

**Horwich Evangelical Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the period 1 January – 31 December 2023**

Reference & administration details

Horwich Evangelical Church is Registered Charity number 1153620.

The Church is situated on Wright Street, Horwich BL6 7HU.

The correspondence address is 15 Barncroft Drive, Horwich BL6 6NZ

The church was established under a Trust Deed in 1936 under its original name of the Gospel Hall, and was renamed as Horwich Evangelical Church in 1977.

The Trustees of the church are:

Terence John Almond, Paul Martin Chapple, Shaun Cooper, Michael Dewhurst, Keith Downham, Ray William Haughton, Eric Kent (Secretary & Treasurer), Christine Savage, Michael William Wilson.

The Elders, who are responsible for the day-to-day leadership and running of the church, are:

Paul Chapple (appointed April 2023), Shaun Cooper, Michael Dewhurst, Ray William Haughton, Robert Stanley Heath, Eric Kent.

The independent examiner of the church accounts is Martin Horton FCMA MiP, Rivington Accounts, Bank House, 6-8 Church Street, Adlington, Chorley PR6 4EX.

The legal title in the land was transferred to the Official Custodian for Charities in trust for the charity on 21 May 2003.

Structure, governance & management

The charity was set up under a Trust Deed which was adopted on 19 June 1936.

New Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees as required.

Aims and Purposes

The Trustees of Horwich Evangelical Church have the responsibility of ensuring that the church building is kept in proper repair and insured, and permitting the building to be used by believers for the conduct of meetings for the worship of God, for the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for the fellowship and edification of believers, and for the holding of Sunday school and other meetings, to advance the Christian religion for the benefit of the public in accordance with the Statement of Doctrines and Practices appearing in the Trust Deed.

Objectives and Activities

- Provision of a place of worship, plus adjoining rooms for social activities and religious instruction of children
- Conducting worship services (all open to the general public), including preaching of an evangelistic and teaching nature
- Conducting religious ceremonies (dedication of infants, adult baptism, marriages, funerals)
- Conducting meetings for Bible study and prayer
- Arranging activities for local children and young people
- Visiting the sick and lonely, and giving comfort to the bereaved
- Provision of a weekly luncheon club for the elderly
- Supporting missionary and outreach work (by financial support and prayer)
- Participating in local inter-church projects which address the needs of the community, including a food bank

Financial Report

1. Horwich Evangelical Church (excluding the Wright Place Luncheon Club)

The accounts for 2023 show a surplus of £4,342.08. This reflects the generous giving of our congregation during the year.

Receipts

Total receipts for 2023 were £29,939.52.

The income of the church was derived mostly from donations (Sunday offerings, standing orders and online giving) from members of the congregation. In 2023 this totalled £20,284.75.

‘Gifts’ (£407.23) includes donations totalling £300 from the Luncheon Club towards the cost of gas & electricity.

‘Other Offerings & Gifts’ (£4,276) represents gifts received which were designated for other Christian charities, notably our Christmas Fund which is used to help people less fortunate than ourselves. We also had special collections for Silk Road Ministries and Tear Fund earthquake appeal.

‘HMRC’ (£3,443.76) represents money reclaimed from HMRC for donations made under the Gift Aid scheme...

‘Interest’ (£1,109) consisted of £990 from our Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond (paying 3.3%) plus £119.90 from our Virgin Money Deposit Account (paying 1.35%). In October 2023 we re-invested £30,990 in a new Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond at 5.2%.

Giving to our Christmas Fund at Christmas 2023 was again generous. By the end of 2023 the Christmas Fund stood at £1,670, and the final amount distributed to charities in January 2024 was £2,100.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2023 was £25,597.44.

As usual, the largest item of expenditure was 'Donations to Christian Work' (£10,202.75). This represents contributions to Christian workers and agencies engaged in evangelism or relief work in many countries, including the beneficiaries of our Christmas Fund. Early in 2023 the Christmas Fund from Christmas 2022 (totalling £1,900) was distributed to four charities working among needy and disadvantaged people either locally or in other parts of the world: Bolton Hospice, Slavic Gospel Association (Ukraine), Congo Children Trust (Kimbilio), Compassion UK..

Other significant items of expenditure were:

- 'Gifts to Members' (£2,418), which includes £2,400 to support Jonathan Kent in his ministry training.
- 'Youth Work' (£100.93), which includes set-up costs for our new 'Tea n Tots' parent & toddler group.
- 'Outreach' (£567.40), which includes the cost of Good News papers, Life magazines and leaflets.
- 'Heat and Light' (£5,164.82) reflects the significant increase in Gas & Electricity prices.
- 'Maintenance' (£2,128.19.24) includes the cost of decorating and fluorescent light replacement.

Balance Sheet

The net result was a surplus of £4,342.08.

The balance at the end of the year was £61,538.29. Of this, £5,731.24 was held in our TSB Business account (including our Christmas Fund), and £41.93 was held in a cash float for catering expenses. Of the remainder, £30,990 was held in our Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond, and £24,775.12 was held in our Virgin Money deposit account. Some of this money has been set aside to cover events and situations which may arise in future, such as building refurbishment or the employment of staff.

2. Wright Place Luncheon Club

Total receipts of the Luncheon Club for 2023 were £3,412.

This was derived from the £3 per week which we charged each diner, as well as a grant from Horwich Town Council towards the cost of our Christmas lunch, plus a few small donations. At the beginning of 2024 we have had to increase the price of meals from £3 to £4 (after holding it at £3 for 13 years!) due to rising costs.

Total expenditure of the Luncheon Club for 2023 was £4,248.26. This included the cost of supplies for the lunches (£3,023.91) and £625 for the cost of entertainment. 'Gifts' includes gifts to charities supported by some of our guest entertainers, as well as small Christmas gifts for our diners.

The net result was a deficit of £836.26. The balance at the end of the year was £1,513.60. All funds for the Wright Place Luncheon Club are held in our Virgin Money account (formerly Yorkshire Bank).

Activities during 2023

Worship, prayer & teaching

All our Sunday morning services begin at 10.30 and are open to the general public. A good number of people attend the services, with several joining us in the past year. We invite a number of guest speakers, often representing the various Christian ministries which we support, but we also leave sufficient Sundays free for the Elders and other members to preach.

On Sunday evenings we have sometimes met to watch recorded talks from the Keswick Convention and Spring Harvest.

Our Bible Study & Prayer Meetings are held either in church at 11am on Wednesday mornings or on Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday evenings (on alternate weeks).

We are running a short series of enquirers classes for people who would like to know more about the Christian faith.

Saturday morning prayer meetings are arranged occasionally to pray for the work of the Church.

Pastoral care

The Elders provide pastoral support to the congregation, and we have developed a pastoral plan to try to make sure that everyone is covered.

Building maintenance & refurbishment

The building has been maintained during the last 12 months with regular visual inspections of the premises both inside and outside. The rotten barge boards at the rear of the building were due to be replaced last summer but unfortunately the builder was unable to do the work as promised. This has been scheduled for the spring/summer this year. Due to the high winds in the winter the party fence between ourselves and our neighbour was damaged beyond repair and had to be replaced. Internal equipment such as boilers, security alarms etc have all had their annual service and are in full working order.

Junior Church

We have between 0-10 children at the weekly Junior Church (it fluctuates quite a lot). At the moment we have 2 classes with an age range of 2-16, and a crèche. The teaching rota consists of three groups of two teachers, and we use Scripture Union teaching materials and teenage bible study books.

Tea 'n' Tots Playgroup

Tea n Tots is free of charge and aimed at parents and carers with pre-school children as outreach and support in our local community. Sessions are well attended and with a free booking system operated through an online platform, the 25 tickets per session are generally full, with a waiting list. The sessions are well supported by volunteers from the church. Several families have started attending church after joining tea n tots, so this is serving well as outreach in to the community.

Tuesday Fellowship

The only certainty in life is that nothing remains the same. In the aftermath of the Covid Pandemic the Tuesday Fellowship meeting finally restarted after a lengthy, enforced break, but right from day one we have had a committed and sizeable core of attendees. As always the main reason for us meeting together each Tuesday is to come together to worship our Saviour, to learn something more of His amazing love towards us and to share fellowship with one another.

One of the main areas of our worship has been the singing of God's praises, and we have benefitted greatly in this by the faithfulness of Carol accompanying us on the piano. When Margaret joined the Tuesday Fellowship team, she proved more than willing and able to play the piano for us, as and when the need arose. However, it soon became evident that Carol or Margaret might not always be available. Therefore, this potential problem has now been solved by the introduction of a Video Library where many of our favourite hymns have been recorded so that they can be played as and when the need arises.

Another blessing for us on Tuesday is that members from other churches come each Tuesday and join us in Christian Fellowship.

Our hope and prayer is that the Tuesday Fellowship Group continues for many years in the tradition of all those faithful Leaders who have gone before. Amen.

Mission

We have continued to support several Christian ministries by monthly donations: House of Ants (in Mozambique), Congo Children Trust (Kimbilio, in DCR Congo), Slavic Gospel Association, James Bovenizer (children's evangelist), and we also make frequent gifts to other charities such as Silk Road Ministries and Urban Outreach. We are continuing to give some support to Jonathan Kent in his ministry training.

Outreach

We offer Good News papers and Life magazines to members of the church (to read and pass on to friends) and to members of our Luncheon Club, as well as distributing newspapers to houses near the church. We also have 2 boxes on the railings outside the church containing leaflets and booklets.

Website & Facebook

The website is modern and well laid out containing details of our church activities and recordings of our Sunday morning sermons. The Facebook page has also been kept up to date and has been used to advertise events such as Sunday Club and Tea n Tots to the wider community.

Social activities

We had a church picnic – indoors, as the weather was bad.

Luncheon Club

The Wright Place Luncheon Club met almost every Monday except Bank Holidays. We have a membership of about 29 diners. Most of our diners are not members of the

church, and there is usually a waiting list of people who would like to join. The Club offers a 2-course meal with a cup of tea or coffee, followed by entertainment. After holding the price of attendance at £3 for at least 13 years, we finally felt the need to increase it to £4 at the start of 2024.

We have an excellent team of volunteer helpers, mostly members of the church. Feedback from our diners continues to be very positive.

Other activities for the local community

Sunday club events which were open to the public included film nights, a quiz for Kimbilio, a concert for motor-neurone disease, and an open mic evening. We hope to resume some of these activities in 2024 once the Keswick series is finished.

Working together with local churches

We attend Covenant services and Lent services and other events arranged by Churches Together in Horwich & Rivington.

We collect Christmas shoeboxes for International Aid Trust. We work with other local churches to address the needs of the local community, including collecting items of food in a 'Grub Tub' for distribution to needy local people by the Storehouse project (part of the Urban Outreach charity).

Public Benefit

- Provision of a place of worship
- Provision of worship services (all open to the general public)
- Preaching of an evangelistic and teaching nature, which helps followers to develop a spiritual relationship with God, offering comfort, peace and a sense of purpose as well as a moral and ethical framework for living
- Provision of dedication, adult baptism, marriage and funeral services
- Contributing to the spiritual and moral education of children
- Supporting missionary and outreach work
- Giving comfort to the bereaved, and visiting the sick and lonely
- Providing a luncheon club for the elderly
- Providing a Parent & Toddler Playgroup
- Participating in local inter-church projects which address the needs of the community

Approved by the Trustees on 22 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by Eric Kent and Michael Dewhurst





Horwich Evangelical Church

Statement of Financial Activity

Period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Income		
Donations		
General Offerings	20,284.75	18,745.76
Tuesday Fellowship Offering	417.88	330.34
Gifts	407.23	665.00
Other Offerings & Gifts	4,276.00	3,505.00
HMRC	3,443.76	3,255.44
Total donations	28,829.62	26,501.54
Investment income		
Interest	1,109.90	120.84
Total investment income	1,109.90	120.84
Total Income	29,939.52	26,622.38

Horwich Evangelical Church

Statement of Financial Activity

Period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Expenditure	2023	2022
Expenditure for Christian work		
Gifts to Christian Work	10,202.75	10,320.00
Gifts to Members etc	2,418.00	2,466.50
Speakers' Expenses	630.00	285.00
Youth Work	100.93	1,081.28
Posters, leaflets etc	0.00	35.12
Outreach	567.40	523.70
Total expenditure for Christian work	13,919.08	14,711.60
Admin & maintenance costs		
Heat & Light	5,164.82	3,416.99
Building Insurance	1,473.21	1,317.51
Copyright Licence	278.30	258.89
Maintenance etc	2,128.19	3,429.24
Cleaning	1,275.00	1,300.00
Catering	334.92	496.39
Water Rate	447.94	340.42
Misc Expenditure	556.99	525.34
Total admin & maintenance costs	11,659.37	11,084.78
Other expenditure		
Church Website	0.00	210.14
Audio/Visual Equipment	0.00	4,950.91
Software	0.00	240.00
Other Assets Purchased	18.99	325.59
Total other expenditure	18.99	5,726.64
Total Expenditure	25,597.44	31,523.02

Horwich Evangelical Church

Balance Sheet

Period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

		As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Reserves			
	Starting balance	57,196.21	62,096.85
	Income	29,939.52	26,622.38
	Expenditure	25,597.44	31,523.02
	Surplus / deficit	4,342.08	(4,900.64)
	Closing balance	61,538.29	57,196.21
Current assets			
	TSB Business Account	5,731.24	6,500.99
	Cambridge & Counties 1-year Bond	30,990.00	30,000.00
	Virgin Money Deposit Account	24,775.12	20,655.22
	Cash in Hand	41.93	40.00
	Total Current assets	61,538.29	57,196.21

Represented by Funds

General Fund	59,645.02	55,719.59
Christmas Fund	1,670.00	1,365.00
Tuesday Fellowship Fund	223.27	91.62
Delci Santos Fund	0.00	20.00
Total	61,538.29	57,196.21

Wright Place Luncheon Club
(an activity of Horwich Evangelical Church)
Statement of Financial Activity
Period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
Income		
Receipts		
Receipts for Dinners	3,179.00	2,922.00
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Total receipts	3,179.00	2,922.00
Grants		
Council Grant	150.00	200.00
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Total grants	150.00	200.00
Other income		
Gifts	83.00	24.00
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Total other income	83.00	24.00
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Total Income	3,412.00	3,146.00

Expenditure		
Expenditure for Diners		
Supplies	3,023.91	2,788.92
Entertainment	625.00	435.00
Gifts	564.39	408.49
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Total expenditure for diners	4,213.30	3,632.41
Other expenditure		
Other Expenditure	34.96	143.16
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Total other expenditure	34.96	143.16
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Total Expenditure	4,248.26	3,775.57

Current assets		
(Virgin Money)		
Starting Balance	2,349.86	2,979.43
Surplus / Deficit	-836.26	-629.57
Closing Balance	1,513.60	2,349.86

Eric Kent
Horwich Evangelical Church
C/o 15 Barncroft Drive
Horwich
Bolton
BL6 6NZ

23rd January 2024

Dear Eric,

This letter is provided in connection with the preparation of the financial statements of Horwich Evangelical Church for the year ending 31st December 2022 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the results and financial position of the Church.

Financial Statements

We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief that the accounts are prepared by volunteers with relevant knowledge and experience and we have carried out an inspection of supporting documentation sufficient to satisfy ourselves that the financial statements reflect an accurate view of the financial position of the Church.

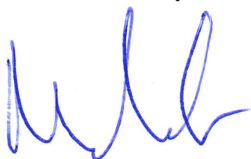
The reserves at the 31st December 2023 were £61,538 (excluding the building or any other assets that have been written off to expenses) plus £1,514 in the Luncheon Club.

Assets and Liabilities

In addition to the financial assets listed in the accounts, the Church also owns the building which has not been reported in the accounts. It would be useful to know the value of the building, or at least the land for the purposes of the accounts in order to give a more accurate reflection of the financial position of the Church. This could be done by a property valuer / estate agent but this may incur a cost.

We are not aware of any liabilities that are due to be paid by the Church.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Horton FCMA
Director