

CLM Annual Update Meeting

Wednesday
22nd May 2024

Senior Leader's Report:

I always think we need to give the Lord thanks far more than we do for all that He does for us. And while the 'Annual Update Meeting' is an opportunity to do that we should remember to do it constantly and in all situations.

That was put to the test in January 2023 when Carolyn was promoted to glory to be with her Lord and Saviour. Such a core part of the life of CLM, and one who just got on with it. I said previously about how she was always saying, 'Let's pray about it'. Of course, her family felt her loss most keenly but as a church it impacted us enormously for many months and as a 'Leadership Team' too. Her faith and trust in her Lord in those closing days and weeks were inspiring. She also talked about being sorry to miss on what she had prayed to see at CLM and believed the Lord was now doing at CLM. A woman of faith and prayer who will always be missed but who leaves a wonderful legacy.

There were other farewells over the year, but with people moving out of the area with Mike & Charlotte leaving in March and Alan & Hannah in July. We pray that they will find a great spiritual home where they are both now living. We were also delighted to see new people across all age ranges joining us and the sense of excitement among us that God is doing something special.

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A real challenge faced by all Churches today is how do we teach enough of the Word of God into what is often one slot for many people on a Sunday morning when there is so much for us all to learn. That's where 'Life Groups' are important along with personal Bible reading and study at home. Over the year we covered many topics on a Sunday, including 'The Holy Spirit', 'The Gospel of John', 'Ephesians', and the 'The Fruit of the Spirit. We did the 'A-Z Memory Verses' ...(if you can remember!). Midweek we stopped Life Groups for a season to do both a Discipleship Course and 'The Bible Course' from the Bible Society.

Of course, a big part of the year was our excitement as we started the search for an 'Associate Leader' as we looked to the future. A number of people expressed an interest and a couple of them attended on a Sunday to see what life was like at CLM. It became clear very quickly to the Leadership Team that Matt Bentley was the candidate we would love to work with and after discussions over the next few months with Trustees and the Church it was confirmed that we would offer him the role. We were absolutely delighted when Matt accepted and he, Zoe, Josiah and Leo joined us at CLM in November 2023.

Matt, Zoe and family were thrown in at the deep end as just four days after Matt started with us we went on our Church Weekend away at Quinta. To have so many with us from CLM was wonderful as were the main Bible

teaching sessions taken by Andy Barclay-Watt and Dave Latham, along with Sue Latham leading us in worship. There were great times of fellowship, and new life in Jesus Christ experienced. There was some drama in the form of a 'Murder Mystery' night, and as always when we're together, excellent food. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it an amazing success.

We have been part of the Maximise group of churches for a few years now and we attended events over the year mainly at the 'Life Centre' in Manchester. I participated in the fortnightly Leadership meeting and continued to serve on the 'Core Team' of Maximise Churches meeting once a month. I have also served as the Chair of 'Churches Together Ormskirk' for the last 12 months. With the Churches in 'CTO' we hosted the 'Family Fun Day' in Coronation Park in June which was blessed with incredible weather and fantastic attendance. A lot of hard work went into making it such a success by so many people but Jackie Currie more than anyone, with help in both raising the funds needed along with overseeing the administration of the event which was attended by thousands of people. There were many highlights but one which we probably didn't anticipate was the number of young people who took a Bible from the Gideon (now 'Good News') stand. On the day 200 Bibles were freely given away across all age groups to people expressing an interest.

Other events included the Safeguarding Training by an external Trainer covering working with both Children and Vulnerable Adults, Matt speaking at the Ormskirk Christmas Lights switch on, Morgan and Dylan getting baptised, Luke & Kylie going on Mission to Tanzania.

We were delighted to welcome more Edge Hill Students while at the same time sad to say goodbye to some whose course had finished. To see them playing an active part in the life of the church was wonderful. They add so much and we are 'richer' for having them with us.

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Luke was invited to meet with the leadership Team for 12 months as part of his growth and development and to see if this is something the Lord may be calling him to. Finally, I want to acknowledge the devotion and support of the Leadership Team. Working alongside you has been both a joy and a privilege. Thank you.

Paul

Associated Leaders Report:

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Associate Leader since commencing at CLM Church in November. As a family, we have received the most beautiful, warm welcome in to the Church family. I really do feel very blessed to be serving at this Church.

We thoroughly enjoyed being away as a family with the Church at Quinta in November. It was a brilliant opportunity to spend quality time away and build on relationships with the congregation. It was great to see the Church enjoy each other's company, as well as witness fantastic fruits and encounters with God.

I have been part of leading and preaching in the Sunday services. I have also thoroughly enjoyed the teaching of others and learning the gifts within the church and how we build on those as a congregation. Looking back, over the Christmas period at CLM, we gathered as a church and the wider Ormskirk community, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As a church, we have also been able to welcome and see some new faces visit and commit to CLM, which has also been a blessing.

As we promptly approached 2024, I shared with the leaders some ideas to start groups to provide opportunities for the church and community. This has included a Youth group (11–18-year-olds), Lego Group, Young Adult Work and Alpha. I have been fully supported and humbled by so many of the congregation who are always willing to volunteer and excited to see what CLM has in store for 2024.

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Finally, I am very excited to see what God has in store for the future.

Matt

Worship Report:

Our purpose as a worship team is to serve God by offering Him our sung worship as part of our lives and to lead others into God's presence through sung worship.

In 2023 we continued to see some changes in personnel, but it is mostly the same group of musicians and singers. However, we have used a music App (I Sing Worship) for our monthly 'Toast' Services instead of a live band.

Please pray for God's blessing on our team and what we do, also pray for new people to come along to the Worship Ministry.

Thank you to all who serve the Lord and the Church in this way.

'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.' Psalm 150

Roger Currie

Prayer:

It's invisible but invaluable. It can be done individually or communally. It can be silent or aloud. It can be done directly to God because Jesus opened up the access to the Father for us when He suffered and died on the cross.

Prayer is the key to harnessing God's power in our life. Prayer develops our relationship with God and is for everyone.

Jesus taught us how to pray.
The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6: 9-13

We are a praying Church, let us continue and get even better at it.

Roger

Mission:

We continued to support the missions that are familiar to us at CLM. After the earthquake in Turkey we took a further offering which was matched by giving in the 'Missions' account to help churches there reach out very practically to their communities. We were able to encourage Luke & Kylie in their missions trip to Tanzania and hear what they got up to on their return.

We want to encourage people at CLM to go on short-term mission trips to see what the Lord is doing in other countries. It will change your life. A further offering was taken to build a new house in Bukoyani.

'Rejoice always....pray continually...give thanks for everything'

1 Thessalonians 5

Paul

Church's Charity Community Lives Matter:

What a year we had in 2023! With a focused goal... to improve the lives of local people in the community including disabled people, those experiencing loneliness and isolation, those with long-term health conditions and those with dementia. We also wanted to provide much needed support for asylum seekers and refugees.

We have sought new ways to improve lives, and have pushed the boundaries of our capabilities to provide new experiences for as many people as possible.

Paul

Church Structure

The Trustees have legal oversight of the charity, with the day-to-day running of the church delegated to the 'Leadership Team'.

Numerous people then take responsibility for areas of the church on behalf of the Leadership Team.

Trustees' Report:

Obviously the most important event in the life of CLM over the last year has been the induction of Matt as Associate Leader. Obviously, too, this decision has been the subject most discussed by trustees. Paul has been active at each stage of the recruitment of the right candidate and this has added considerably to his own leadership workload. As trustees we would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for Paul's commitment to ensuring that CLM's future leadership is in Godly hands. Accordingly, as trustees, we welcome Matt and Zoe and assure them of our full support for an effective, safe and enjoyable ministry.

Can a church ever have enough storage?! With what appears to be a growing membership and, certainly, more diverse range of activities, there is a constant demand for more space. Actually we do have an area of the building designated as a storeroom though much of it has been reclaimed for church activities rather than storage. The trustees have been trying to think their way through a sensible facilities management policy, one that will provide the best space for activities and space for optimal storage. Please talk to any of us if you have some strong views on this subject.

Philip, Chair of Trustees

Finance:

Cottage Lane Mission 2024 Financial Statements 1

Financial Report 2023

The Income & Expenditure Account shows a breakdown of our sources of unrestricted income and the analysis of our areas of expenditure, both compared with the budget for 2023. The actual figures for 2022 are also presented.

Income for the year at £90K was £17.5K better than budget. Regular giving to CLM was £57.5K, a very slight increase over 2022 and £5.5K better than budget. In addition, one off donations, totalling £7K, to our leadership fund were gratefully received. Rent was £2K better than budget and 2022, as was gift aid.

Total expenditure in 2023 was £80K, £11.4K less than budget, the main reasons being:

1. The recruitment of an associate leader in November, seven months later than the budget assumption, saving £14K in salaries.
2. The budget provided £5K for a youth worker and associated expenditure. Actual cost was £2.5K.
3. The budget provided £2K for community initiatives including the biennial Park praise. Only £550 was spent.
4. The budget included £1.5K for national advertising for an associate leader which was not required.

Offsetting the above, maintenance costs totalled £16K, £6K in excess of budget.

Overall, in 2023, income exceeded expenditure by £10K compared with a budget overspend of £19K. Our funds total £82K, compared with a budget of £53K.

I make no apology for repeating my pleas of previous years for folk to consider legacies to CLM in their wills. If you do decide to leave CLM a legacy, it is important that you let me know. Legacies to CLM are something we should prayerfully consider; they make a real difference as we have seen in the past. Of course, anybody can leave a legacy to CLM but, as far as I am aware, nobody has done so.

Cottage Lane Mission	Financial Statements 1			
2023 Income & Expenditure	Full Year	Full Year	Full Year	Actual
14 May 23	Actual	Budget	Actual	B/(W) than
	2022	2023	2023	Budget
Admin/ Audit	1,755	500	1,667	-1,167
Audiovisual	4,667			0
Catering	-214		227	-227
Family Care Fund		500		500
Insurance	2,105	2,800	3,464	-664
Maintenance	18,790	10,000	15,960	-5,960
Ministry Resources	902	500	1,656	-1,156
Photocopier/ Printing	1,485	2,000	2,411	-411
Stationery	583	200	95	105
Salaries	15,001	36,000	21,449	14,551
Training		500	593	-93
Utilities	3,920	5,000	4,644	356
Visitors' expenses	380	600	500	100
Youth Work	1,741	5,000	2,482	2,518
MCYC Child Sponsorship	330	200	155	45
Contact with community events	2,047	2,000	550	1,450
Weekend		500	-441	941
Junior Church		400		400
Purchase of Property	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
Maximise	2,600	3,000	3,000	0
Bank Charges	103		96	-96
Sundry	-389	1,750	522	1,228
General Expenditure	60,806	76,450	64,030	12,420
Missions	14,843	15,000	16,057	-1,057
	75,649	91,450	80,087	11,363
Income Full Year				
General (incl. Leadership)	56,463	52,000	57,526	5,526
Legacies				0
Donations			7,000	7,000
Community Lives Matter	6,597	7,000	8,271	1,271
Rent excl Co Lives Matter	3,896	3,000	4,093	1,093
Coffee Machine	-159	200	367	167
Gift Aid received	10,482	10,500	12,493	1,993
Interest	51	15	513	498
Total	77,330	72,715	90,263	17,548
Excess income over expenditure	1,681		10,176	28,911
Excess expenditure over income		18,735		
Closing Funds £K	72	53	82	29

Cottage Lane Mission 2023 Financial Statements 2

Financial Report Budget 2024

The budget schedule compares our 2024 budget with our actual income & expenditure for 2023.

Total income is budgetted at £87K.

1. General giving is predicted to total £60K.
2. Rental income is budgetted at £3K plus £9K from Community Lives Matter.
3. Gift Aid is expected to generate £15K.

These are stretching but achievable targets.

Total Expenditure is budgetted at £116K(!!!), £36K in excess of 2023.

4. Maintenance budget at £25K provides for routine maintenance, £6K for replacing windows and front door, £2K for technical issues and £2K for renewals.
5. Salaries provide for our leader and associate leader for the whole of 2024.
6. Photocopying costs exceed £5K, the full year effect of the new lease contract entered into in 2023. We have introduced controls over colour printing/ copying since colour costs 10 times as much as black/ white.
7. Our gas and electricity fixed price contracts expired on 31 March 2024, hence the significant increase in utilities costs.
8. The budget assumes our continued participation in Maximise.
9. Missions giving at £15K reflects our continuing commitments.

The total deficit assumed in the 2024 budget of £30K, although significant, is sustainable in the context of our surpluses of £16.2K in 2020, £2.2K in 2021, £1.6K in 2022 and £10.2K in 2023. Funds are predicted to fall to £53K by the end of 2024 and to £34K at the end of 2025, by which time we anticipate that Matt will have succeeded Paul. Thereafter, we aim to ensure that income covers expenditure. Rest assured that both income and expenditure will be closely monitored in order to ensure that our planned expenditure remains affordable and that our funds continue to sustain our viability.

GE Maitland, Treasurer.

Cottage Lane Mission	Financial Statements 2		
2023 Income & Expenditure	Full Year	Full Year	Budget
14 May 23	Actual	Budget	B/(W) than
	2023	2024	Actual 2023
Admin/ Audit	1,667	500	1,167
Catering	227		227
Family Care Fund	0		0
Insurance	3,464	2,500	964
Maintenance	15,960	25,000	-9,040
Ministry Resources	1,656	2,500	-844
Photocopier/ Printing	2,411	5,200	-2,789
Stationery	95	200	-105
Salaries	21,449	48,640	-27,191
Training	593	1,000	-407
Utilities	4,644	6,000	-1,356
Visitors' expenses	500	600	-100
Youth Work	2,482		2,482
MCYC Child Sponsorship	155	200	-45
Contact with community events	550	500	50
Weekend	-441		-441
Junior Church	0	400	-400
Purchase of Property	5,000	5,000	0
Maximise	3,000	3,000	0
Bank Charges	96	100	-4
Sundry	522	150	372
General Expenditure	64,030	101,490	-37,460
Missions	16,057	15,000	1,057
	80,087	116,490	-36,403
Income Full Year			
General (incl. Leadership)	57,526	59,850	2,324
Donations	7,000		-7,000
Community Lives Matter	8,271	9,000	729
Rent excl Co Lives Matter	4,093	3,000	-1,093
Coffee Machine	367		-367
Gift Aid received	12,493	14,875	2,382
Interest	513	400	-113
Total	90,263	87,125	-3,138
Excess income over expenditure	10,176		
Excess expenditure over income		29,365	-39,541
Closing Funds £K	82	53	-29

The objectives of the church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the statement of faith appearing in the schedule.

Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, further the work of the church.

Pastoral:

We all know that the church at CLM is a very caring and supportive one. People care.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another". John 13:35

Sometimes they are not sure how best to show it. In certain situations it can be a help to coordinate a response to make sure the best outcome is achieved.

We are family. Members of a family try to support and encourage each other. That way the whole church is built up into a body that is honouring to the Lord.

Marion Walker

Life Groups:

2023 started with two life groups running weekly. Each with 10-15 people involved. Both groups met in people's homes and studied various Bible topics. It allowed for deeper searching into the passages studied and gave opportunities to ask questions and learn together. We got to know each other better and were able to share joys and tears, praying for one another.

In June, these groups continued running alongside the Start course. This was a small group who met to look at the basis of the Christian faith and consider where we stood with God.

Life groups are about real life, living as a Christian beyond Sundays.

Following on from this, small groups were stopped in September as we met together at CLM to follow the Discipleship Course as a church. It was very clear and helped all those who attended to gain a better understanding of the Bible, its purpose and relevance for our lives.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10: 24-25**

Due to increased demand, three life groups were formed towards the end of the year. These met in homes weekly, joining together at CLM once a month for our All Together.

Life groups are about real life, living as a Christian beyond Sundays. This is made easier with the love and support of other believers. I would encourage anyone who is not yet part of a group to consider joining one. You will be very welcome.

Pam Smith

Young People's Activities

Toddler Group:

Looking back over 2023 the group remains strong in both Leadership and families which attend each week.

We are now in our 34th year at CLM. It is with some sadness that Maureen is stepping down from this work. She must have been involved for around 25-27 years with her commitment having been outstanding. She has been an encouragement to many, always enthusiastic doing the singing each week. So we are saying goodbye, we have many happy memories after such a long time of service.

"You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment." **Ecclesiastes 11:9**

The group continues with a number of new families having joined us. We have had our usual outing in the summer and craft days for special events.

Our aim is still the same to provide a safe and happy place for children and adults to meet together and also to take any opportunity to share our faith. If you feel led to join this work please speak to Dorothy. We would be grateful to welcome another helper.

I also wish to say a big thankyou to those who work on Fridays each week. Elaine, Sheila, Ann, John, Roger & Brian {who help with the heavy things} Plus those who have helped at special events. Many thanks

Dorothy Rawsthorne

CLM Kids

This group ran on Wednesday evenings between 5:30pm and 6:30pm in the early part of 2023. Sadly, after the summer holidays, we stopped meeting but there are plans for CLM Kids to be up and running again in 2024.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them."

Luke 18: 16

CLM Kids on Sunday

On Sundays the children stay in church for the first part of the service and then go out to have their own teaching. We follow the Scripture Union Splash Book. There is a rota for help with this group. If you feel you could help in this area, please speak to me. We are also looking at different material to use for this group in 2024.

Rebecca Hughes.

Encounter

Young Adults Christian Group

Encounter is an 18-30s group which runs every 2nd and 4th Friday in the month, having a social and a spiritual event.

The aim of Encounter was to have a fun meeting place for young adults and the socials allow us to invite people who are exploring their faith without there being any pressure or expectation to talk about faith, which will hopefully encourage them to come to the spiritual events.

We are looking forward to 2024 and we can't wait to see what God has in store for us in the future.

Rebecca Hughes

Social Activities:

CLM Walking Group:

Last year we have had some lovely walks around the Lancashire countryside, many of them revisited, but a few new ones like Dunham

Massey, where had a nice stroll through the deer park and along the canal. The group numbers vary between 10 to 18. It's a nice time to catch up chatting as we walk. We always finish with coffee and sometimes Cake!

If you fancy a walk in good company then do join us and don't forget your Boots!

We always finish with coffee and sometimes Cake!

Ginny

Ladies' Craft Meeting:

If you enjoy getting creative then the Ladies' Craft Club is the place to come.

We have made some interesting things last year, like Para cording bracelets, Scented candles and some lovely Festive wreaths. The ladies enjoy chatting while they do the craft. It's amazing how every one does the same thing but they turn out so different.

This year we have some new crafts lined up to try, so come along, bring a friend and join us as we get creative together.

Ginny, Jane and Ruth

Women Rock

Women Rock (WR) is a Christian women's event held 4 times a year and includes wellbeing, worship & Word aimed at all local Christian women.

On average around 60 women attended and we looked at topics like the Body Beautiful, Lips, Hands and the Face.

Thank you to all the outside speakers. We want to serve Jesus in all we do.

**Thanks from the WR team,
Diane, Pam, Kylie & Zoe.**



Administration:

In 2023 the Administration Team continued to meet six weekly, Ray Jones stepped down from being Booking Secretary and therefore also ceased

being a member of the Admin Team. Each member of the team is responsible for a specific area, Jackie, general administration; Beryl, catering; Gill, Social; and Ruth, DBS/ Database; but they also help and support in other areas when needed, therefore, working as a team.

The Admin Team is available to work with any other area in CLM to facilitate them in their ministry, though the provision of administration support.

We have arranged social events, many including a meal, a Christmas Lunch at Briars Hall, Solo lunches, Christmas Day meal for the community, Maundy Thursday Meal and as always, all are socials are well received.

In November we organised a weekend away at Quinta Christian Conference Centre, Shropshire. Over 65 people attended and everyone enjoyed it enormously, so much so that booking has been made for October 2025.

Jackie Currie

Building & Technical:

Life is never boring when it comes to maintaining and improving our church building! True, it's hard to get enthusiastic about repairing a broken toilet roll holder but it is satisfying, nevertheless, to see a new one fixed firmly in place! With a similar emphasis, this time with our very young visitors particularly in mind, we decided to lower the skirtings in the annexe to eliminate a rather unhygienic gap which had appeared along the floor line.

We have made significant further improvements in church security, harnessing the power of the computer to control and log access to the building. This and other features are now supported by an enhanced communications centre installed behind the scenes.

My thanks to all those in my team who have helped in the on-going work of repairing and improving what we have as well as in the exciting challenges of designing and installing new things.

Continuing with the subject of communication, social media may well represent the greatest opportunity to our effective outreach. Streaming our services to achieve maximum impact is a tough challenge on both technology and human skill. My thanks to my team who make this possible every week. Please consider offering to join our team. You don't need to be a techie! In the meantime every member can do their part to broadcast the gospel. How? Subscribe to our YouTube channel and always give our videos a "Like".

Philip, Property Manager

Health & Safety:

This last 12 months have seen quite a few changes within CLM's premises. Some of them are not seen by most of us. For example there have been upgrades to electrical wiring, the entrance lobby has been revamped to open up the space giving more room to come & go. Some of the concrete paths outside have been power washed to clean them up as they had become slippery under foot.

But we need to all be aware that what we do as individuals and as groups can impact on the safety of others. How and what can each of us do to do our bit to keep us all safe?

For example: Parking:- Am I parked between the white lines. Am I parked such that people can get past my car in the event of an emergency. If I am the last out of a room has it been left tidy & safe for the next group?

During this next twelve months I will be checking with all groups and issuing safety guide lines.

John Roberts

CLM Church
Motto for 2024

'We all have gifts' 1 Peter 4:10

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I always think we need to give the Lord thanks far more than we do for all that He does for us. And while the 'Annual Update Meeting' is an opportunity to do that we should remember to do it constantly and in all situations.

That was put to the test in January 2023 when Carolyn was promoted to glory to be with her Lord and Saviour. Such a core part of the life of CLM, and one who just got on with it. I said previously about how she was always saying, 'Let's pray about it'. Of course, her family felt her loss most keenly but as a church it impacted us enormously for many months and as a 'Leadership Team' too. Her faith and trust in her Lord in those closing days and weeks were inspiring. She also talked about being sorry to miss on what she had prayed to see at CLM and believed the Lord was now doing at CLM. A woman of faith and prayer who will always be missed but who leaves a wonderful legacy.

There were other farewells over the year, but with people moving out of the area with Mike & Charlotte leaving in March and Alan & Hannah in July. We pray that they will find a great spiritual home where they are both now living. We were also delighted to see new people across all age ranges joining us and the sense of excitement among us that God is doing something special.

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Matt, Zoe and family were thrown in at the deep end as just four days after Matt started with us we went on our Church Weekend away at Quinta. To have so many with us from CLM was wonderful as were the main Bible

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Associated Leaders Report:

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Associate Leader since commencing at CLM Church in November. As a family, we have received the most beautiful, warm welcome in to the Church family. I really do feel very blessed to be serving at this Church.

We thoroughly enjoyed being away as a family with the Church at Quinta in November. It was a brilliant opportunity to spend quality time away and build on relationships with the congregation. It was great to see the Church enjoy each other's company, as well as witness fantastic fruits and encounters with God.

I have been part of leading and preaching in the Sunday services. I have also thoroughly enjoyed the teaching of others and learning the gifts within the church and how we build on those as a congregation. Looking back, over the Christmas period at CLM, we gathered as a church and the wider Ormskirk community, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As a church, we have also been able to welcome and see some new faces visit and commit to CLM, which has also been a blessing.

As we promptly approached 2024, I shared with the leaders some ideas to start groups to provide opportunities for the church and community. This has included a Youth group (11–18-year-olds), Lego Group, Young Adult Work and Alpha. I have been fully supported and humbled by so many of the congregation who are always willing to volunteer and excited to see what CLM has in store for 2024.

I have been fully supported and humbled by so many of the congregation.

Finally, I am very excited to see what God has in store for the future.

Matt

Worship Report:

Our purpose as a worship team is to serve God by offering Him our sung worship as part of our lives and to lead others into God's presence through sung worship.

In 2023 we continued to see some changes in personnel, but it is mostly the same group of musicians and singers. However, we have used a music App (I Sing Worship) for our monthly 'Toast' Services instead of a live band.

Please pray for God's blessing on our team and what we do, also pray for new people to come along to the Worship Ministry.

Thank you to all who serve the Lord and the Church in this way.

'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.' Psalm 150

Roger Currie

Prayer:

It's invisible but invaluable. It can be done individually or communally. It can be silent or aloud. It can be done directly to God because Jesus opened up the access to the Father for us when He suffered and died on the cross.

Prayer is the key to harnessing God's power in our life. Prayer develops our relationship with God and is for everyone.

Jesus taught us how to pray.
The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6: 9-13

We are a praying Church, let us continue and get even better at it.

Roger

Mission:

We continued to support the missions that are familiar to us at CLM. After the earthquake in Turkey we took a further offering which was matched by giving in the 'Missions' account to help churches there reach out very practically to their communities. We were able to encourage Luke & Kylie in their missions trip to Tanzania and hear what they got up to on their return.

We want to encourage people at CLM to go on short-term mission trips to see what the Lord is doing in other countries. It will change your life. A further offering was taken to build a new house in Bukoyani.

'Rejoice always....pray continually...give thanks for everything'

1 Thessalonians 5

Paul

Church's Charity Community Lives Matter:

What a year we had in 2023! With a focused goal... to improve the lives of local people in the community including disabled people, those experiencing loneliness and isolation, those with long-term health conditions and those with dementia. We also wanted to provide much needed support for asylum seekers and refugees.

We have sought new ways to improve lives, and have pushed the boundaries of our capabilities to provide new experiences for as many people as possible.

Paul

Church Structure

The Trustees have legal oversight of the charity, with the day-to-day running of the church delegated to the 'Leadership Team'.

Numerous people then take responsibility for areas of the church on behalf of the Leadership Team.

Trustees' Report:

Obviously the most important event in the life of CLM over the last year has been the induction of Matt as Associate Leader. Obviously, too, this decision has been the subject most discussed by trustees. Paul has been active at each stage of the recruitment of the right candidate and this has added considerably to his own leadership workload. As trustees we would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for Paul's commitment to ensuring that CLM's future leadership is in Godly hands. Accordingly, as trustees, we welcome Matt and Zoe and assure them of our full support for an effective, safe and enjoyable ministry.

Can a church ever have enough storage?! With what appears to be a growing membership and, certainly, more diverse range of activities, there is a constant demand for more space. Actually we do have an area of the building designated as a storeroom though much of it has been reclaimed for church activities rather than storage. The trustees have been trying to think their way through a sensible facilities management policy, one that will provide the best space for activities and space for optimal storage. Please talk to any of us if you have some strong views on this subject.

Philip, Chair of Trustees

Finance:

Cottage Lane Mission 2024 Financial Statements 1

Financial Report 2023

The Income & Expenditure Account shows a breakdown of our sources of unrestricted income and the analysis of our areas of expenditure, both compared with the budget for 2023. The actual figures for 2022 are also presented.

Income for the year at £90K was £17.5K better than budget. Regular giving to CLM was £57.5K, a very slight increase over 2022 and £5.5K better than budget. In addition, one off donations, totalling £7K, to our leadership fund were gratefully received. Rent was £2K better than budget and 2022, as was gift aid.

Total expenditure in 2023 was £80K, £11.4K less than budget, the main reasons being:

1. The recruitment of an associate leader in November, seven months later than the budget assumption, saving £14K in salaries.
2. The budget provided £5K for a youth worker and associated expenditure. Actual cost was £2.5K.
3. The budget provided £2K for community initiatives including the biennial Park praise. Only £550 was spent.
4. The budget included £1.5K for national advertising for an associate leader which was not required.

Offsetting the above, maintenance costs totalled £16K, £6K in excess of budget.

Overall, in 2023, income exceeded expenditure by £10K compared with a budget overspend of £19K. Our funds total £82K, compared with a budget of £53K.

I make no apology for repeating my pleas of previous years for folk to consider legacies to CLM in their wills. If you do decide to leave CLM a legacy, it is important that you let me know. Legacies to CLM are something we should prayerfully consider; they make a real difference as we have seen in the past. Of course, anybody can leave a legacy to CLM but, as far as I am aware, nobody has done so.

Cottage Lane Mission	Financial Statements 1			
2023 Income & Expenditure	Full Year	Full Year	Full Year	Actual
14 May 23	Actual	Budget	Actual	B/(W) than
	2022	2023	2023	Budget
Admin/ Audit	1,755	500	1,667	-1,167
Audiovisual	4,667			0
Catering	-214		227	-227
Family Care Fund		500		500
Insurance	2,105	2,800	3,464	-664
Maintenance	18,790	10,000	15,960	-5,960
Ministry Resources	902	500	1,656	-1,156
Photocopier/ Printing	1,485	2,000	2,411	-411
Stationery	583	200	95	105
Salaries	15,001	36,000	21,449	14,551
Training		500	593	-93
Utilities	3,920	5,000	4,644	356
Visitors' expenses	380	600	500	100
Youth Work	1,741	5,000	2,482	2,518
MCYC Child Sponsorship	330	200	155	45
Contact with community events	2,047	2,000	550	1,450
Weekend		500	-441	941
Junior Church		400		400
Purchase of Property	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
Maximise	2,600	3,000	3,000	0
Bank Charges	103		96	-96
Sundry	-389	1,750	522	1,228
General Expenditure	60,806	76,450	64,030	12,420
Missions	14,843	15,000	16,057	-1,057
	75,649	91,450	80,087	11,363
Income Full Year				
General (incl. Leadership)	56,463	52,000	57,526	5,526
Legacies				0
Donations			7,000	7,000
Community Lives Matter	6,597	7,000	8,271	1,271
Rent excl Co Lives Matter	3,896	3,000	4,093	1,093
Coffee Machine	-159	200	367	167
Gift Aid received	10,482	10,500	12,493	1,993
Interest	51	15	513	498
Total	77,330	72,715	90,263	17,548
Excess income over expenditure	1,681		10,176	28,911
Excess expenditure over income		18,735		
Closing Funds £K	72	53	82	29

Cottage Lane Mission 2023 Financial Statements 2

Financial Report Budget 2024

The budget schedule compares our 2024 budget with our actual income & expenditure for 2023.

Total income is budgetted at £87K.

1. General giving is predicted to total £60K.
2. Rental income is budgetted at £3K plus £9K from Community Lives Matter.
3. Gift Aid is expected to generate £15K.

These are stretching but achievable targets.

Total Expenditure is budgetted at £116K(!!!), £36K in excess of 2023.

4. Maintenance budget at £25K provides for routine maintenance, £6K for replacing windows and front door, £2K for technical issues and £2K for renewals.
5. Salaries provide for our leader and associate leader for the whole of 2024.
6. Photocopying costs exceed £5K, the full year effect of the new lease contract entered into in 2023. We have introduced controls over colour printing/ copying since colour costs 10 times as much as black/ white.
7. Our gas and electricity fixed price contracts expired on 31 March 2024, hence the significant increase in utilities costs.
8. The budget assumes our continued participation in Maximise.
9. Missions giving at £15K reflects our continuing commitments.

The total deficit assumed in the 2024 budget of £30K, although significant, is sustainable in the context of our surpluses of £16.2K in 2020, £2.2K in 2021, £1.6K in 2022 and £10.2K in 2023. Funds are predicted to fall to £53K by the end of 2024 and to £34K at the end of 2025, by which time we anticipate that Matt will have succeeded Paul. Thereafter, we aim to ensure that income covers expenditure. Rest assured that both income and expenditure will be closely monitored in order to ensure that our planned expenditure remains affordable and that our funds continue to sustain our viability.

GE Maitland, Treasurer.

Cottage Lane Mission	Financial Statements 2		
2023 Income & Expenditure	Full Year	Full Year	Budget
14 May 23	Actual	Budget	B/(W) than
	2023	2024	Actual 2023
Admin/ Audit	1,667	500	1,167
Catering	227		227
Family Care Fund	0		0
Insurance	3,464	2,500	964
Maintenance	15,960	25,000	-9,040
Ministry Resources	1,656	2,500	-844
Photocopier/ Printing	2,411	5,200	-2,789
Stationery	95	200	-105
Salaries	21,449	48,640	-27,191
Training	593	1,000	-407
Utilities	4,644	6,000	-1,356
Visitors' expenses	500	600	-100
Youth Work	2,482		2,482
MCYC Child Sponsorship	155	200	-45
Contact with community events	550	500	50
Weekend	-441		-441
Junior Church	0	400	-400
Purchase of Property	5,000	5,000	0
Maximise	3,000	3,000	0
Bank Charges	96	100	-4
Sundry	522	150	372
General Expenditure	64,030	101,490	-37,460
Missions	16,057	15,000	1,057
	80,087	116,490	-36,403
Income Full Year			
General (incl. Leadership)	57,526	59,850	2,324
Donations	7,000		-7,000
Community Lives Matter	8,271	9,000	729
Rent excl Co Lives Matter	4,093	3,000	-1,093
Coffee Machine	367		-367
Gift Aid received	12,493	14,875	2,382
Interest	513	400	-113
Total	90,263	87,125	-3,138
Excess income over expenditure	10,176		
Excess expenditure over income		29,365	-39,541
Closing Funds £K	82	53	-29

The objectives of the church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the statement of faith appearing in the schedule.

Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, further the work of the church.

Pastoral:

We all know that the church at CLM is a very caring and supportive one. People care.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another". John 13:35

Sometimes they are not sure how best to show it. In certain situations it can be a help to coordinate a response to make sure the best outcome is achieved.

We are family. Members of a family try to support and encourage each other. That way the whole church is built up into a body that is honouring to the Lord.

Marion Walker

Life Groups:

2023 started with two life groups running weekly. Each with 10-15 people involved. Both groups met in people's homes and studied various Bible topics. It allowed for deeper searching into the passages studied and gave opportunities to ask questions and learn together. We got to know each other better and were able to share joys and tears, praying for one another.

In June, these groups continued running alongside the Start course. This was a small group who met to look at the basis of the Christian faith and consider where we stood with God.

Life groups are about real life, living as a Christian beyond Sundays.

Following on from this, small groups were stopped in September as we met together at CLM to follow the Discipleship Course as a church. It was very clear and helped all those who attended to gain a better understanding of the Bible, its purpose and relevance for our lives.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10: 24-25**

Due to increased demand, three life groups were formed towards the end of the year. These met in homes weekly, joining together at CLM once a month for our All Together.

Life groups are about real life, living as a Christian beyond Sundays. This is made easier with the love and support of other believers. I would encourage anyone who is not yet part of a group to consider joining one. You will be very welcome.

Pam Smith

Young People's Activities

Toddler Group:

Looking back over 2023 the group remains strong in both Leadership and families which attend each week.

We are now in our 34th year at CLM. It is with some sadness that Maureen is stepping down from this work. She must have been involved for around 25-27 years with her commitment having been outstanding. She has been an encouragement to many, always enthusiastic doing the singing each week. So we are saying goodbye, we have many happy memories after such a long time of service.

"You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment." **Ecclesiastes 11:9**

The group continues with a number of new families having joined us. We have had our usual outing in the summer and craft days for special events.

Our aim is still the same to provide a safe and happy place for children and adults to meet together and also to take any opportunity to share our faith. If you feel led to join this work please speak to Dorothy. We would be grateful to welcome another helper.

I also wish to say a big thankyou to those who work on Fridays each week. Elaine, Sheila, Ann, John, Roger & Brian {who help with the heavy things} Plus those who have helped at special events. Many thanks

Dorothy Rawsthorne

CLM Kids

This group ran on Wednesday evenings between 5:30pm and 6:30pm in the early part of 2023. Sadly, after the summer holidays, we stopped meeting but there are plans for CLM Kids to be up and running again in 2024.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them."

Luke 18: 16

CLM Kids on Sunday

On Sundays the children stay in church for the first part of the service and then go out to have their own teaching. We follow the Scripture Union Splash Book. There is a rota for help with this group. If you feel you could help in this area, please speak to me. We are also looking at different material to use for this group in 2024.

Rebecca Hughes.

Encounter

Young Adults Christian Group

Encounter is an 18-30s group which runs every 2nd and 4th Friday in the month, having a social and a spiritual event.

The aim of Encounter was to have a fun meeting place for young adults and the socials allow us to invite people who are exploring their faith without there being any pressure or expectation to talk about faith, which will hopefully encourage them to come to the spiritual events.

We are looking forward to 2024 and we can't wait to see what God has in store for us in the future.

Rebecca Hughes

Social Activities:

CLM Walking Group:

Last year we have had some lovely walks around the Lancashire countryside, many of them revisited, but a few new ones like Dunham

Massey, where had a nice stroll through the deer park and along the canal. The group numbers vary between 10 to 18. It's a nice time to catch up chatting as we walk. We always finish with coffee and sometimes Cake!

If you fancy a walk in good company then do join us and don't forget your Boots!

We always finish with coffee and sometimes Cake!

Ginny

Ladies' Craft Meeting:

If you enjoy getting creative then the Ladies' Craft Club is the place to come.

We have made some interesting things last year, like Para cording bracelets, Scented candles and some lovely Festive wreaths. The ladies enjoy chatting while they do the craft. It's amazing how every one does the same thing but they turn out so different.

This year we have some new crafts lined up to try, so come along, bring a friend and join us as we get creative together.

Ginny, Jane and Ruth

Women Rock

Women Rock (WR) is a Christian women's event held 4 times a year and includes wellbeing, worship & Word aimed at all local Christian women.

On average around 60 women attended and we looked at topics like the Body Beautiful, Lips, Hands and the Face.

Thank you to all the outside speakers. We want to serve Jesus in all we do.

**Thanks from the WR team,
Diane, Pam, Kylie & Zoe.**



Administration:

In 2023 the Administration Team continued to meet six weekly, Ray Jones stepped down from being Booking Secretary and therefore also ceased

being a member of the Admin Team. Each member of the team is responsible for a specific area, Jackie, general administration; Beryl, catering; Gill, Social; and Ruth, DBS/ Database; but they also help and support in other areas when needed, therefore, working as a team.

The Admin Team is available to work with any other area in CLM to facilitate them in their ministry, though the provision of administration support.

We have arranged social events, many including a meal, a Christmas Lunch at Briars Hall, Solo lunches, Christmas Day meal for the community, Maundy Thursday Meal and as always, all are socials are well received.

In November we organised a weekend away at Quinta Christian Conference Centre, Shropshire. Over 65 people attended and everyone enjoyed it enormously, so much so that booking has been made for October 2025.

Jackie Currie

Building & Technical:

Life is never boring when it comes to maintaining and improving our church building! True, it's hard to get enthusiastic about repairing a broken toilet roll holder but it is satisfying, nevertheless, to see a new one fixed firmly in place! With a similar emphasis, this time with our very young visitors particularly in mind, we decided to lower the skirtings in the annexe to eliminate a rather unhygienic gap which had appeared along the floor line.

We have made significant further improvements in church security, harnessing the power of the computer to control and log access to the building. This and other features are now supported by an enhanced communications centre installed behind the scenes.

My thanks to all those in my team who have helped in the on-going work of repairing and improving what we have as well as in the exciting challenges of designing and installing new things.

Continuing with the subject of communication, social media may well represent the greatest opportunity to our effective outreach. Streaming our services to achieve maximum impact is a tough challenge on both technology and human skill. My thanks to my team who make this possible every week. Please consider offering to join our team. You don't need to be a techie! In the meantime every member can do their part to broadcast the gospel. How? Subscribe to our YouTube channel and always give our videos a "Like".

Philip, Property Manager

Health & Safety:

This last 12 months have seen quite a few changes within CLM's premises. Some of them are not seen by most of us. For example there have been upgrades to electrical wiring, the entrance lobby has been revamped to open up the space giving more room to come & go. Some of the concrete paths outside have been power washed to clean them up as they had become slippery under foot.

But we need to all be aware that what we do as individuals and as groups can impact on the safety of others. How and what can each of us do to do our bit to keep us all safe?

For example: Parking:- Am I parked between the white lines. Am I parked such that people can get past my car in the event of an emergency. If I am the last out of a room has it been left tidy & safe for the next group?

During this next twelve months I will be checking with all groups and issuing safety guide lines.

John Roberts

CLM Church
Motto for 2024

'We all have gifts' 1 Peter 4:10



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

COTTAGE LANE MISSION

On accounts for the year
ended

31 - 12 - 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1163611

Set out on pages

1 & 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

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 (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

20-5-24

Name:

PETER BRIAN SLATER

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

INSTITUTE OF BANKERS

Address:

146 COTTAGE LANE

ORMSKIRK

L39 3NJ