

New Life Church Bristol

## Report and Accounts

year ended 31 March 2023

**NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL**  
**LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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	Jaimée Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

**INDEX**

Page 1	Legal & Administrative Details
Pages 2-8	Trustees' Report
Page 9	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 10	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 11	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Pages 12-13	Notes to the Accounts

**NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

## **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 2023. By the start of the financial year the church was meeting in a similar manner to pre pandemic times but very mindful of the need to continue to ensure the safety of the congregation and keep certain measures in place e.g. how communion was taken. Richard and Kim Brown in their role as Pastors 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 teaching and pastoral work within the church. This report sets out the many achievements of the church against our stated objects.

## **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**

The church continues to meet at Frenchay Village Hall on a Sunday morning with a small team arriving early to set up the back drops, equipment and PA in time for the worship team to start practising just after 9 o'clock. The service begins at 10.30 and involves spirit-led worship, bible-based teaching, and prayer ministry as well as the opportunity to meet and develop supportive relationships. Sunday services function well through the significant volunteering contribution made by members serving in the setting up and packing away of equipment, the worship team, PA function, stewarding and coffee rota.

Opportunities are always available for the congregation to share what God has been revealing to them, this may include testimonies as well as the preached word. Our services occasionally vary in style with an 'Open Mic' service having no planned preached word but encouraging the wider congregation to share what God is speaking to them about. Another format was entitled 'Unplugged' where the set up was deliberately stripped back, with a smaller worship team, minimal PA and no backdrops with the service starting with brunch around tables. Once a month this simpler style means we become less dependent on the infrastructure and also reduces the workload for the teams setting up. During the year we held three specific thanksgiving services, one to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and then the second, later in the year following the Queen's funeral, to mark an extraordinary life of service to the Country and her commitment to the Christian faith. The third thanksgiving service celebrated ten years of the church being established.

All our Sunday morning services are open to the public and we always give a special welcome to any visitors to our meetings since one of God's words over the church was that we would be an oasis for people to come and be refreshed and receive what God is saying to them. We are happy to accept that their visit may be once or may be for a short period but this year we have seen a few people commit to a longer-term relationship with us and get involved with the running of the church.

Much of the teaching on a Sunday was brought by the leadership team with other members also being given opportunity to preach as God inspired them. During the year the leadership invited several visiting speakers including Dave Mitchell, Pam Scott-Cook and Tim Dobson from Woodlands Church that we are associated with. Teaching from Sunday mornings is available to the public through podcasts on the church website.

## **Children's and Youth Work**

At the beginning of the year there were only a couple of young people attending the youth group on a regular basis and because they both attended other youth groups it was decided to bring the work to an end in July. With no regular children attending our meetings, any visitors' children were provided with toys and activities at the back of the hall where the church was meeting. Separate meeting facilities were available at the hall if required. Although we have no regular children's work on a Sunday, members of NLCB do provide 'Open the Book' sessions in Frenchay Primary school every other week during term time. This involves acting out bible stories as part of the school assembly.

Both the Children and the Youth group were 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. Our Sunday morning services included a couple of teaching series covering areas such as the life of Moses and a theme titled 'I'm so over it', encouraging the congregation to look forward following the challenging time over the pandemic. As well as teaching on a Sunday, lively discussions took place midweek answering questions and clarifying principles as they were raised. The groups differed in their style and content to suit the needs of members and one of the groups focused on a teaching series on prayer through the Lectio 365 prayer initiative.

In August the New Wine conference took place in Peterborough and a group from the church attended in person. The event provided a wealth of teaching, encouragement, and spiritual direction as well as a time to relax and have fun together, including watching the final of the women's football European Cup. As well as providing support and direction throughout the year, New Wine also organised a leaders' conference in March in Harrogate which was attended by the leadership team and included worship, bible teaching and messages on current issues. It is an important time for encouraging leaders and to hear what God is saying to the church generally as well as renewing connections between leaders.

### **Overseas linked churches**

The Church has continued its strong links with the Path of Life Ministries in Zambia which is led by Pastor Maureen Luwi. Pastor Maureen is responsible for leading a number of churches within Path of Life Ministries in Zambia based around Solwezi and the surrounding areas. New Life Church Bristol (NLCB) provided financial support to Path of Life Ministries to enable them 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 to the church in Lusaka and this included funds to provide security gates to the church courtyard and a grant towards the purchase of a car to support them in their ministry work, especially in more rural areas. Support was also provided to the church in Mwinilunga which is part of Path of Life Ministries.

We maintained regular contact with Pastor Maureen through WhatsApp and supported her as she came to terms with the unexpected loss of her husband in 2021. She took on the responsibility of running the church and continued having the oversight of Beacon of Power Academy School. It became apparent through the regular contact with Maureen that a visit to Zambia, by Kim and Richard, NLCB senior leaders was required to be able to support and encourage Maureen personally and in her senior leadership role where a woman lead is not the normal cultural practice in the country. The visit took place in June and achieved the outcomes intended to support Maureen, review the progress with the school and provide teaching to leaders in both Solwezi and Lusaka.

The Beacon of Power Academy School which the church established in Solwezi, provides an opportunity for those children to attend primary school who normally would not do so due to financial, social and family reasons. Following the change in Government in Zambia, their new education policy removed the fee-paying requirement for attending state schools allowing all children to attend without charge. Consequently, the secondary school where pupils were required to pay school fees is no longer operating. Although state education is now free in Zambia, we continue to support the primary school as the state primary schools are significantly over subscribed. Through our continued support the primary school has increased in size and now occupies the classrooms previously used by the secondary school. By March 2023 there had been a significant increase in students from around 90 to over 150 and the associated families linked to the school.

The primary school is financially supported fully by the Church and by sponsorship from individuals. Donations by individuals have been classed as restricted income and are titled School4kids. The funding the church provides not only provides a high standard of education to some of the most vulnerable children but also supports their families for example through the provision of mealie meal, a staple part of their diet, and mosquito nets.

A visit to Zambia will take place in 2023/24 and will involve a team carrying out painting work in the school. The initial costs of this visit are included in the 2022/23 accounts.

### **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. One mid-week meeting a month involves the whole church, a couple of weeks in small groups and some weeks are unplanned and kept free for members to outwork their own outreach activities.

The Spiritual Leadership provides support and advice where required to enable people to work through challenges and issues. The church continued to partner with Kintsugi Hope, who are a UK charity (Charity No. 1175529) seeking to make a difference to people's mental wellbeing. Although the Leadership team take responsibility for pastoral care, we encourage all members of the Church to 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. At the end of May the church, in conjunction with the Noise (a Bristol based event showing God's love to communities), spent the weekend carrying out work in the community including outdoor maintenance work at Frenchay Primary School and the Village Hall where we meet. 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 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 November 2022 and March 2023 using bed and breakfast accommodation. NLCB provided lunch-time support and main meals as well as donations of clothes and toiletries. 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.

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. Through these links the church was able to support needs within the city through inHope (Charity No. 298528) and provide grants as needs were identified.

### **Outreach activities and Mission events**

As mentioned previously, during the year a team from a number of churches in the Frenchay and Stapleton area (Churches Together), which included members of NLCB, provided 'Open the Book' sessions in Frenchay Primary school every other week during term time. Other outreach activities included encouraging individuals to reach out to their neighbours and friends showing them the love of God following the difficult and challenging times of COVID.

The Churches Together team also organised for 7,200 Christmas cards to be delivered to the area we serve using the Royal Mail's delivery service. These cards were specially designed to spread hope and the positive message of Christmas to the local community.

### **Provision of grants**

The vision of the church is to support those who are in need and further the gospel of Jesus Christ. Tithes and offerings continued to be received by the Church enabling it to provide financial assistance to other organisations as well as covering the running costs of the church. These included Christian ministries such as New Wine, Sixty-One and inHope Bristol. Small gifts are also given to individuals as need is identified.

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.

## **Financial Review & Reserves**

At the beginning of the year the charity had unrestricted balances of £63,694. Financial giving by church members continues consistently and with no permanent premises, running costs are low and 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 £70,854 with total expenditure of £91,874. Due to lower costs during the pandemic, it gave the Trust opportunities to support both projects in Zambia and organisations in the United Kingdom. In addition to this income, we received £9,006 in year in restricted donations of which £8,276 was for Schools4kids which contributed towards the £16,125 expenditure incurred for the project. The difference was financed through an income transfer from unrestricted funds. A balance of £2,628 remains within the School4kids restricted balances and this will be utilised to contribute to expenditure in 2023/24.

The Trust continues to pay a salary to Pastor Richard Brown and Kim Brown 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 costs were higher than income by £12,000. There were opportunities to support projects due to the cumulation of reserves during the pandemic. Unrestricted balances held at the end of the year total £51,680 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 skills 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 2022/23 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. In May 2022 the senior leaders visited Zambia and met with local church leaders in the capital Lusaka as well as Maureen Luwi, who took on the responsibility of leading the Solwezi church after her husband unexpectedly passed away in 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 21st September 2023 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 2023 on pages 10-13 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: 25th September 2023

**NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023	2022
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income receipts</b>						
Donations, legacies and grants		55,697	-	7,699	63,396	67,942
Gift aid receipts		15,118	-	1,307	16,425	13,877
Other		39	-	-	39	3
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>70,854</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,006</b>	<b>79,860</b>	<b>81,822</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	45,131	-	75	45,206	24,114
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	29,888	-	16,780	46,668	54,400
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>75,019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,855</b>	<b>91,874</b>	<b>78,514</b>
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers	-	4,165	-	7,849	12,014	2,333
Transfers between funds	-	7,849	-	7,849	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	-	<b>12,014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,014</b>	<b>2,333</b>
Cash funds as at last year end		63,694	-	2,628	66,322	63,989
<b>Cash funds at this year end</b>	A	<b>51,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,628</b>	<b>54,308</b>	<b>66,322</b>

The notes on pages 12-13 form part of these accounts.

**NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted	2023	2022
	General	Designated	funds		
	funds	funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>A Cash funds</b>					
Cash at bank with immediate access	51,680	-	2,628	54,308	66,322
	<u>51,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,628</u>	<u>54,308</u>	<u>66,322</u>
<b>B Other monetary assets</b>					
Gift aid due to charity	15,168	-	264	15,432	16,425
Other debtors	8,937	-	-	8,937	-
	<u>24,105</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>24,369</u>	<u>16,425</u>
<b>C Liabilities</b>					
Fee for Independent Examination	1,080	-	-	1,080	744
	<u>1,080</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>744</u>
<b>D Assets retained for charity's own use</b>				Current	2022
				value	value
				£	£
Music and PA equipment				3,422	1,917
Computers and IT				5,459	6,133
Other general equipment				2,788	2,942
				<u>11,669</u>	<u>10,991</u>

The asset values refer to the original purchase price.

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

by \_\_\_\_\_ date 21.09.2023  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 S. HALL

The notes on pages 12-13 form part of these accounts.

**NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**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>		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2023	2022
	funds	funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly</b>					
Charity Admin	2,730	-	75	2,805	3,142
Rent	2,892	-	-	2,892	2,256
Leaders expenses & Ministry	5,319	-	-	5,319	3,636
Equipment	2,643	-	-	2,643	632
Salary	11,942	-	-	11,942	10,846
Gifts	306	-	-	306	393
General admin plus printing	120	-	-	120	198
Insurance	578	-	-	578	557
Stewardship Examination	744	-	-	744	726
Church Hospitality / housekeeping	496	-	-	496	727
Children/Youth/Students	122	-	-	122	476
Worship	122	-	-	122	5
Community Outreach	1,036	-	-	1,036	477
Travel and expenses (including Africa trip)	16,081	-	-	16,081	43
	<u>45,131</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>45,206</u>	<u>24,114</u>

**3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others**

Path of Life Ministries	12,000	-	180	12,180	15,500
Lusaka Church	5,023	-	-	5,023	1,562
Grants to Individuals (Africa)	4,850	-	550	5,400	7,475
School 4 kids	-	-	16,050	16,050	18,968
Sixty:one - Prisoner gift bags	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,000
in-Hope (Bristol)	1,075	-	-	1,075	1,050
New Wine Trust	5,500	-	-	5,500	-
Ukraine Crisis via Life Church Ministries	-	-	-	-	8,355
Other UK charities	240	-	-	240	490
	<u>29,888</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,780</u>	<u>46,668</u>	<u>54,400</u>

**NEW LIFE CHURCH BRISTOL**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**4 Transactions with related parties**

Richard Brown was paid £6206 which includes mobile phone expenses (2022: £5632) and Kim Brown was paid £5736 (2022: £5214) for their work as Church leaders as permitted by the governing document.

**5 Movement of funds**

	Balance at 31 March 2022	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	63,694	70,854	-75,019	-7,849	51,680
Designated funds					
	<u>63,694</u>	<u>70,854</u>	<u>-75,019</u>	<u>-7,849</u>	<u>51,680</u>
Restricted funds					
School4kids	2,628	8,276	-16,125	7,849	2,628
Zambia projects	-	730	-730	-	-
	<u>2,628</u>	<u>9,006</u>	<u>-16,855</u>	<u>7,849</u>	<u>2,628</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>66,322</u>	<u>79,860</u>	<u>-91,874</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,308</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 use in his ministry.