

Bethesda Cardiff

**Annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Registered charity number: 1157230

Bethesda Cardiff

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Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present the annual report and accounts of Bethesda Cardiff, an independent church which is a registered charity.

Reference and administration details

Address

The principal address of the charity is: Bethesda, Tyn-y-Parc Road, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, CF14 6BP.

Trustees

The following persons were trustees of the charity for the whole of the year ended 31 December 2023:

Andrew Baker
Sarah Baker
John Bodger (Chair)
Mark Bodger
Daniel Burford
Nathan Medland

The above trustees continue in office.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation, and was registered with the Charity Commission on 29 May 2014 (number: 1157230).

New trustees are appointed by the trustees from the Bethesda church membership. The trustees keep the composition of the trustee body under review so that it includes sufficient people with the time and expertise needed to manage the charity effectively, and to ensure that a balanced professional knowledge and competency base is maintained. All trustees are directly involved in the activities of the charity as volunteers, and consequently maintain a close knowledge of its work.

The trustees meet periodically during each year as required, in order to manage the charity. The spiritual and pastoral work, including the day to day running of the church, is overseen by a group of elders, who are a separate body. There is however sufficient overlap between the trustees' and the elders' groups to ensure a proper flow of information between these two groups.

The trustees identify the perceived major risks to the charity and keep these under regular review.

Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is, for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in such ways as the charity trustees may from time to time decide.

The mission of the charity is primarily to provide pastoral, evangelistic and social support to people in the area surrounding the church in Cardiff.

The leaders and members of Bethesda are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church, and to become part of the church community in Rhiwbina and the surrounding districts. We seek to engage with many groups that live within the area by providing activities and opportunities for worship in different formats to meet various needs.

When planning activities for the year, the leadership are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We encourage people to live out their faith as part of the local community through:

Demonstrating our love for God by seeking to understand and apply all of his Word to our lives, making his Word known in Cardiff and around the globe.

Showing our love for one another by caring for each other and teaching God's Word, encouraging each other to apply it and build one another up in the faith.

Serving our community by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and demonstrating his love in action, so that others might own Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

The building occupied by this charity is held on its behalf by a separate charitable trust. This charity enjoys unrestricted occupation and use of the building on an indefinite basis without the payment of any rent or other fee, on condition that we are responsible for insuring the building and paying all costs of occupation, upkeep, maintenance and any desired improvements.

For the church to be able to fulfil its stated purpose and to facilitate the various activities, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Bethesda church building. The Trustees have consulted with leaders of the various activities and associated volunteers and wider church membership and worked with a building professional who has drawn up plans to deal with current maintenance issues, future proof the building, and make the building more adaptable for current and possible future uses.

Achievements and performance

Church activities and services

The leadership of Bethesda continued to facilitate a range of services that through ongoing good attendance, appeared to meet various physical and spiritual needs of the local community. These included a Ladies Hour meeting, Ladies Evenings, an Open Doors time for the community to drop in for coffee and a chat, a weekly Toddler group for parents, carers and their young ones, activities for children and young people of various ages. The building has also been used to support local childminders during the past year, providing a safe and comfortable place where support can be provided.

From time to time following the Sunday Morning Service a free luncheon was available to all attendees. A free Holiday Bible Club was held during the school summer holidays with invites being provided to all local school children. Approximately 50 children attended every day, and a celebration event was provided on the final evening for over 110 attendees from the community. These activities were in addition to the regular services held each Sunday that seek to address the spiritual needs of the community. A time of prayer and Bible teaching was held every Wednesday evenings, with additional prayer meetings being held via zoom technology monthly.

For any in the community who were not able to attend the Church building, the Sunday and Wednesday services continued to be accessible online throughout 2023.

Local schools

Planned visits by local schools to the building for educational purposes took place at Easter when over 600 pupils from local schools came to the building to go through the interactive Easter Workshop. Additionally, in September over 1,000 children and their teachers from local schools visited the church to go through a second specially commissioned Bible Experience exhibition. These visits happened over a two week period and were staffed by many Bethesda members and other volunteers.

A member of the church regularly takes assemblies in all local schools as well as delivering lessons for schools that are getting to grips with the new Welsh Government Religion, Values and Ethics element of the curriculum. A team of members from Bethesda, had the opportunity to deliver an interactive Christmas Assembly in eight local primary schools again this year.

Wider support and encouragement

Members of Bethesda coordinate and deliver a regular work to meet the needs of the homeless on the streets of Cardiff City Centre, providing food, drink, clothing and bedding.

Bethesda Church continued to prayerfully and financially support mission and relief work in many countries throughout the world in 2023.

Administrative information

All required workers have an appropriate Disclosure and Barring check, we have continued to have new members checked during the past year and we provide regular update and refresher training for all involved in relevant activities. The safeguarding policy is reviewed annually.

Volunteers

We would like to thank the many volunteers who work so hard to keep Bethesda the lively and vibrant community it is. The church would not function without volunteers, and it would be wrong to single any one person out, from those who look after the gardens, to those who undertake maintenance duties, to those who make coffee, provide food, arrange flowers, play musical instruments, act as treasurers, and all those who are responsible for various ministries and activities, without whom things simply wouldn't happen. Over 40 individuals regularly commit to support the various works at Bethesda in a volunteer capacity. The value of volunteering is significant, and greatly enhances the services that can be provided to the community.

Financial review

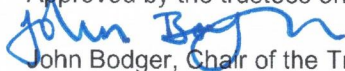
The trustees consider the financial position at the end of the year, as shown in the accounts on page 5, to be satisfactory. We saw a 51% increase in giving, part of this increase was provided to support the planned building upgrade works. With the exception of specific gifts to support worthy causes and specific disasters in 2023, we maintained the level of support to mission and relief work in many countries throughout the world.

The running costs of the building during 2023 continued at significantly increased levels due to the cost of living rises experienced, of particular note for us was the sustained high cost of gas and electricity which provide the heat, light and power for the various activities that take place. The minibus has continued to be maintained and used, fuel and insurance costs added to the annual expenditure.

In terms of reserves, it is the policy of the charity to maintain (if possible) a balance on unrestricted funds to cover at least three months' anticipated expenditure. In addition, funding is set aside for the replacement of the church minibus. However, as noted above, during the course of 2023 building plans were developed and planning permission has been granted for upgrades and improvement works. This will include increasing the thermal properties of the building, as well as a new heating system which will help to reduce future statutory services costs. Additional works are planned to deal with maintenance issues, enable the building to function more effectively and extend the useful life of the building that recently celebrated its 90th Anniversary.

The cost estimates for the building work are being developed and a significant element of church funds has been allocated for this investment, with additional funds being sought from other sources such as interested charitable trusts.

Approved by the trustees on 20th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


John Bodger, Chair of the Trustees

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2023

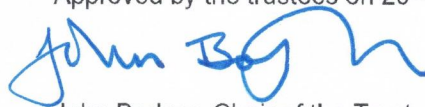
	2023 £	2022 £
Receipts		
Offerings and gifts (including Gift Aid)	47,266	56,710
Offering - restricted gifts for building work	43,320	0
Other income (restricted gifts for outreach work)	0	7,000
Total receipts	<u>90,586</u>	<u>63,710</u>
Payments		
General property running expenses	16,099	17,101
Supported workers and gifts	19,780	21,305
Church outreach and activity costs	4,647	2,070
Other outreach work (from restricted funds)	0	7,000
Total payments	<u>40,526</u>	<u>47,476</u>
Net receipts / (payments)	50,060	16,234
Cash funds at beginning of period	127,387	111,153
Cash funds at end of period	<u>177,447</u>	<u>127,387</u>
	=====	=====

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash funds:		
Balance at bank - general funds	134,127	127,387
Cash funds – restricted funds for building work	43,320	0
Net assets / total funds	<u>177,447</u>	<u>127,387</u>
	=====	=====

Note: Assets held for the charity's own use are a minibus, and items of furniture and equipment where the resale value is not significant.

Approved by the trustees on 20th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



John Bodger, Chair of the Trustees

Report of the independent examiner to the trustees of Bethesda Cardiff (charity number 1157230) in respect of an examination carried out on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

I have examined the accounts on page 5, comprising the receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the statement of assets and liabilities at that date.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

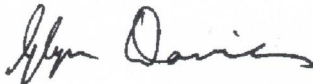
Basis of independent examiner's statement

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 the 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 Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.



Glyn J Davies BSc FCA CTA (Independent Examiner)
Gospel Hall,
Oddfellows Street,
Bridgend.
CF31 1TA

22nd April 2024