



Trustees' Annual Report

for the period ending

31st December 2023

Charity Name: Beacon Evangelical Church

Registered Charity Number: 1163097

Principal address: 47 Sandwell Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 8NH

Trustees who manage the Charity

Name	Office (if any)	Dates in office if not for the whole year
Timothy Turner	Pastor and Elder	
Elaine Salmon	Deacon and Secretary	
Philip Evans	Deacon and Treasurer	
Veronica Johnson	Deacon	

Structure and governance

Beacon Evangelical Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees and is regulated by a constitution.

Trustees are elected by the members of the church and together constitute the “Leadership Team” of the church. Within the Leadership Team, there are Elders who are responsible for the spiritual and pastoral care of the members and Deacons who assist the Elders in their duties.

The trustees meet on a monthly basis to consider the spiritual and pastoral affairs of the church and on a quarterly basis to manage matters requiring financial and procedural decisions.

The church is a founder member of the Charity, Handsworth and District Christian Outreach also known as Hands Outstretched, a collaboration between local churches for the advancement of the Christian faith.

Objects

The church’s objects, for the public benefit, are to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Faith detailed in the church’s constitution.

To this end, the Leadership Team is committed to enabling the members of the church to communicate the Christian gospel with as many people as possible. This is understood to take place verbally and also by practical demonstration of God’s love through compassionate care for members of the community, the provision of services from the base of the church building on Sandwell Road and through the members’ lifestyle within the community.

In overseeing and developing the activities of the church, the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Activities

The activities of the church are open to the public.

Worship

The church holds one service of worship each Sunday. Members are encouraged to participate in running the service, building their faith, developing confidence and skills. Having developed the means to Live-stream our services during the Covid-19 restrictions we chose once again to continue to live-stream them to YouTube during 2023. This has benefitted not just those who cannot leave their homes for reasons of health and vulnerability but has strengthened our connection with other people who might not otherwise have come into contact with us.

Prayer

The church has a monthly day of prayer and two, week-long prayer events, meeting together nightly.

Fellowship groups

The church runs several small groups on weekday evenings for study of the Bible, to develop individual Christian faith and engage in community outreach. From time to time, groups run events to bring the community together and explain the Christian faith. There are now three evening groups and a new daytime group.

Drop-in days

In 2023 we continued to run a monthly 'drop-in day' with activities, free refreshments and a free lunch. This prototype event helps us to welcome and get to know people from our community, especially those who are lonely, isolated or vulnerable in some way. It is a welcoming space with a listening ear. We offer to help people with filling in forms, can issue foodbank vouchers and have incorporated a 'Dementia Café', run by a Dementia UK ambassador. This year we were also able to invite in a benefit advisor and also sometimes work with the local Prison Link charity, welcoming some of their service users, as well as residents at a local men's hostel.

Children and young people

- The church runs a **Sunday Club** for children from Year 1 to year 11, teaching Bible knowledge and explaining the Christian faith. Numbers attending have been steady over 2023 and we have seen an increase in the number of babies and nursery age children.
- **Late Night Sunday (LNS)** is run by teenagers and young adults for those in year 10 and above, including young adults in their early 20s. The group still exists but has not been as active.
- **12+** is a for young people in year 7 to mid-teens, meeting fortnightly for games and topical study and once a month for a physical activity together in the community, such as climbing, bowling etc. This has continued to grow in 2023 and can be attended by up to 14 children.
- In April 2023 the church took a group of around 30 young people, young adults and helpers on an activity weekend in Criccieth, North Wales. They spent a lot of time enjoying the simple pleasures of being on a beach, doing craft activities, games and enjoying a popular guest speaker.
- Our young people and children are encouraged to take part in 'Family Services' once a month and sometimes lead the whole service.

- Several members were able to run a holiday club for children, mainly non churchgoers - Refocus for Kids. This happened twice in the year, funded by Awards For All, through the Prison Link Charity.

Food bank

The church continued to support The Handsworth Food Bank, a Trussell Trust Food Bank based locally, providing funds from time to time, food and volunteers to staff the food bank.

Sisters of Strength Women's group (SOS)

Sisters of Strength is a women's group which meets up to 6 times a year for an evening of worship, teaching and celebration. This group was able to meet several times in 2023.

Beacon Brothers Together

Brothers Together is a fairly informal group for men, which meets for breakfast from time to time and seeks to support men in the church and outside in putting their faith into action. It also operates as a support network for men via social media.

Beacon Listening Service

This is a free, appointment only service staffed by trained volunteers and offering up to three hour-long sessions of confidential listening with one or sometimes two listeners present. This service was able to operate in a limited capacity in 2023.

Safe Families

The church had one volunteer helping with the Safe Families charity during 2023.

Staffing and safeguarding

The church had no full-time paid staff in 2023. We continued the process of recruiting a full time Community Development and Outreach Leader, to assist the church's vision to become more outward looking and to take the good news of Jesus to our community in both word and compassionate action to help the most vulnerable.

All of the services and activities provided are organised and staffed by volunteers. The church's safeguarding officer ensures that those working with children and vulnerable adults are selected, trained, checked and supervised in accordance with the church's safeguarding policy.

Achievements and performance

The total number of children and young people attending Sunday Club and other events increased a little again during 2023 but remains smaller than pre-pandemic.

The church continued to livestream Sunday Services via YouTube, allowing members, some of whom who are housebound to remain connected. It has also allowed those who work weekend shifts, are sick or away from home to connect and take part. Having service videos available after the event has also meant that new people have been able to connect with us. Family members and people who used to be connected to Beacon Church have also watched after the event.

The number of people attending Sunday Worship in person averaged around 42 (40 in 2022). An average of 12 additional people watched live (14 in 2022) and another average of 60 watched the service after the event (61 in 2022). This additional number must be reduced slightly to account for hosts watching the service in order to interact with those online.

The total number of people joining in with our Sunday Services in some way during 2023 averaged 114, compared to 115 in 2022.

In all the church published 52 videos on YouTube and the number of people subscribing to our YouTube channel rose from around 178 to 195. Once again this involved a huge amount of

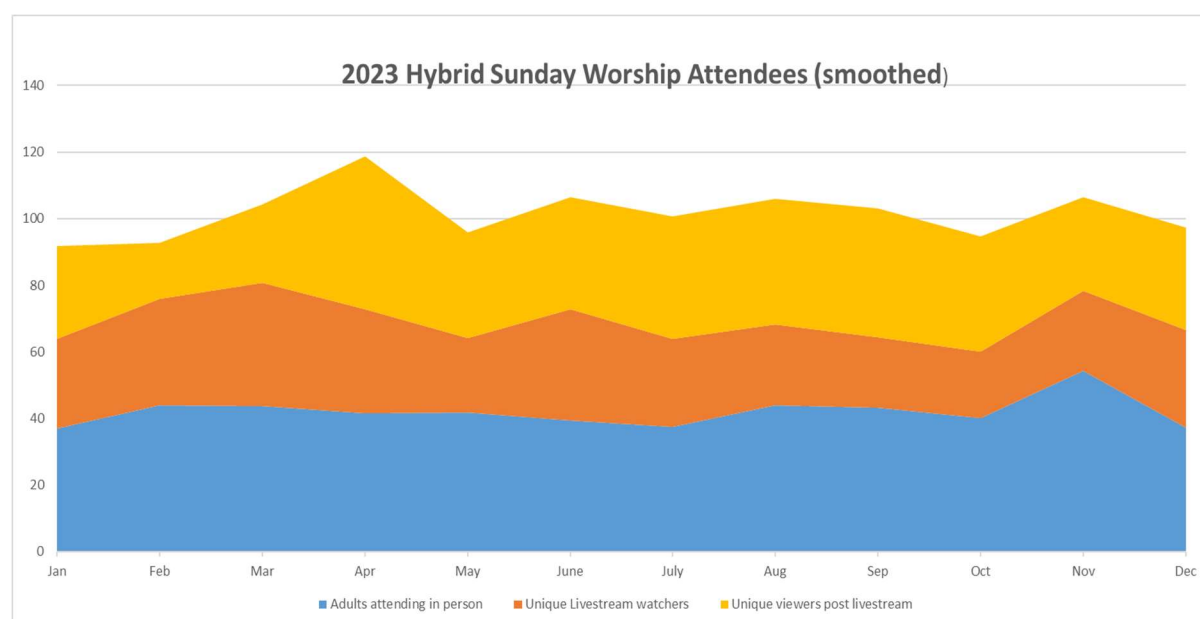


Figure 1 – 2023 Hybrid Sunday worship attendance

creativity, energy, volunteer hours and commitment from our volunteers carrying out preparation, the Sunday technical team and our worship team.

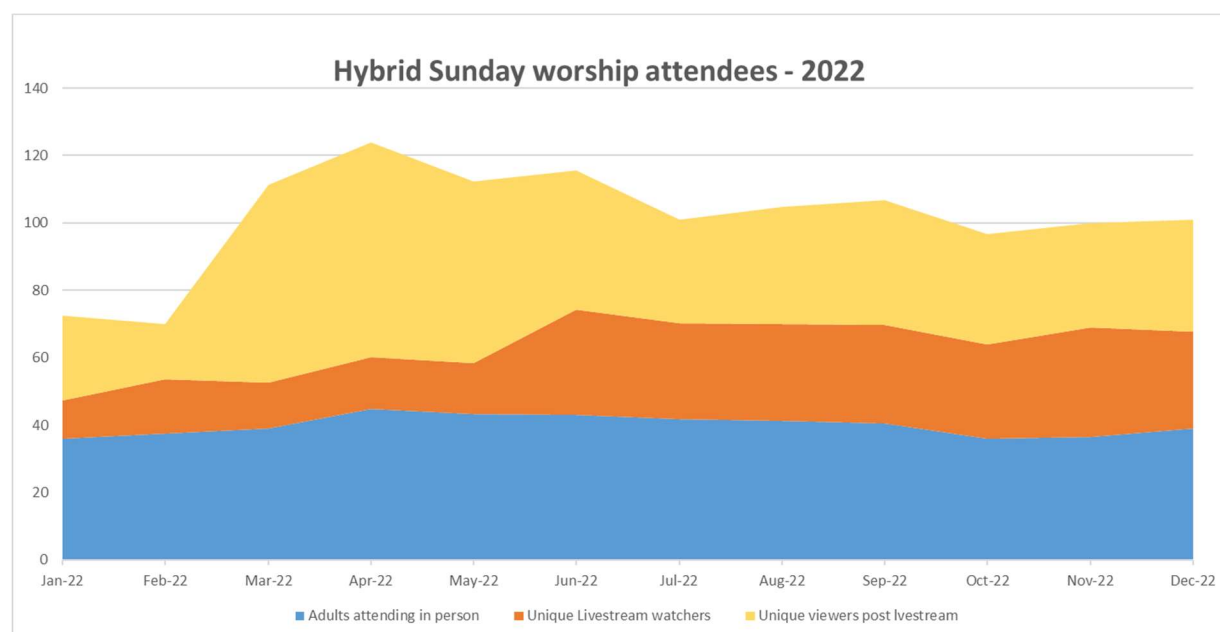


Figure 2 – 2022 Hybrid Sunday worship attendance

The church conducted two funerals and one baby dedication service in 2023. Seventy-three people were in membership at the end of 2023 (78 at the end of 2022). Four transferred to other churches, one married and moved away, two passed away and one was a student who graduated and settled elsewhere.

The 2020 pandemic left us with a legacy of people who had ceased to be active members but did not resign formally. We still have a number of these members who will most likely be removed from membership in 2024.

However, 2023 saw a turnaround. For the first time since 2019, we saw baptisms, four people were baptised and three people were received into membership. We also saw an upturn in the number of visitors, many of whom want to be a long-term part of the Beacon family.

Outreach

The Drop-in day has continued to be popular, attracting upwards of 20 people, most of whom we have never met before and who would not have come to the church for a service. This is helping us learn about the needs and aspirations of our community as we look to develop the new Beacon Centre. Some of those who come to the Drop-in initially, do visit services now sometimes.

Week by week, the Church continued to offer support to individuals and families in need with contact, food parcels, food bank vouchers, practical help through our 25:35 fund, transport to appointments, assistance with filling in forms, moving home or to helping to prevent people becoming homeless. We also helped with shopping and contributions to gas and electricity needs. Over the Christmas period the church put together and distributed food hampers to 12 families in need, partly via our contact with St James School and distributed Christmas presents to 20 families via the Birmingham City Mission Toylink scheme.

Some of our volunteers attended a coffee morning run by St James School to share what Beacon could offer including access to Dementia Awareness and advisors on matters related to housing in attendance at our Drop-in days.

The Beacon Centre Project

A project to refocus the energy of the church on reaching and serving the community. It includes the plan to rebuild the church premises in Sandwell Road in order to better facilitate the church's vision to reach the community and provide more space for services of worship.

The vision includes expanding or providing for the first time some of the following services:

- counselling and support to address mental health needs
- facilities and support for parents with young children
- signposting and language learning to support incomers
- a place for young people to belong, learn and play
- a place for older people to socialise and obtain help

Planning Permission

In July 2023, after a painful fourteen-month wrestle with the Birmingham City Council planning department we were finally granted planning permission for The Beacon Centre.

Three phases planned

Our Architects helped us devise a structure for the building project, in three phases:

- Phase 1 Prepare - building some retaining walls, some excavation, and preparation of utility connections, along with fulfilling some of the essential planning conditions.
- Phase 2 Build the main two-storey part of the building at the front of the site whilst retaining and using the old building during the build.
- Phase 3 Demolish the old building and build the final part of the Beacon Centre in its place, whilst using the Phase 2 building for most activities.

Phase 1 will begin in the first 6 months of 2024.

Leader – Community Development and Outreach

We continued to attempt to recruit for this full-time role, focused on developing our community service and outreach in line with our vision.

We interviewed some candidates in 2023 but did not appoint any of them. A further round of advertising began in December 2023.

Financial Review

A full statement of accounts has been prepared by Data Developments (UK) Ltd, First Floor, The Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT. Data Developments act as the church's independent examiners.

Beacon Church's principal source of funding is donations from members.


The church makes use of the gift aid scheme to claim tax on donations.

The Church did not have a Reserves policy in 2023.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature 

Date: 07/05/2024

Full Name Timothy John Holden Turner

Position Chair

Beacon Evangelical Church

Financial statements for the year ended 2023

Beacon Evangelical Church
47 Sandwell Road
Handsworth
Birmingham
B21 8NH

Independent Examiner's report

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and they consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) 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 the Independent Examiner's statement

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 these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for 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 material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I 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.

Date: 18th April 2024

Signed:



Stephen Hendy

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	55,807	25,070	—	—	80,877	57,646
Investment income	199	—	—	—	199	144
Incoming resources from charitable activities	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total income	56,007	25,070	—	—	81,077	57,790
Resources used						
Charitable activities	13,066	774	—	—	13,841	10,768
Other resources used	16,245	1,800	—	—	18,045	48,566
Total expenditure	29,312	2,574	—	—	31,886	59,334
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	26,694	22,495	—	—	49,190	(1,544)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds	26,694	22,495	—	—	49,190	(1,544)
Total funds brought forward	565,689	291,235	56,065	—	912,990	914,534
Total funds carried forward	592,383	313,731	56,065	—	962,180	912,990
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	592,383	—	—	—	592,383	565,689
Designated						
25-35 Fund	—	1,039	—	—	1,039	870
Distress Fund	—	1,036	—	—	1,036	1,280
New Beacon Fund	—	311,656	—	—	311,656	289,084
Travel Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
Restricted						
Building Fund	—	—	56,065	—	56,065	56,065
New Beacon Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Fixed assets		
Heritage assets	440,433	440,433
	440,433	440,433
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	521,747	472,557
	521,747	472,557
Net current assets less current liabilities	521,747	472,557
Total assets less current liabilities	962,180	912,990
Total net assets less liabilities	962,180	912,990

Represented by

Unrestricted

General fund	592,383	565,689
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Designated

25-35 Fund	1,039	870
Distress Fund	1,036	1,280
New Beacon Fund	311,656	289,084
Travel Fund	—	—

Restricted

Building Fund	56,065	56,065
New Beacon Fund	—	—

Funds of the church

962,180	912,990
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Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Heritage assets						
Church Premises -	440,433	—	—	—	440,433	440,433
Totals	440,433	—	—	—	440,433	440,433
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
Beacon CafCash -	75,169	45,124	2,859	—	123,154	84,911
Beacon Gold -	4,823	102,157	1,062	—	108,043	105,891
CAF - Scottish Widows Term deposit -	57,857	17,896	(22,857)	—	52,896	51,650
Cambridge & Counties Bank -	7,656	5,412	75,000	—	88,068	84,849
Lloyds TSB -	6,443	(620)	—	—	5,823	4,983
Redwood Bank -	—	54,362	—	—	54,362	52,721
United Trust Bank Limited -	—	89,398	—	—	89,398	87,551
Totals	151,950	313,731	56,065	—	521,747	472,557
Grand total	592,383	313,731	56,065	—	962,180	912,990

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
25-35 - 25-35 Fund						
Designated	870	569	400	—	—	1,039
Sub-total for 25-35	870	569	400	—	—	1,039
BF - Building Fund						
Restricted	56,065	—	—	—	—	56,065
Sub-total for BF	56,065	—	—	—	—	56,065
Distr - Distress Fund						
Designated	1,280	129	373	—	—	1,036
Sub-total for Distr	1,280	129	373	—	—	1,036
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	565,689	56,007	29,312	—	—	592,383
Sub-total for General	565,689	56,007	29,312	—	—	592,383
NBF - New Beacon Fund						
Designated	289,084	24,371	1,800	—	—	311,656
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for NBF	289,084	24,371	1,800	—	—	311,656
Tra - Travel Fund						
Designated	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Tra	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand total	912,990	81,077	31,886	—	—	962,180

Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income						
Offerings	37,372	—	—	—	37,372	39,096
Income tax refund	12,280	1,929	—	—	14,209	—
Other Income	6,153	—	—	—	6,153	2,837
Distress fund	—	129	—	—	129	183
25-35	—	569	—	—	569	642
New Beacon Fund Income	—	22,442	—	—	22,442	14,885
Total	55,807	25,070	—	—	80,877	57,646
Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income						
Bank Interest	199	—	—	—	199	144
Total	199	—	—	—	199	144
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Rental Income	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other incoming resources						
Building Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
Minibus fund	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—
INCOME TOTAL	56,007	25,070	—	—	81,077	57,790

EXPENDITURE

Charitable activities

Church Gifts	7,940	—	—	—	7,940	8,039
Distress Fund expenses	—	373	—	—	373	450
25-35 expenses	—	400	—	—	400	422
Organisational Support & Events	5,126	—	—	—	5,126	1,856
Total	13,066	774	—	—	13,841	10,768

Other resources used

Salaries:Net Salary	—	—	—	—	—	14,774
Salaries:Employers National Insurance	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salaries:Pensions	—	—	—	—	—	1,000
Salaries:Income tax	—	—	—	—	—	1,414
Salaries:Employee National Insurance	—	—	—	—	—	1,110
Payroll:Volunteer Expenses	759	—	—	—	759	655
Salaries:Telephone Expenses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Preaching fees	200	—	—	—	200	100
Training	40	—	—	—	40	—

Subscriptions	250	—	—	—	250	243
Governance Costs	345	—	—	—	345	696
Establishment costs	1,962	—	—	—	1,962	213
Establishment costs:Light & Heat	4,626	—	—	—	4,626	4,322
Establishment costs:Insurances	—	—	—	—	—	1,547
Establishment costs:Repairs and renewals	1,912	—	—	—	1,912	2,178
Establishment costs:depreciation	—	—	—	—	—	—
Establishment costs:Cleaning & consumabs	3,290	—	—	—	3,290	443
New Beacon Project cost	—	1,800	—	—	1,800	9,128
Support Costs	2,856	—	—	—	2,856	10,738
Depreciation	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16,245	1,800	—	—	18,045	48,566
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	29,312	2,574	—	—	31,886	59,334
GRAND TOTAL	26,694	22,495	—	—	49,190	(1,544)