

**NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
(SOUTH GILLINGHAM) TRUST**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

Charity No: 1152608

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TRUST INFORMATION

The following Trustees were serving at the time these accounts were approved:

James Bellchambers	Chairman
Mark Anderton	Director/Trustee
Alan Eldridge	Director/Trustee
Carol Lunniss	Director/Trustee

Other senior officers of the Trust:

Bradman Sogie-Thomas	Financial Controller
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Charity Number 1152608

Registered Office 17 Brisbane Avenue
Sittingbourne
Kent ME10 1XZ

Bankers National Westminster Bank PLC
74 High Street
Rainham
Kent ME8 7JH

Solicitor Whitehead Monckton
Monckton House
72 Kings Street
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1BL

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Trustees, Directors and Professional Advisors

The four Trustee/Directors serving at the time these accounts were approved are shown on page 3. The charity's banker and solicitor are also listed on page 3, with the independent examiner shown on page 7.

Structure, Governance and Management

New Life Community Church (South Gillingham) Trust (the company) is a Limited Company with charitable status constituted by Articles of Association dated 18 March 2013. The Articles of Association govern the appointment of Directors who are also Trustees. Whenever this report refers to Trustees or Trustee, it is referring to those who hold the joint responsibilities of Director and Trustee. The Board of Trustees is authorised to appoint new Trustees to fill vacancies arising through removal, resignation or death of an existing Trustee, subject to the express approval of the Pastor/Elders.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust's objectives are:

- The advancement of the Christian Faith and the worship of God in Gillingham, Kent and elsewhere, through preaching, teaching, proclamation of the gospel, the distribution of Christian literature and pastoral care
- The relief of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress
- The advancement of education on the basis of Christian principles

The Company has been formed to support the ongoing work of the New Life Community Church, ("NLCC"), an active independent group that came into existence in 1987/8.

Achievements and Performance

2023 was the first year without Covid-19 restrictions and the Church has returned fully to normal operations. With the association of the Church to the "New Life" group of Churches centred on the Philippines, the Church has been advertising itself under the name "New Life Medway". Attendance at Church meetings at the school have risen to about 70. Meetings have continued to be broadcast on the internet to allow others to join in who cannot attend personally.

The Company with its Church body, New Life Community Church, has continued to support a number of individuals and charities involved in mission work at home and overseas. Principle areas of support have been:

- **Emerge Advocacy** (The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service). We have continued to provide financial assistance to Emerge Advocacy, a charitable ministry of youth workers supporting people struggling with their feelings or mental health issues.
- **Salvation Army**. We have provided financial assistance to two local branches (Gillingham and Chatham) of the Salvation Army to support local issues.
- **Evangelism in the USA**. We have provided funds for an evangelist from a local church (Cornerstone City Church, Medway) to operate in the USA
- **Churches Together in Medway (CTIM)**. CTIM is an interdenominational organisation in Medway, which seeks to help all Christian churches in the Medway area and foster cooperation between churches. Whilst we have been members of the organisation for many years, we have never before contributed to the running of CTIM

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- **New Life Conference Fund.** We sent our two pastors (Mark and Belen Anderton) to the annual conference of New Life churches in Manila this year, as it was felt it was of major importance for them to attend. Some New Life pastors struggle with the financial burden of attending the conference and so we have contributed to the financial support fund for such pastors.

The Church has continued to grow throughout the remainder of the year. It is pleasing to note a wide range of ethnic backgrounds continues in the Church. The Church has been involved with many other churches in the Medway Towns through both the 'Churches Together in Medway' and the 'Churches Together in Rainham'.

Serious Incidents

During the year there were no serious incidents resulting in loss of funds or giving risk to the charity's property, work, beneficiaries or reputation.

Public Benefit Statement

The charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes that are for the public benefit, as required by the Charity Commission's statutory guidance on the matter. Details of how the charity has achieved this have been provided in this report. The following is a summary:

In the UK:

- Financial support to CTIM to support the work of local churches and local unity
- Financial Gifts to the poor and needy in the community
- Support and giving to the Salvation Army
- Support and giving to local young people suffering emotional and mental distress
- Financial support for a Pastor

Overseas:

- Financial support for pastors of New Life churches who have struggled to attend the annual New Life global conference in Manila
- Financial support for evangelism in the USA by a local evangelist

Future Developments

Under the Pastoral leadership of Mark and Belen Anderton, the Church will continue to support active evangelism in the "parish" area and seek to reach out and help adults, young people, children and those in debt and severe hardship. We will continue to support a wide range of mission work, both at home and overseas. The Trustees continually review our commitments to those ongoing ministries currently supported as well as investigating possible new commitments.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above. Signed on 25th September 2024 on behalf of the charity's Trustees:



James T Belichambers – Chairman

Financial Review - 2023

The NLCC Board of Trustees/Directors continues to encourage the ethos of the Church in giving and supporting those in need, including UK charities and mission work in The Philippines.

The financial year shows a surplus of £13,095. In comparison to 2022, total income increased by £22.6k (42%) and over 75% of this increase came from offering received; total charitable expenditure increased by £5.6k (10%) and includes a reduction of £1.9k (21%) on mission giving.

1. VOLUNTARY INCOME (£)

Details	2023	2022	Change
Gift Aid	10,064	7,695	2,369
Offerings	60,511	43,277	17,234
Stewardship (UKET)	5,745	3,041	2,704
Interest	379	72	307
Total Income	76,699	54,085	22,614

2. EXPENDITURE (£)

Details	2023	2022	Change
Pastoral Costs	37,768	35,149	2,619
Missions	7,024	8,907	-1,883
Ministry Support Costs	11,579	9,726	1,853
Other Charity Activity Costs	5,553	2,578	2,975
Total Charitable Expenditure	61,924	56,360	5,564
Governance - Independent Examiner	1,680	1,680	0
Total Expenditure	63,604	58,040	5,564

3. MISSIONS (breakdown £)

	2023	2022	Change
The Philippines	1,000	2,489	-1,489
Other Ministries	6,024	6,418	-394
Total	7,024	8,907	-1,883

4. SUMMARY (£)

	2023	2022	Change	% change
Total Income	76,699	54,085	22,614	42%
Total Expenditure	63,604	58,040	5,564	10%
Surplus/(Deficit)	13,095	-3,955	17,050	

Declaration

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 25th September 2024 and signed on its behalf:



 Bradman Sogie-Thomas
 Financial Controller

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT to the trustees of the
NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH (SOUTH GILLINGHAM) TRUST**

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and consider that the company is exempt from an audit.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 any material error has occurred in respect of the accounting records; and
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Colin Gough
TAG (Maidstone) Ltd
10 Coverdale Avenue
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9DR

Date: 29 October 2024