

Trustees Report & Unaudited Financial Statements

North Road Meeting Room Trust
For the year ended 5 April 2024

Contents

3	Legal and Administrative Information
4	Report of the Trustees
8	Report of the Independent Examiner
9	Statement of Financial Activities
10	Balance Sheet
11	Notes forming part of the Financial Statements
14	Resources Expended
15	Analysis of Net Assets - Current year
16	Analysis of Net Assets - Prior Year
17	Movement in Funds - Current Year
18	Movement in Funds - Prior Year
19	Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

Legal and Administrative Information

North Road Meeting Room Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

Charity Name:

North Road Meeting Room Trust

Registered Charity Number:

1161975

Trustees:

Mr N Keam

Mr NP Burtenshaw

Mr R Melvin

Mr T Hill - resigned 6th January 2024

Mr M Hannaford - resigned 5th December 2023

Mr H Melvin (Chair) - reappointed 5th December 2023

Mr NJ Burtenshaw - appointed 6th January 2024

Treasurer:

Mr NP Burtenshaw

Principle Address:

124 Looseleigh Lane, Derriford, Plymouth, United Kingdom, PL6 5JD

Independent Examiner:

Lloyd Tunley
Oldfield Advisory LLP
1120 Elliot Court
Herald Avenue
Coventry
CV5 6UB

Accountant:

Oldfield Advisory LLP
1120 Elliot Court
Herald Avenue
Coventry
CV5 6UB

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank Plc
Derry Cross
Plymouth

Report of the Trustees

North Road Meeting Room Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 5 April 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 11 and comply with the Trust Deed and applicable law.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Charity is an unincorporated trust constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 28th June 1982, most recently amended by Deed of Variation dated 12th August 2014. The trust was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 3rd June 2015 under Charity Registration Number: 1161975

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 3. None of the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, received any remuneration or expenses from the Charity in the year ended 5 April 2024.

The Trust operates one Gospel hall and Trustees are chosen from among the regular congregation of the hall. New Trustees are nominated by the existing Trustees or by the congregation and must be appointed by unanimous resolution of the congregation. They are selected according to their skills and experience and are expected to use both in furthering the objects of the Charity. Checks are made to ensure the Trustees' eligibility to act and incoming Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities by the existing Trustees, who ensure that new Trustees read the Trust Deed and relevant Charity Commission guidance.

Wider Network

The Trustees maintain informal links with similar charities with a view to pooling experience considered useful in pursuing the objects of the Charity. The Charity also maintains particular links with the Compton Meeting Rooms Trust, with which it shares members of its congregation.

Risk Management

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that they have established systems to manage and mitigate those risks.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives and Aims

The charitable purposes of the Charity are the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit, including by the carrying on of the service of God in accordance with the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible as followed by those Christians forming part of the world-wide fellowship known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (the "Brethren") and any other charitable purposes connected with Brethren. The core doctrine of the Brethren and proper practices in furtherance of certain aspects of doctrine are summarised in two schedules to the Trust Deed.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance to charities on public benefit.

Main activities and achievements

The Trust provides and maintains one Gospel hall where religious meetings are held by the local Brethren community. Details of the origins, teachings and way of life of the Brethren can be found on the website - www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org and in the schedules to the Trust Deed.

During the financial year the trust has invested in a full rehaul and upgrade of the air conditioning and heating controls at the city gospel hall. This was to modernise and bring the systems up to date since the previous controls were original to the construction of the hall. The installations were made after conducting considerable thorough research and planning for the equipment and contractor. Further to this, an intruder alarm system has been installed along with improved CCTV installation.

Also during the 2023-24 financial year, the Charity continued its support of local foodbanks with ambient food items. Donations were made to 4 charities during the financial year. These charities were:

- Childrens Hospice South West - a regional organisation with 3 childrens hospices between Cornwall, Devon and Somerset
- Shekinah Mission - a Devon charity for homelessness, with operations in Plymouth and Torbay
- St Lukes Hospice - a local charity providing palliative care and support within the Plymouth area.
- Help for Heroes - a national charity providing lifelong support to injured and wounded military veterans across the UK.

A separate report details further activities carried out by members of the local congregation, including support for a separate charity, the Rapid Relief Team, in Plymouth that regularly supports the local community.

Plans for future periods

Despite the increased cost of energy, the trustees feel that these increased costs are not significantly impacting on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have conducted research and carried out financial costing for the full refurbishment of the city gospel hall. This includes mainly internal works, including an airlock, audio, seating and carpets as well some external works such as painting the roof cladding. Other parts of the hall and grounds have already received extensive modernisations such as toilets, car park resurfacing, CCTV and alarm systems. The trustees anticipate for this to take place during 2025.

Meetings

Meetings held at the Gospel hall include the Lord's Supper (Communion), Gospel preachings, Bible readings and Bible addresses. There is a structured weekly schedule of meetings and, depending on the particular meeting, between 100 and 250 people normally attend these occasions.

The meetings are attended by the regular congregation and most are open to other properly disposed visitors. The notice board outside the Hall welcomes visitors and displays the times of Gospel preachings, along with a telephone number for those seeking further information or help. Gospel tracts, which are distributed by street preachers, also display this information.

Bibles and an extensive range of other Christian reading material are on display at the hall and visitors are free to help themselves.

Spreading the Gospel message and the life of a Christian

The Gospel hall is a base from which the regular congregation and others who attend the meetings are encouraged to spread the Christian Gospel, in word and deed.

Members of the congregation participate in a programme of street preaching where Gospel tracts are provided free of charge by the Charity to such preachers to be handed out to interested members of the public.

In carrying out this work, the congregation considers itself to be living out its faith in practice, as particularly exemplified in the following extract from the schedule to the Trust Deed on living a Christian life:

- We seek and are encouraged to live exemplary lives in all our relationships with others in the wider community (including former Brethren), in accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture (1 Tim 2:2).
- We regularly go out from our homes to preach on the streets, to distribute Christian literature and engage with the wider community (including former Brethren) in order to present eternal salvation, available to all men by faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Tim 4:2).
- We seek as members of the public to lead Christian lives as husbands and wives, parents, children, employers, employees and neighbours. (Col 3:22-25, Col 4:1).
- The preservation and protection of the family unit is fundamental and children are prized as a blessing from God. (Psalm 127:3-5). The elderly are valued members of the community, for whom both their family and the wider community are expected to care.
- Holy Scripture commands us to be good neighbours to others, and deal with all other people (including former Brethren) openly, honestly and fairly and consistent with these principles, we should give our time, talents and money to assist those in need in the wider community, in so far as reasonable given our abilities and our available resources. (Matt 7:12, Matt 22:39, Eph 4:28).

Funding

Funding is sought through gifts from the congregation and Gift Aid is claimed on eligible donations. Funding is sometimes received from other charitable trusts with complementary objectives.

Financial Review

In the year ended 5 April 2024 the Trust had a modest deficit of incoming resources over resources expended. This is mostly due to non-monetary items such as depreciation.

Total voluntary income received this year was £58,635 compared to £51,091 in the previous year.

All funds held were unrestricted funds.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs, based on its size and the level of its financial commitments. The Trust has no employees and its regular outgoings are minimal. Accordingly, the Trustees have decided to adopt a policy of maintaining no significant reserves apart from a minimum of £50,000 to enable the Charity to have sufficient flexibility to handle any future needs that the Charity may have to face. The congregation is kept regularly informed as to particular needs for funds, and other relevant matters and the Trustees aim to ensure that the Charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure, by raising a funds appeal to the congregation. The Charity is also holding free reserves in anticipation of additional costs in 2025 if the charity progresses with the refurbishment of the gospel hall.

Free Reserves at the year end were £101,879 (2023: £131,950)

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust Deed require the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:


- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. All transactions have been reviewed and approved by two trustees.

On Behalf of the board:


.....

Mr N Burtenshaw (Trustee)


.....

Date

Report of the Independent Examiner

North Road Meeting Room Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the North Road Meeting Room Trust for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust'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 Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 of 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 statements below.

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 respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

.....
Lloyd Tunley
Oldfield Advisory LLP
1120 Elliott Court
Herald Avenue
Coventry
CV5 6UB

16 January 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

North Road Meeting Room Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Income and endowments:					
Donations and Legacies:					
Contributions from the Congregation	29,535	-	-	29,535	27,066
Gift Aid Donations	22,320	-	-	22,320	17,680
Income Tax refunds	5,580	-	-	5,580	4,420
Other donations	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,925
Investments					
Interest Received	922	-	-	922	157
Total Income and endowments:	59,557	-	-	59,557	51,248
Expenditure:					
Running Meeting Rooms (note 8)	46,461	-	-	46,461	44,386
Cost of donated services (note 4)	33,193	-	-	33,193	9,202
Total Expenditure:	79,654	-	-	79,654	53,588
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(20,096)	-	-	(20,096)	(2,340)
Net Movement In Funds	(20,096)	-	-	(20,096)	(2,340)
	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Reconciliation of funds (note 10)					
Total Funds brought forward	767,955	-	-	767,955	770,295
Net movement in funds	(20,096)	-	-	(20,096)	(2,340)
Total Funds carried forward	747,858	-	-	747,858	767,955

The notes on page 11 - 19 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

North Road Meeting Room Trust As at 5 April 2024

	2024	2023
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets (note 5)	645,979	636,005
Total Fixed Assets	645,979	636,005
Current assets		
Prepayments and accrued income	4,043	5,240
Cash at bank and in hand	101,227	131,302
Total Current assets	105,271	136,541
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	3,392	4,591
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3,392	4,591
Net current assets/(liabilities)	101,879	131,950
Total assets less current liabilities	747,858	767,955
Net Assets	747,858	767,955
Funds (note 9)		
Unrestricted funds	747,858	767,955
Total Funds	747,858	767,955

The unaudited financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees of North Road Meeting Room Trust onand were signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mr N Burtenshaw (Trustee)

The notes on pages 11 - 19 form part of these financial statements.

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements

North Road Meeting Room Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and incorporating update bulletins 1 and 2, and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The functional currency of the charity is sterling (£).

The Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2 Income

Donations are recognised in the year in which there is entitlement and probability of receipt and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future year. Gift aid is added to the value of the donation to which it relates.

Donated services are recognised as income and expenditure in the financial statements when organisations or individuals offer their services and support pro bono. The value of these donated services to North Road Meeting Room Trust is considered to be equal to market value which would be paid were the service formally procured. This includes services paid for by other trusts.

Investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Charitable activities comprise those costs directly attributable to the fulfilment of the charitable objects.

1.4 Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and costs related to statutory requirements. Governance and support costs are allocated to charitable activities on the basis of capacity used.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets (costing more than £100) are stated at cost less depreciation. Freehold land is not depreciated. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold buildings	3% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings	25% reducing balance

1.6 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income or corporation tax on charitable activities, provided income falls within the charitable exemptions and is spent on charitable purposes.

1.7 Funds

The general unrestricted fund is free for the Trustees to use for any purposes in furtherance of the trust's charitable objects.

Restricted funds arise from donations to the trust, which are made for a specific purpose. Restricted funds can only be used for the purpose for which funds were given.

1.8 Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The Charity does not have a trading subsidiary.

1.9 Going Concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.10 Significant estimates and judgements

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits from an employment with the charity and no Trustees were reimbursed for expenses (2023: none)

3. WAGES AND SALARIES

There are no employees (2023: none)

4. Donated Services

	2024	2023
Donated Services		
Donated To:		
Donated Services to Compton Meeting Rooms Trust	33,193	9,202
Total Donated Services:	33,193	9,202

5. Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost	Freehold Property - Brest Road	Fixtures & Fittings	Totals
At 6 April 2023	750,000	75,396	825,396
Additions	13,528	14,847	28,375
Disposals	-	-	-
At 5 April 2024	763,528	90,243	853,771
Depreciation			
At 6 April 2023	120,000	69,391	189,391
Current Year Depreciation	15,174	3,226	18,400
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-
At 5 April 2024	135,174	72,617	207,792
Net Book Value			
At 5 April 2024	628,354	17,626	645,979
At 5 April 2023	630,000	6,005	636,005

Land registry titles of the above property held are DN226860.

6. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

During the financial year, aggregated donations of £11,160 (2023: £7,935) were received. The trust also incurred expenses totaling £3,177 from Protective Wear Supplies Ltd, of which Neil Burtenshaw (a trustee) is a director of, relating to general expenses for the Trust such as washroom supplies and cleaning materials

7. VOLUNTEERS

North Road Meeting Room Trust relies entirely on volunteers to carry out the management, administration and general maintenance work. The Trust has no paid staff or paid Trustees.

Resources Expended

North Road Meeting Room Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

8. Resources Expended

	RUNNING MEETING ROOMS	OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	TOTAL COSTS 2024	TOTAL COSTS 2023
Direct Costs				
Premises costs - repairs and maintenance	8,336	-	8,336	7,477
Premises costs - heat, light and power	8,177	-	8,177	7,747
Telephone	1,218	-	1,218	1,505
Health and Safety	400	-	400	370
Legal and professional	788	-	788	1,856
Public outreach expenses	-	557	557	70
Special meeting costs	85	-	85	384
Depreciation	18,400	-	18,400	16,592
Insurance	1,893	-	1,893	1,801
Other Expenses	5,510	-	5,510	5,538
Governance	1,098	-	1,098	1,045
Total Direct Costs	45,904	557	46,461	44,386

Governance costs include £180 (prior year: £180) in respect of independent examiners fees.

Analysis of Net Assets - Current year

North Road Meeting Room Trust
For the year ended 5 April 2024

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

9.1 Current Year

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024
Funds				
Tangible Fixed Assets	645,979	-	-	645,979
Current Assets	105,271	-	-	105,271
Current Liabilities	(3,392)	-	-	(3,392)
Total Funds	747,858	-	-	747,858

Analysis of Net Assets - Prior Year

North Road Meeting Room Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

9.2 Prior Year

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Funds				
Tangible Fixed Assets	636,005	-	-	636,005
Current Assets	136,541	-	-	136,541
Current Liabilities	(4,591)	-	-	(4,591)
Total Funds	767,955	-	-	767,955

Movement in Funds - Current Year

North Road Meeting Room Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

10. Movement in Funds

10.1 Movement in funds - current year

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2024
Movement in Funds				
Total funds brought forward	767,955	-	-	767,955
Incoming resources	59,557	-	-	59,557
Resources expended	(79,654)	-	-	(79,654)
Total funds carried forward	747,858	-	-	747,858

Movement in Funds - Prior Year

North Road Meeting Room Trust For the year ended 5 April 2024

10. Movement in Funds

10.2 Movement in funds - Prior year

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Movement in Funds				
Total funds brought forward	770,295	-	-	770,295
Incoming resources	51,248	-	-	51,248
Resources expended	(53,588)	-	-	(53,588)
Total funds carried forward	767,955	-	-	767,955

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

North Road Meeting Room Trust

For the year ended 5 April 2024

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Income and endowments:				
Donations and Legacies:				
Contributions from the Congregation	27,066	-	-	27,066
Gift Aid Donations	17,680	-	-	17,680
Income Tax refunds	4,420	-	-	4,420
Other donations	1,925	-	-	1,925
Investments				
Interest Received	157	-	-	157
Total Income and endowments:	51,248	-	-	51,248
Expenditure:				
Running Meeting Rooms (note 8)	44,386	-	-	44,386
Cost of donated services (note 4)	9,202	-	-	9,202
Total Expenditure:	53,588	-	-	53,588
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(2,340)	-	-	(2,340)
Net Movement In Funds	(2,340)	-	-	(2,340)
	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	DESIGNATED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS 2023
Reconciliation of funds (note 10)				
Total Funds brought forward	770,295	-	-	770,295
Net movement in funds	(2,340)	-	-	(2,340)
Total Funds carried forward	767,955	-	-	767,955

North Road Meeting Room Trust - Public Benefit

This report showcases the ways in which the North Road Meeting Room Trust and its congregation participate and engage in work of public benefit, connecting with the wider community in various ways.

The Plymouth Brethren Christian Church was established around 200 years ago and was founded by John Nelson Darby, one of the most influential Protestant thinkers of the 19th century.

Mr Darby broke with the established church in Ireland in 1827 and broke bread with those close to him, following deep spiritual exercise. This was the start of the Plymouth Brethren movement, and today, we are a community of over 55,000 members who live, work and worship around the world.

Around 1830 Mr Darby came to Plymouth where the congregation grew rapidly. Early publications were produced in Plymouth and distributed to other congregations of followers throughout the globe.



Introduction

Over 18,000 members of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church reside in the UK, and gather in 86 congregations spread across the country. The PBCC UK website displays these locations: [PBCC UK Locations](#)



Ever since the establishment of the Church, there have been Brethren gospel halls or meeting halls in the city of Plymouth – this is for approximately 190 years.

The North Road Meeting Trust was created in for the purpose of acquisition and construction of gospel halls for the advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit including by the carrying on of the service of God in accordance with the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible. This includes the celebration of the Lord's Supper, Gospel Preachings, Bible Readings and addresses on the Word of God and other meetings of a Christian religious character according to the teachings of the Holy Bible and the practices of those Christians forming a global fellowship known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church.

The North Road congregation currently has 119 members, living in the Plymouth and Yelverton areas in Devon. With members from the neighbouring congregation in St Austell, attending services up to twice a week along with other visitors, numbers can reach 280 persons, ranging from young to old.

The PBCC website gives more details on our way of life – follow <https://www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/>

Street Preaching and Tract Distribution

In cities and towns where there are Brethren congregations, public gospel preaching takes place on many weekdays, in the middle of the day.

The aim is not to recruit more members for the Brethren but to present eternal salvation, available to all men and women by faith in Jesus Christ, through His blood and His work of atonement.

‘God our Saviour, who will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth’

1 Timothy 2: 3-4

In Plymouth the street preachings are currently held at midday on weekdays, at the top of New George Street in the city centre.

Gospel tracts are handed out to passers-by – and these include phone numbers, so that a contact is available for anyone seeking help, guidance, reassurance or solace.

Bibles and gospel tracts/booklets are available on the below website:
<https://christiandoctrineandgospelpublishing.org/publications/outreach>

Outreach and Public Benefit

There is a strong and generous charitable spirit amongst the Brethren community, with many actively devoting time to volunteer and contribute financially to causes close to home and right across the globe.

Members of the Plymouth congregation volunteer with the Plymouth branch of the Rapid Relief Team (RRT) (a separate charity to North Road Meeting Room Trust) which is the global church's charitable arm. As well as this, financial donations are made to a range of charitable causes. During the year 2023-2024 this included:

- ❖ 4 charities supported with financial donations
- ❖ 15 active volunteers with Rapid Relief Team
- ❖ 6 donations to foodbanks of ambient food and household items

Donations were made to:

- Childrens Hospice South West - a regional organisation with 3 hospices for children, between Cornwall, Devon and Somerset.
- Shekinah Mission - a Devon charity for homelessness, with operations in Plymouth and Torbay.
- St Lukes Hospice - a local charity providing palliative care and support within the Plymouth area.
- Help for Heroes - a national charity providing lifelong support to injured and wounded military veterans across the UK.

The trust continued its support of local foodbanks in the city of Plymouth with ambient food and household items, regularly throughout the year.

Rapid Relief Team



There is a strong and generous charitable spirit among the Brethren, with many of us actively devoting our time to volunteer and contribute financially to causes close to home and right across the globe.

In 2013, the [Rapid Relief Team \(RRT\)](#) was established to help put our care and compassion into action for the benefit of people in need. Fast forward to today, and RRT is active in 14 countries and is operated by 14,500 volunteers from our Community.

RRT volunteers lend a helping hand to first responders and those impacted by disaster, as well as providing specific support for young people, people facing health and disability challenges and the homeless or people impacted by poverty and hardship.

Our Mission

To serve people with care & compassion in their time of need.

Our Vision

For the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church to express Christian principles of care and compassion, by way of benevolent relief to people in need.

Our Values

Global Team | Community Care | Compassion | Consistency

- ❖ 5 events supported by RRT
- ❖ 30 RRT Food Boxes donated to schools
- ❖ 120 RRT Smarrt Cookie cereal bars donated to schools
- ❖ 3000 bottles of water donated

In the spring of 2023, a range of products were donated to Widey Court Primary School, Plymouth. This included RRT Food Boxes for the school to distribute to student families that were struggling with the cost of living. The Food Box was designed to provide emergency food supplies for people and families in need, and now supports people from low socio-economic backgrounds and those in crisis.

Also donated were RRT Smarrt Cookie cereal bars. The Smarrt Cookie initiative aims to assist in the fight against hunger in primary school aged children and break down the barrier hunger has in distracting children from their education, ensuring they reach their full potential.

Throughout the year, RRT in Plymouth supported St Lukes Hospice, a local charity providing palliative care and support, with a donation of 2 pallets of bottled water to support their fundraising events, including sponsored walks and bicycle rides.

The volunteer work of the members of the congregation is of great importance to the community in which we serve. The trust is pleased for its external facilities at the local gospel halls to be used as a meeting/gathering point for RRT volunteers to start from prior to deployment. Equipment and trailers are stored in the secure grounds and a dedicated storage facility at one of the halls for the volunteers to access 24/7 whenever called upon.

Case Studies

February 2024

Thousands of people were evacuated from their homes in the Keyham area of Plymouth on Tuesday 20th February after the discovery of a WWII Unexploded Bomb (UXB) in a residential garden.

Congregation members volunteered with RRT to support emergency services working at the scene and at numerous cordons over the course of . They provided food and hot drinks to bomb disposal teams and to some of the thousands of residents who had to be evacuated.

The first deployment was at midday on Tuesday 20th February, with a tent being set up a Lidl supermarket car park in the Keyham area to provide quality food and refreshments around the clock for emergency responders. This support continued on Thursday and Friday, serving over 200 meals and drinks to officers working within the cordon.



The charity also set up a secondary support point and served meals and drinks at Plymouth Life Centre which was used as an emergency rest centre for people who had been evacuated from the exclusion zone.



This news article and video shows the RRT set up in the supermarket car park location: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-68388709>

March 2024

Members of the congregation volunteered with RRT to support a search on Dartmoor for a missing person. A police helicopter was involved in the search in Brentor and the surrounding areas, for the missing local man who was reported missing from his home.

The RRT team was deployed to the search base at a local village hall in Mary Tavy, Devon, where they served drinks and snacks to the Mountain Rescue teams involved.



<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/local-news/live-police-helicopter-searches-dartmoor-9193038>

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