and the Christian faith and their practical application are taught in a way which is most relevant to the issues concerning young people of that age.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year these meetings took place online using the Zoom video conferencing platform as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Connect

This is a group for those with additional needs and their families or carers which normally meets once a month on a Saturday evening. There is a group of between 20 and 30 with a range of disabilities and the aim is to make sure that all feel welcome and included in the programme.

Over the course of the year there are a range of activities on offer and it is intended that the programme be varied each month. Sometimes the meeting is a games night with suitable activities, there are also craft, musical and photographic evenings.

The aim of the group is to present the Christian message in a way that is understandable for those who might not find church teaching accessible and so wherever possible a speaker is invited who is able to do a short talk for this purpose.

From 17 March 2020 onwards and for the rest of the year this group's meetings were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 'Mum's Meals' (Meals for the families of those recuperating from illness or the birth of a child)

This is a ministry whereby a team made up mostly of members of the church congregation prepare and deliver meals to those who are suffering with or are recovering from the effects of illness, or an operation or following the birth of a child, and their families. Amongst the recipients of these meals some have been families who regularly attend the church; however many have been those from outside the church whose need has been identified to the team and in this way the church has been able to show compassion to many who are not themselves Christians as a practical outworking of our Christian faith.

- Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child

Some of the members of the church congregation support the running of a collection and processing centre for shoe boxes which are then distributed internationally by the charity Samaritan's Purse to disadvantaged children overseas. The shoe boxes are filled with Christmas

gifts which are either donated by members of the congregation or funded by monetary gifts from the church or from individual congregation members.

The church continues to support this initiative but the collection and processing centre has now moved to a bigger premises elsewhere.

- Coffee Pot

Coffee Pot is a drop-in coffee morning that during 2020 ran from 10am to 11:30am every Thursday morning during term time at the Diamond Club. Tea, coffee and other hot and cold drinks as well as toast, tea cakes and crumpets were available for a small charge to cover costs. The group was largely attended by people from the church and pastoral support was available during that time in the form of prayer and discussion for any who wanted it. This ministry ceased from 17 March 2020 onwards.

Volunteers

The charity's different activities are run almost exclusively by volunteers from the church. Almost all of the activities run at The Beacon Church would not be possible without the input of volunteers on a weekly basis.

Staff

During 2020 the church had two staff members, our Associate Pastor James Lycett and Antony Billington, our Senior Pastor.

Financial Review

The church Trustees have been encouraged that the level of giving over this year has remained at a similar level to 2019 despite the impact of the COVID19 pandemic. Overall giving totalled £42,044 which when added to tax of £7,750 reclaimable under the Gift Aid scheme, £294 reclaimable under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) and deposit interest received of £559 gives total income for 2020 of £50,647. Giving to the church under the Gift Aid scheme, excluding special collections for specific purposes, totalled £30,724 before tax reclaims and ordinary offerings (those not made under the Gift Aid scheme) totalled £10,835.

These figures represent a 37% reduction in income compared to 2019. However, despite now funding the salaries of two full time pastors and the financial pressures likely to have been experienced by some of the church's donors during the period as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the church was still able to meet all of its financial commitments for the year and ended the year having incurred only a small deficit of around £3.8k. . Note, however, that giving for 2020 included generous one-off gifts from families within the church totalling £10,000 (2019: £28,000). Excluding these particular gifts there was a decrease in overall giving of around 22%

Giving under the Gift Aid scheme increased by 2.1% in 2020 as compared to 2019.

At 31 December 2020 Trustees' funds stood at £99,766. The Trustees are satisfied that the funds held should be sufficient to meet any immediate contingencies that may arise. The Trustees consider it prudent however to retain a certain level of funds in reserve at all times and that this should be at least sufficient to cover running 6 months' costs i.e. around £35,000 (based on current commitments to staff salaries/stipends).

With regard to the additional reserves which are being held the Trustees will in due course consider the best use of these funds. However at the current time it remains a possibility that the church may seek to purchase premises of its own should the opportunity arise or undertake improvements or alterations to hired, leased or shared premises and this impacts upon the amount of reserves which

may reasonably be required to be held going forward. In particular the church's relationship with Stubshaw Cross Independent Methodist Church is such that it seems only a matter of time until it may be appropriate to spend some of these funds in helping develop their premises for the better use of the church and the advancement of its charitable purposes.

A special collection was taken during the autumn of 2020 raising £135 for Caring for Life's harvest appeal. A special collection was taken at Christmas for AsiaLink when funds of £581 were raised. Payment of this will be made in early 2020.

The church previously committed to donate £3,600 per annum to the children's work carried on by Joe and Sue Heyes which involves, amongst other things, Joe taking regular assemblies at various schools in the locality. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic this work ceased during the year and this support was discontinued following a review.

The Trustees have resolved to accept the accounts of the church for 2020 as a true record and approve their submission to the Charity Commission in due course.

The Trustees consider the financial position to be satisfactory.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice); make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

.....
J R Pollard – Chairman

.....
D J Carson – Treasurer



BEACON CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1150685

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

INCOME		2020	2019
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2020		103,575	87,668
Offerings - Ordinary	10,835		39,523
Offerings - Gift Aid	30,724		30,100
Tax Reclaimable under Gift Aid Scheme	7,750		7,532
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)	294		1,553
	49,603		78,708
Christmas Fayre	-		985
Special Collections - Ordinary	285		321
Special Collections - Gift Aid	200		-
Bank Interest Received	559	50,647	401
TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME		154,222	168,083
EXPENDITURE		2020	2019
	£	£	£
Venue Hire & Shared Premises Costs		2,136	4,242
Salary Costs		46,635	44,837
Training Courses		-	110
Insurance		339	339
Equipment		-	2,839
Refreshments		79	562
Kids' Church		173	1,049
Clubs for Children and Youth and for Adults with Additional Needs		253	769
Church Weekend Away		-	1,176
Support for Missionary Work		2,904	6,033
Advertising and Evangelistic Literature & Materials		306	543
Other Sundry Expenditure		1,631	2,008
TOTAL PAYMENTS		54,456	64,507
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2020		99,766	103,575
Financial Position at End of Year		2020	2019
	£	£	£
Debtors / Accrued Income		1,909	11,164
Prepayments / (Accruals)		1,779	(5)
Cash at Bank		13,561	10,458
Cash at Building Society		82,517	81,958
Total Trustees' Funds		99,766	103,575
Total Income for the Year		50,647	80,415
Less: Total Expenditure for the Year		54,456	64,507
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(3,809)	15,908

**Independent Examiner's Report to the
Trustees of The Beacon Church**
(Registered Charity No. 1150685)

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2020.

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

Name: Paul Holland

Relevant professional qualification or body: ACA

Address: 19 Gateacre Vale Road, Woolton, Liverpool L25 5NL

Date: