

New Life Church Bristol

Report and Accounts

year ended March 2021

NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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| ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE | 24 Congleton Road St George Bristol BS5 7AP |
| GOVERNING DOCUMENT | Declaration of Trust dated 29th January 2013 |
| CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER | 1150750 |
| TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY | Mrs S Hall (Chair) Mr D Summerhill Mrs M Moorcraft Mr R Penska Mr R Brown |
| BANKERS | Barclays Bank |
| INDEPENDENT EXAMINER | Jaimee Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB |

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NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

Introduction

New Life Church Bristol (NLCB) was registered as a charity on 8 February 2013 and this annual report covers the period for the year ended 31 March 2021. The year has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which has changed many of the ways our activities within the charity have been conducted. This report sets out how the church has adapted to this challenging situation and the many achievements against our stated objects.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions all Sunday morning services were conducted through Zoom software during the year except for a three-week period in September 2020 when the church carried out a number of practical projects in the Frenchay community. Mid-week meetings also transitioned to Zoom to enable people to meet and share life together in smaller groups. Although outreach activities have been restricted, support has been provided and links have been maintained with other local churches and networks. Through these links the church was able to support needs within the city and provide grants as needs were identified. Our support to the work in Zambia has continued with the provision of funds to meet needs both in the churches and school. Richard and Kim Brown in their roles of Pastor and Treasurer respectively continue to be employed by the Church enabling the links with other churches and the community to be strengthened as well as providing time for pastoral work within the church.

Objects and activities

The stated objects of New Life Church Bristol are:

- The advancement of the Christian faith through engaging in worship, bible-based teaching, and the furtherance of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs set out in the Trust Deed. This includes extending our work to other areas of the world.
- To undertake the relief of persons who are in need, hardship or sick.

Our principal activities to achieve these objects for the public benefit are:

- The provision of Church services, resources and events for Christians and non-Christians.
- Providing services, resources and events for Children and Youth.
- Providing programmes of teaching and discipleship and supporting resources.
- Support to overseas linked Churches and charities.
- Providing pastoral care to those connected with the Church.
- Reaching out to those in need within the Frenchay Community and the wider Bristol area.
- Being a witness for our Christian faith through outreach activities and mission events.
- Providing grants to individuals and organisations to support the outworking of the objects of the Trust.

Further information on these activities and how they have delivered public benefit is described under the section Achievements and Performance below.

Achievements and Performance

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit and the guidance for charities for the advancement of religion when making their decisions and planning activities. The activities and achievements are set out below.

Church services

Our church services moved to Zoom from mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic and the church continued to meet in this way throughout the year. Although the use of Zoom software was new to most people in the church everyone was supported to enable them to connect into the meetings and over the year, we adapted our services to work more effectively within this new medium. Visitors to the church were also able to join our meetings providing a connection for them to church life and our services were advertised through the church website. The services continued to involve spirit-led worship, mainly through pre-recorded songs from other churches, bible-based teaching, and prayer ministry. Opportunities were available for the congregation to participate and interact in the meetings whether in a planned way or as God prompted at the time. Teaching from Sunday mornings was available to the public through podcasts on the church website.

As a church we were blessed during the year by messages from Rob Scott-Cook and Dave Mitchell from Woodlands Church that we are associated with. Links were maintained with other local churches and wider church networks both in Bristol and nationally which kept the church aware of city wide and national needs which we could contribute to.

Children's and Youth Work

No children's meetings took place this year due to no face-to-face meetings being held but after a short break at the beginning of the pandemic, Youth Group meetings resumed on a Tuesday evening via Zoom. The evenings enabled the group to connect in with one another providing opportunities to chat, play games, pray, listen and contribute to bible teaching, discuss current issues and support one another through the challenges of isolation in the pandemic. Gifts were given out at Christmas.

Both the Children and the Youth group are staffed by volunteers who have completed DBS checks and training as required under our safeguarding policy. A copy of the safeguarding policy has been passed to the appropriate Social Care Department and the policy is reviewed annually by the appointed Safeguarding Officers and the Trustees.

Teaching and discipleship

Part of advancing the Christian faith is to deepen the church's understanding of the bible and what it teaches. As well as teaching on a Sunday, lively discussions take place on a midweek basis answering questions and clarifying principles as they are raised and these continued throughout the year using Zoom. For part of the year the focus in midweek meetings was on mission studying a resource called 'Mission Shaped Living' enabling us all to think more about how to reach out to friends and family with the gospel. At the beginning of the year Nicky Summerhill, one of the leaders, provided a weekly written word of encouragement for the church and people were also encouraged to link into other online teaching that was available.

Overseas linked churches

The Church has continued its strong links with the Path of Life Ministries in Zambia led by Pastor Evans Luwi. Pastor Evans is responsible for leading a number of churches within Path of Life Ministries in Zambia based around Solwezi and surrounding areas. New Life Church Bristol (NLCB) provides financial support to Pastor Evans to enable him to extend God's kingdom in this part of the world, deepening the faith of the people in the churches and reaching out to those in need. Financial support was also provided for Pastor Joseph, who leads a church in Lusaka and Pastor Edwards who leads a church in Mwinilunga.

The leadership had already planned that they would not be going out to Zambia in 2020 and this had been communicated to Pastor Evans during our visit in 2019, therefore the coronavirus pandemic did not affect our plans. This has been a challenging time for those in Zambia due to the pandemic and especially due to the rise in the cost of food. As a result, we were able to send extra financial support in order to purchase mealie meal for families of the school and provide masks and sanitizers.

The Beacon of Power Academy School which the church established in Solwezi, provides an opportunity for those children to attend school who normally would not do so due to financial and family reasons. In January there were 55 children attending the primary school. NLCB has contributed to the building and setting up of the secondary school which has included a new science block, computer room and staff rooms. The secondary school is self-funded by the pupils that attend and there were 42 pupils at the secondary school in January.

The primary school is financially supported by the Church and by sponsorship from individuals. Donations by individuals have been classed as restricted income and are titled School4kids.

Pastoral care

The Church meets during the week to provide a time for informal discussions on Christian teaching, prayer, support to those in need, reaching out to the community as well as social activities and events. Activities were limited to what could be achieved through the use of Zoom with members continuing to meet in small groups during the day and evenings with one mid-week meeting a month involving the whole church. A number of social activities were organised including quizzes and social gatherings.

The Spiritual Leadership provides support and advice where required to enable people to work through challenges and issues. During the year the church became a partner church of Kintsugi Hope, who are a UK charity (Charity No. 1175529) seeking to make a difference to people's mental wellbeing and a small number of people attended a training course to be able to run a local wellbeing group. Although the Leadership team take responsibility for pastoral care, all members of the Church reach out to those in need showing the love of God in practical ways. A fund for those in need was available to provide financial assistance to those both inside and external to the Church as the need was identified.

Support to the Frenchay Community and wider Bristol area

Part of outworking our objects is to reach out to those in need within the Community and be a witness for our Christian faith. Although many of the ways we would normally outwork these were restricted due to the pandemic, during September the church spent three Sundays carrying out work in the community including outdoor maintenance work at Frenchay Primary School and the Village Hall where we would normally have met.

Other tasks included litter picking in the local Frenchy community, cleaning road signs and help to tidy gardens where people needed assistance. During the year Church members have also assisted with filling gift bags for prisoners which were given as presents at Christmas organised by a Christian charity called Sixty-One (Charity No. 1159302).

The Church has also supported the needs of the homeless by providing finance and practical help to the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter project. This involved working with the City Council to provide shelter for the homeless between the months of January and March 2021 in a COVID safe environment using hotel accommodation. The impact of the project on both the homeless and the volunteers involved was significant as the volunteers were able to draw alongside people and show unconditional love and compassion to some of the most vulnerable people in the city. Further support for the poor has also been provided through gifts to foodbanks and to specific individuals.

Outreach activities and Mission events

Opportunities as a church to outreach were limited due to periods of lockdown across the country and this included the 'Open the Book' sessions in Frenchay Primary school which a few people from the church were part of. However, the team were able to record themselves acting out the nativity story and provide each child with a copy of the story booklet. Although outreach activities were limited individuals were encouraged to reach out to their neighbours and friends showing them the love of God as they suffered difficult and challenging times. Cakes were also baked for hospital staff as a small gift of thanks for the incredible work they were doing.

Provision of Grants

The vision of the church is to support those who are in need and further the gospel of Jesus Christ. During the pandemic the operating costs of the church were much lower and with tithes and offerings continuing to be received the Trust was able to provide financial assistance to other organisations. These included Christian ministries such as the Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter, the Noise 2020, Bristol Churches City Fund, New Wine Trust and organisations supporting those who are in need, hardship or sick.

The objects and purposes of the Trust are the framework within which the above activities operate and they are measured through an ongoing process of monitoring and evaluation both by the Trustees and the Leadership team. Leadership meetings which include the Chair of Trustees usually take place on a monthly basis with the Leadership and Trustees also meeting together occasionally although these occurred more frequently during the year due to the challenges of the pandemic.

Financial Review & Reserves

At the beginning of the year the charity had unrestricted balances of £40,222. Financial giving by church members continued consistently throughout the pandemic, not only maintaining the financial viability of the Trust, but due to low running costs the Trust was able to give out to meet needs as identified by the church and agreed by Trustees. Total income from tithes and offerings during the year was £73,675 with total expenditure of £52,536. In addition to this income there was a restricted fund totalling £11,748 including balances from which £9,120 expenditure was incurred for the School4kids project and Pastor Joseph in Zambia.

The Trust continues to pay a salary to Pastor Richard Brown and his wife Kim for the work they do in the church to outwork the Trust objects. Payments adhere to regulations for new living wage levels and tax. During the year funds continued to be invested in the work in Zambia to support the Spiritual Leadership, churches and the running of the school. The Trust was also able to respond with gifts to organisations, charities and individuals as agreed by the Leadership and Trustees in accordance with Trust objects. Gift aid has been received and has contributed to the balances held.

No fees are charged for services provided by the Church and our operating overheads were low during the year due to the pandemic. Balances held at the end of the year total £63,989 and these will cover more than 12 month's on-going commitments; £25,000 has been estimated as the balance that needs to be held. A two year budget has been set and future budget plans will include salary costs for ministry, training and administration, support for furthering the Christian gospel, investment in Africa, support to the local community and to individuals and organisations as need is identified. The budget and future commitments will be regularly reviewed by Trustees to ensure balances do not increase significantly and funds are used appropriately in accordance with the needs identified by the Spiritual Leadership team.

Structure, governance and management

The Church is governed under the Declaration of Trust which established New Life Church Bristol as a charity on 29th January 2013. The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum. The Trustees are required to meet four times a year in person or through electronic means agreed by them. New Trustees are appointed by the Spiritual Leadership and Trustees and take into account the benefits that a person could contribute through their qualifications and experience to the furtherance of the objects and management of the charity. In total there are 5 Trustees and during 2020/21 there were no changes in personnel. All Trustees have a copy and are familiar with the Declaration of Trust and the Charity Commission publication *CC3 – the Essential Trustee – what you need to know*.

The spiritual governance and leadership of the Charity rests with the Leadership Team and they are responsible for appointing their successors. The responsibility of the Trustees is for the management and administration in accordance with the objects of the Trust and the general law. The Trustees fulfil their legal duties taking into account the spiritual direction of the Charity set by the Leadership Team who themselves act in accordance with the Trust Deed and general law.

During 2019 we decided to formally associate with Woodlands Church (Charity No. 1125029), a large church within the city. This relationship has been strengthened through the year and NLCB are able to draw on their advice and resources as required.

The links with the Path of Life Ministries in Zambia is an important part of the Church's mission. Although the leadership did not visit in 2020, regular contact was maintained with Pastor Evans and a report on their activities was received February 2021. The finances for the school are overseen by Peter Moorcraft, a member of New Life Church Bristol.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Charity Law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year. We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities. Richard Brown is a Trustee and receives a salary as the Pastor. All other payments to Trustees were for the reimbursement of appropriate expenses with no private benefit received. All conflicts of interest are disclosed and recorded.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 22nd October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

S Hall – Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of New Life Church Bristol for the year ended 31st March 2021 on pages 9-12 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Jaimée Young

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 25 October 2021

NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

| Notes | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | | | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | General Funds £ | Designated Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | | |
| Income receipts | | | | | |
| Donations, legacies and grants | 59,340 | - | 8,071 | 67,411 | 66,201 |
| Gift aid receipts | 14,319 | - | 1,049 | 15,368 | 16,981 |
| Income from charitable activities | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other | 16 | - | - | 16 | 52 |
| | <u>73,675</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>9,120</u> | <u>82,795</u> | <u>83,234</u> |
| Capital and similar receipts | | | | | |
| Sale of fixed assets | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sale of investments | - | - | - | - | - |
| Loan repayments | - | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total receipts | <u>73,675</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>9,120</u> | <u>82,795</u> | <u>83,234</u> |
| Payments | | | | | |
| Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly | 2 18,704 | - | 225 | 18,929 | 35,691 |
| Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others | 3 33,832 | - | 8,895 | 42,727 | 60,103 |
| | <u>52,536</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>9,120</u> | <u>61,656</u> | <u>95,794</u> |
| Purchase of fixed assets | - | - | - | - | - |
| Purchase of investments | - | - | - | - | - |
| Loans made | - | - | - | - | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total payments | <u>52,536</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>9,120</u> | <u>61,656</u> | <u>95,794</u> |
| Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers | 21,139 | - | 0 | 21,139 | -12,560 |
| Transfers between funds | - | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| Net movement in funds | <u>21,139</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>21,139</u> | <u>-12,560</u> |
| Cash funds as at last year end | 40,222 | - | 2,628 | 42,850 | 55,410 |
| Cash funds at this year end | A <u>61,361</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,628</u> | <u>63,989</u> | <u>42,850</u> |

The notes on pages 11-12 form part of these accounts.

NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

| | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | General funds | Designated funds | Restricted funds | 2021 | 2020 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| A Cash funds | | | | | |
| Cash at bank with immediate access | 61,361 | - | 2,628 | 63,989 | 42,850 |
| | <u>61,361</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,628</u> | <u>63,989</u> | <u>42,850</u> |
| B Other monetary assets | | | | | |
| Gift aid due to charity | 12,891 | - | 986 | 13,877 | 15,368 |
| | <u>12,891</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>986</u> | <u>13,877</u> | <u>15,368</u> |
| C Liabilities | | | | | |
| Fee for Independent Examination | 726 | - | - | 726 | 720 |
| | <u>726</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>726</u> | <u>720</u> |
| D Assets retained for charity's own use | | | | Current value | 2020 value |
| | | | | £ | £ |
| Music and PA equipment | | | | 1,758 | 2,781 |
| Computers and IT | | | | 8,909 | 5,596 |
| Other general equipment | | | | 2,806 | 3,343 |
| | | | | <u>13,473</u> | <u>11,720</u> |
| The asset values refer to the original purchase price. | | | | | |

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by S. HALL date 22.10.21

The notes on pages 11-12 form part of these accounts.

NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

| | <u>Unrestricted Funds</u> | | | Total | Total |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | General funds | Designated funds | Restricted Funds | 2021 | 2020 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly | | | | | |
| Charity Admin | 2,981 | - | 225 | 3,206 | 2,166 |
| Rent | 467 | - | - | 467 | 2,852 |
| Leaders expenses & Ministry | 801 | - | - | 801 | 4,648 |
| Equipment | 2,265 | - | - | 2,265 | 2,155 |
| Salary | 9,667 | - | - | 9,667 | 8,644 |
| Gifts | 394 | - | - | 394 | 328 |
| General admin plus printing | 169 | - | - | 169 | 487 |
| Insurance | 534 | - | - | 534 | 532 |
| Stewardship Examination | 720 | - | - | 720 | 540 |
| Church Hospitality / housekeeping | - | - | - | - | 1,066 |
| Children/Youth/Students | 121 | - | - | 121 | 530 |
| Worship | - | - | - | - | 175 |
| Community Outreach | 586 | - | - | 586 | 1,015 |
| Travel and expenses | - | - | - | - | 10,050 |
| | <u>18,704</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>225</u> | <u>18,929</u> | <u>35,188</u> |

3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Grants for: | | | | | |
| Path of Life Ministries | 20,025 | - | - | 20,025 | 41,694 |
| Relief of poverty | 13,807 | - | - | 13,807 | 7,933 |
| School 4 kids | - | - | 8,895 | 8,895 | 10,979 |
| | <u>33,832</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>8,895</u> | <u>42,727</u> | <u>60,606</u> |

NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

The grants to institutions amounting to more than £1,000 in the year were:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Bristol City Fund / Foodbank (via Mullers) | 1,000 |
| New Wine Trust | 1,500 |
| Sixty:one - Prisoner gift bags | 1,000 |
| Transforming Lives for Good (via Mullers) | 1,000 |
| in-Hope (Bristol) | 1,000 |
| Bristol Noise | 1,000 |
| Westminster Theological Centre (WTC) | 1,000 |
| New Wine Trust | 2,000 |

4 Transactions with related parties

Richard Brown, a trustee, was paid £5076.93 which includes mobile phone expenses (2020: £4322) for his work as a Pastor and not as a trustee.

Kim Brown was paid £4590 (£2020: £4322) for her work as treasurer and church leader, as permitted by the governing document.

5 Movement of funds

| | Balance at 31 March 2020 | Receipts | Payments | Transfers | Balance at 31 March 2021 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| General funds | 40,222 | 73,675 | -52,536 | 0 | 61,361 |
| Designated funds | <u>40,222</u> | <u>73,675</u> | <u>-52,536</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>61,361</u> |
| Restricted funds | | | | | |
| School4kids | 2,628 | 8,570 | -8,570 | 0 | 2,628 |
| Gift to Pastor Joseph, Zambia | 0 | 550 | -550 | 0 | 0 |
| | <u>2,628</u> | <u>9,120</u> | <u>-9,120</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>2,628</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | <u>42,850</u> | <u>82,795</u> | <u>-61,656</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>63,989</u> |

The School4kids fund supports the setting up and running of a school in Solwezi, Zambia for those children who are unable to attend school due to financial and family reasons.

Occasional gifts are made to Pastor Joseph in Lusaka for personal use in his ministry.