



Wheatley Community Church

Registered Charity 1163593

Trustees' Annual Report 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Charity's principal address:

128 Church Road

Wheatley

Oxford

OX33 1LU

Governance:

The Charity is governed by a constitution and founded as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). New trustees are appointed by the trustee body.

We are an independent church with a leadership group drawn from people who have been active in the village and involved in ministry in other churches. Our position as an independent church was subject to a review, which was concluded in April 2024.

We are members of Wheatley Area Churches and the Evangelical Alliance.

We have the following policies in place:

- Health & Safety
- Safeguarding
- Finance
- Risk register
- Terms & Conditions (staff)
- Data protection
- Church handbook

We have the following guidance in place:

- Conflict of interest
- Training record

Charitable Objective:

To advance the Christian religion for the benefit of the public in accordance with the statement of faith found in the schedule to our constitution.

Vision Statement: *

We believe we are being called by God to be a welcoming, accessible, diverse and nurturing church. Shaped by His word, we respond to His lordship, His love and to this call by seeking to be –

- A community that is journeying, evolving and learning together with the Bible central to our teaching and our values. (Romans 12v16)
- A praying church, a place of significant fellowship and trust where individuals are encouraged and supported to grow and develop spiritually in their walk with God. (Acts 2v42)
- An all-age church, welcoming and catering for children, young people and adults alike, sharing our lives informally through the week as well as through our organised meetings. (Romans 12vv9-13)
- A contemporary, lively and enthusiastic church, guided and equipped by the Holy Spirit and passionate about our faith and God's love for all people. (John 3v16)
- A community devoted to the love and worship of the God who first loved us – Father, Son and Holy Spirit (John 4 v 24)
- A church given to loving service, seeking to bring hope and practical support to those around us. (Galatians 6v10)
- A church committed to sharing our faith and inspiring others to discover the transforming love of Jesus. (Matthew 28vv18-20)
- A church concerned for the world we live in, seeking to bring God's justice, mercy and compassion (Isaiah 1 v 17).

Church leadership:

Wheatley Community Church (WCC) is led by a Core Leadership Team (CLT), each of whom is initially elected by the membership, whose responsibilities include –

- Spiritual and pastoral oversight of the church as a whole
- Teaching programme coordination
- Oversight of corporate worship
- Pastoral care & Small group coordination
- WCC support of Mission work beyond Wheatley, in all its forms
- Strategic and visionary planning

Members of the CLT must agree to the Church's statement of faith (What We Believe) and exhibit the characteristics of leaders outlined in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. They will have relevant experience in church life and organisation and a heart for service to the Wheatley Community, for pastoral care, seeing people compassionately as individuals, and for mission and outreach.

The CLT is led by the WCC Pastor, who will initiate and lead annual reviews with each of the leadership team. The WCC Pastor is accountable in turn to the charity Trustees (see below).

WCC Charity Trustees:

Wheatley Community Church is a registered Charity. As such, matters of legal and financial compliance are managed by a board of Trustees. WCC Trustees must agree to the Church's statement of faith (What We Believe). They should also have skills and experience relevant to the oversight of church, organisation and/or charity governance.

This board is made up as follows –

- Up to two representatives of the WCC CLT.
- The Church Treasurer.
- Other church members with relevant experience or expertise, through nomination by members and with appointment by the Trustee body.
- The Chair of Trustees will not be a member of the CLT and is proposed and elected by the other trustees from within their number.

Trustees serving during all or part of period:

- Gordon Ewbank (to July 2023)
- Jill Ewbank (to 18 March 2024)
- Wendy Hill (treasurer)
- Angela Smith (Chair of Trustees to October 2023)
- Mark Humphriss (Chair of Trustees from October 2023 / trustee from 24 May 2023)
- Joel Carras (from 25 October 2023)

Activities:

- Holding services of worship, prayer and teaching
- Celebration of religious festivals
- Pastoral support through one to one and small group meetings
- Producing and sourcing materials to enlighten others about the basis of the Christian faith
- Children & Youth Work/Education
- Training programmes – young people & adults
- Community projects/development

Achievements & performance:

For information on the Charity's achievements and performance please visit the following site:
<https://www.wheatleycommunitychurch.org>

Summary of Achievements and Performance:

- Weekly services
- Fortnightly small Bible study group meetings
- Monthly prayer meetings
- Quarterly discussion forums
- Quarterly members' meetings

- Community meals and social events
- Youth Groups (weekly)
- Women's events

Some of these activities are run in partnership with others of like mind in our community.

Morning Services:

There is some variety in our Sunday meetings, but most of them include the following key elements:

- **Singing** - normally 4 or 5 songs over the course of the service. Words are put up on a screen, and the congregation are welcome to join in, or not to sing as preferred.
- **Prayer** - for local, national and international needs, as well as time to bring our own prayers to God. Most people will sit or stand, but people are welcome to kneel if preferred.
- **A talk** - someone will give a talk for 20-30 minutes on a passage or topic from the Bible.
- **Fellowship** - after the service, there is opportunity for refreshments and fellowship with other members of the church family and guests.
- **Children's Sunday school** – children and youth have their own Sunday School programme run by members of the church community who are DBS checked. Our youth stay in the main service on occasion.

Our style of meeting is quite informal, and kids are encouraged to join in with the singing as they feel comfortable. About 30 minutes into the service, the young people go to separate groups around the school building and have a mix of age-appropriate activities and discussions.

Public benefit:

All Wheatley Community Church activities are designed to be accessible to all who take part. Children and youth activities adhere to Wheatley Community Church's safeguarding policy and are supervised by experienced adults. Children and young people's activities aim to help them to develop spiritually and morally in line with the Christian faith in order that they may better understand the bible and God's love for them. All community events aim to build social capital, to the benefit of all. Our activities are designed to reinforce the meaning that the Christian faith gives to our members' lives and the way in which it contributes to their spiritual well-being. It helps to develop their spirituality (including strengthening their relationship with God) as well as providing a moral or ethical framework to live by. This moral or ethical framework offers benefits to wider society, as well as individual comfort, hope and a sense of purpose.

Financial review:

During 2023 Wheatley Community Church maintained its cash position and finished the year with reserves of almost 8 months unrestricted funds - £74,868. We continue to hold funds on behalf of Pulse and Fusion, 2 youth outreaches in Wheatley and at year end these amounted to £7,296 of restricted funds. Our giving to mission continues to be a major focus of our expenditure and in 2023 represented 20% of our total payments. We also funded events for our local community in September at a cost of £839.

On a monthly basis payments continue to outweigh receipts, but a Gift month in Sept/Oct raised almost £7,572 and enabled us to finish the year with £1,000 more in unrestricted cash compared to the January figure.

All ministry areas finished the year under budget with most planned expenditure fulfilled. The exception was that in July we relinquished the lease on our office with a saving of £2,600p.a.

Our healthy reserves position means that we are able to plan growth for some of our Ministry areas in 2024

Financial Report/Independent Examination:

See following pages.

Declaration:

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.



Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees.
Mark Humphriss, Chair of Trustees



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Wheatley Community Church	No (if any) 1163593
--	-------------------------------

Receipts and Payments Accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To	Period end date 31/12/2023
------------------------	---------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

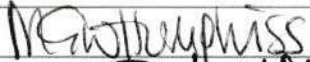
Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	80,769		-	80,769	70,506
Gift Aid	18,565	-	-	18,565	20,428
Other	3,810	350	-	4,160	13,939
Pulse	-	590	-	590	-
Fusion	-	160	-	160	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	103,144	1,100	-	104,244	104,873
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	103,144	1,100	-	104,244	104,873
A3 Payments					
Staff	69,233	-	-	69,233	70,477
Mission Giving	20,840	-	-	20,840	22,127
Cburch Srvcies/Meetings	6,371	-	-	6,371	5,806
Local Outreach	-	-	-	-	3,781
Fusion	-	251	-	251	-
Pulse	-	445	-	445	-
Other	6,860	350	-	7,210	14,083
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	103,304	1,046	-	104,350	116,274
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	103,304	1,046	-	104,350	116,274
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 160	54	-	- 106	- 11,401
A5 Transfers between funds	1,080	- 1,080	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	73,948	8,322	-	82,270	93,671
Cash funds this year end	74,868	7,296	-	82,164	82,270

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Current Account	6,368	7,296	-
	CAF Gold Account	66,586	-	-
	Stewardship Services Account	1,914	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	74,868	7,296	-
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
CCXX R3 accounts (SS)	3		-	17/06/2024
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	MARK HUMPHREYS	3/6/24
	WENDY TAYLOR HILL	3/6/24



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Wheatley Community Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2023

Charity no
(if any)

1163593

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and basis of
report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and 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.

Signed:

Date:

19/06/2024

Name:

Rebecca Morris

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

ACA

Address:

89 Stanway Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 8HY