

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended
31 December 2023

**Love's Farm Community
Church**

Charitable Incorporated
Organisation

Love’s Farm Community Church

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Love's Farm Community Church

Trustees' annual report

About Love's Farm Community Church

Love's Farm Community Church is situated on Love's Farm, a new housing development in St. Neots, Cambridgeshire. The charity was set up on 27 September 2015 and was incorporated on 22 February 2016. The correspondence address is 18 Lannesbury Crescent, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 6AF.

Reference and administrative information

Love's Farm Community Church is a charitable incorporated organisation, CIO (charity number 1165671). The trustees who have served through the period of this report are:

Mr Jonathan Tame – Chairman
Reverend Helene Tame
Dr Marcus Pickering
Mrs Kathryn Pickering – Treasurer
Miss Samantha Claussen

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Structure, Governance and Management

Love's Farm Community Church is a CIO (Charitable incorporated organisation) and is registered with the Charity Commission of England. The method of appointment of the trustees is set out in the statutes. The governing document is in the form of a Constitution, adopted 20 February 2016.

Aims and objectives

Our aims are set out formally in our constitutional document:

"To advance Christianity for the public benefit in Love's Farm, St Neots and elsewhere in accordance with the statement of faith set out in the schedule hereto through the holding of prayer meetings, lectures, public celebrations of religious festivals and by producing and/or distributing literature to enlighten others about the Christian religion."

In addition, we seek to relieve poverty and support those who are in need, through providing advice and advocacy for people struggling with debt, distributing material and financial donations, offering relational encouragement and emotional support to vulnerable people, and advocating on behalf of marginalised people with statutory authorities and other organisations.

Public Benefit statement

Love's Farm Community Church seeks to impact and improve the spiritual, social and moral well-being of people through its example, teaching and practice of the Christian faith, and by organising welcoming, friendly and accepting events which build relationships. Through activities such as Youth Café and the Youth Club, vulnerable children and their families benefit physically from the food provided, as well as emotionally and socially from the supportive environment. Through Sunday activities like Breakfast Church and quieter more cultural, reflective events the community will benefit from a place to come together, to meet others and to explore issues of faith and doubt. People who participate in Love's Farm Community Church activities will be encouraged to volunteer and serve

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around the community, not only in activities organised by Love's Farm Community Church but also in initiatives run by others. This will enhance the wider well-being and cohesion of the community.

As a community church focused on the Love's Farm housing development in St Neots, the main section of the public who will benefit from our organisation's purpose and activities is the population that lives physically in Love's Farm. However, we will not turn anyone away who lives elsewhere in St Neots. Love's Farm Community Church is committed to serving people of all ages on Love's Farm. However since the community demographic is weighted toward those between the ages of 25-45, especially with young families, our primary focus is on that age group.

Activities and performance of the organisation

Under the CIO of Love's Farm Community Church, Breakfast Church has continued to meet each Sunday morning except the first of the month, regularly drawing around 40 people, up to a third of whom typically are under 16 years old. Each Sunday morning provides a mix of food, conversation, story-telling, prayer, worship and encounter. The pattern of our meeting over the past year has mostly reverted to pre-pandemic rhythms whilst maintaining some contact via Zoom where that has been the more helpful. However, the majority of our church 'gatherings' during this past year have happened in person.

The exception is Messy Church which, for a combination of reasons, has not yet relaunched. In its place we have continued to connect with young people especially keen to explore the bible story together and to that end have run bible journalling sessions for our older children and 'in the box' story encounters and an after-school club, 'bible story explorers', at the local primary school.

The church community has sought to maintain meeting points through the week for the primary purpose of discipleship and praying for our neighbourhood, nation and world. Wednesday has become our prayer day with a short prayer time at 9am, this happens via Zoom. As a church community we have hosted other courses/studies/groups through the year both online and in person. Once a term the trustees of the CIO have met to give continued governance and oversight to our activities and every Wednesday morning a small team (the Ground Crew) plan the Sunday service and briefly review the wider activities of the church as needed.

A small team continues to host the community café at our local community centre on Tuesday mornings, providing people with another point of access with the church and to serve our community with a facility that is enjoyed by visitors to the cafe.

The Youth Café, launched in June 2019 to serve children transitioning from primary to secondary education, along with any children in Year 7 upwards continues to run, with supplementary help from volunteers beyond Love's Farm Church, including the local 'Youth For Christ' youth worker. Over the past year we have worked closely with others across the town to increase provision for young people. In December 2022, the youth worker employed by Ely Diocese as part of the Changing Market Towns Initiative, Adele Jones, who worked and worshipped with Love's Farm Church, especially serving children and young people aged 11 years and upwards, commenced a period of maternity leave. She resigned from her post in December 2023.

On Thursday mornings, members and friends of Love's Farm Community Church continue to run a parent and toddler group, Little Loves, at the community centre, with regular attendance of between 60-80 pre-schoolers and their parents/carers. The service also offers Little Loves @Home for parents, who for a variety of reasons might be confined to home with their child.

On Friday evenings during term time the church hosts a primary aged Youth Club, over 2 sessions for approximately 50 children aged between 8-11 years. This remains a popular event.

During the school term two volunteers from Love's Farm Community Church have been giving Early

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Intervention Coaching under the umbrella of the charity Transforming Lives for Good (TLG). This continues with financial support via Cinnamon Network funding and is greatly appreciated by the local Love's Farm school, Round House.

Love's Farm Community Money Advice (LFCMA) service (registered with the FCA and with training delivered by the national Community Money Advice charity) to assist people struggling with debt or money management. The centre is registered on the national CMA website and accessible to people throughout St Neots and the surrounding area. We met with 51 new clients in the year and have 3 volunteers and by the end of the year have four (2022: three) members of staff employed part time to be debt advisers, centre manager and administrators for the centre. Work has been completed this year to move the money advice centre out from under the umbrella of Love's Farm Community Church and the money advice service successfully changed its name in December 2023 to Money Advice St Neots (Mast). Mast is supported by churches across the town and collaborates widely with the church and the local food banks where one of the team provides onsite help and signposting.

Love's Farm Community Church has benefited from the leadership role played by Rev'd Helene Tame, who is employed by the United Reformed Church Eastern Synod, to lead the work of Love's Farm Community Church. Helene is assisted by numerous lay volunteers. Helene resigned her paid post in November 2023, to take effect from January 2024; she will continue to serve as a volunteer, as required in 2024 with Marcus and Kathryn taking on interim leadership of the church. All the activities of the church as listed above are run by the trustees and others on a voluntary basis. A total of 40 different people served as volunteers during this reporting period.

Financial review

During this year, donations to the charity plus some brought forward reserves were sufficient to cover all its expenses. The charity's income for the year was £22,659 (2022: £40,690) and expenses came to £21,594 (2022: £21,594). The balance of funds at 31 December 2023 was £19,662 (£18,577), with £358 being restricted funds (2022: £5,779).

Reserves policy

It is the trustees reserves policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments, equivalent to £3,592, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £19,304 held on unrestricted funds, after designations, at the year end is higher than the target. Our previous minister, who is paid from external sources, stepped down in January 2024 and the additional reserves are required to provide contingency in the interim period until funding can be secured for a new minister.

The balance of £358 in the restricted funds is towards the TLG project.

Going concern statement

The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Audit exemption statement

Due to the gross income being less than £1million and since the gross assets are less than £3.26million, the charity is exempt from needing an audit and since in 2023 the gross income is less than £25,000 the charity is exempt from needing an independent examination and the trustees have chosen to not have one.

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Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

The Charities Act 2011 requires 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 of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2005;
- make judgments and accounting 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

Approved by the trustees on 28/6/24 and signed on its behalf by



Jonathan Tame (Chairman of the Trustees)

Love's Farm Community Church

Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 December 2023

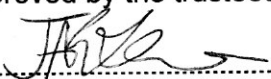
		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Incoming resources	Notes				
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income					
Incoming resources from donors	2,8	20,612	-	20,612	20,111
Grant income	8,9	-	1,805	1,805	20,560
		20,612	1,805	22,417	40,671
Activities for generating funds		-	-	-	-
Investment income		242	-	242	19
Income from charitable activity		-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		20,854	1,805	22,659	40,690
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	3,6	14,169	7,226	21,395	32,485
Governance costs	4	-	-	-	-
Other resources expended	5	199	-	199	683
Total resources used		14,368	7,226	21,594	33,168
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		6,486	(5,421)	1,065	7,522
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before revaluations		6,486	(5,421)	1,065	7,522
Realised gain/(loss) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
Realised gain/(loss) on investments		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		6,486	(5,421)	1,065	7,522
Funds carried forward at 1 January 2023		12,818	5,779	18,597	11,075
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2023		19,304	358	19,662	18,597
All amounts relate to continuing activities					

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Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets			-		-
Investments			-		-
Total fixed assets			-		-
Current assets					
Debtors	7	2,784		2,532	
Cash at bank and in hand		16,878		18,062	
Total current assets		19,662		20,594	
Liabilities – amounts falling due within one year	8	-		1,997	
Net current assets			19,662		18,597
Net assets			19,662		18,597
Funds					
Unrestricted	11		19,304		12,818
Restricted	9,11		358		5,779
Endowment funds	11		-		-
			19,662		18,597

Approved by the trustees on 28/6/24 and signed on its behalf by



Jonathan Tame (Chairman of the trustees)

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Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

These financial statements of the charity have been prepared on a going concern basis and on behalf of the trustees in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (2005) together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Act. They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included on the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the CIO that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the CIO.

Restricted funds represent those received for specific purposes as specified by the donors.

Endowment funds are those where there is a requirement imposed by the donor to retain capital, but which allows income to be used.

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Notes to the financial statements

2 Incoming resources from donors

	2023 £	2022 £
General donations from individuals	13,181	11,272
Help fund giving	-	85
Gift Aid	2,784	2,533
Little Loves giving	1,842	1,020
Youth club giving	2,605	1,830
Youth café giving	200	537
Ukrainian Donation	-	939
CMA Donation	-	1,895
	<u>20,612</u>	<u>20,111</u>

3 Charitable activities expenditure

	2023 £	2022 £
Breakfast church	5,120	4,929
Youth club	2,477	2,340
Youth café	2,694	1,518
Little Loves	1,383	1,258
TLG	1,083	559
New Wine conference	216	30
Messy Church	-	186
Ukrainian travel	377	806
Money advice centre	5,435	18,409
Alpha	-	-
Mission giving	2,168	2,081
Help fund giving	442	369
	<u>21,395</u>	<u>32,485</u>

Our policy is to give away at least one tenth of our income to mission projects.

4 Governance costs

There were no governance related costs in the current period (2022: nil).

5 Other resources expended

	2023 £	2022 £
Insurance	129	506
Bank charges	60	81
Website and IT costs	10	96
	<u>199</u>	<u>683</u>

6 Employee emoluments

Average staff numbers in 2023 were 1 (2022: 3) with emoluments totalling £6,084 (2022: £13,341). This includes £4,056 (2022: £6,552) for two trustees who were paid for the work they did for debt advice centre.

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Notes to the financial statements

7 Debtors and prepayments

	2023 £	2022 £
Accrued Income	2,784	2,532

8 Creditors

	2023 £	2022 £
Charity donations creditors	-	1,900
Accrual for food	-	97
	-	1,997

9 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Cinnamon Grant	1,441	-	(1,083)	358
Trussell Trust	3,970	-	(3,970)	-
Acts 435	-	450	(450)	-
Love's Farm House	-	250	(250)	-
Parish of St Neots for CMA	-	300	(855)	-
Parish of St Neots for Youth	-	150	(150)	-
Lidl	-	555	(555)	-
ESCA Grant	-	100	(100)	-
	5,779	1,805	(7,226)	358

Brought forward was £1,441 which was received from Cinnamon Grant for TLG and £1,083 of this grant was used during the year.

Brought forward was £3,970 which was received from the Trussell Trust for Love's Farm Community Money Advice for wages and other running costs, which was used during the year.

In 2023, £450 was received from various grants from the charity, Acts 435, which is a crowd funding website which raises money for families in need. The money was used for various items for Love's Farm Community Money Advice clients.

On 12 January 2023, £250 was received from Love's Farm House towards the youth club which is run weekly. This was used during the year.

On 19 January 2023, £300 was received from St Mary's Parish church towards the Community Money Advice centre to assist with the running costs. This was used during the year.

On 19 January 2023, £150 was received from St Mary's Parish church towards the youth activities undertaken. This was used during the year.

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Notes to the financial statements

9 Restricted Funds (continued)

On 25 April 2023, £555 was received from Lidl towards Love's Farm Community Money Advice to assist with the support the team give to families. This was used during the year.

On 14 November 2023, £100 was received from Eaton Socon Community Association (ESCA) towards Love's Farm Community Money Advice. This was used during the year.

10 Grants

No unrestricted grants were received in the year.

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-
Current assets	19,304	358	-	19,662
Current liabilities	-	-	-	-
	<u>19,304</u>	<u>358</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,662</u>