

Desiring Truth Ministries

Report and Accounts

Year ended 28 February 2024

DESIRING TRUTH MINISTRIES
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	2 Beeches Courtyard Beeches Road Cirencester GL7 1BN
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO - Registered 18 April 2016
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1166581
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Mrs. A L Absolom Mrs. R Short Mr. K Knighton Mr. R Manley Ms. A Boncey Ms. S G Fairley
BANKERS	Lloyds Bank Moreton-in-Marsh PO Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Alan Richard Absolom Elizabeth House Flecknoe Warwickshire CV 23 8AT

DESIRING TRUTH MINISTRIES
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 28 February 2024.

THE MINISTRY: ITS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our aims and objectives are reviewed each year and make every attempt to take into account the changing values and current situation of our cultures in the UK. Over time Britain has become an ever-increasing multi-cultural society which in turn includes a multi faith and/or no faith populous.

We consider the Christian Church not to be a building, but rather a gathering of ordinary people of different ages, cultures and backgrounds, whose lives have been changed by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Although to date there have always been different interpretations of scripture by the various known Christian denominations, Desiring Truth makes every effort to maintain the freedom of thought and speech by using the plumb line of the Bible as our guide. The New Testament reveals the church as a community of people, properly taught and cared for, whom, by loving and serving Jesus Christ, were also committed to love and care for each other and to bring a blessing to the community in which they live.

Desiring Truth Ministries, its Trustees, Leadership Team and members are committed to the restoration of those New Testament principles and values. The ministry is one of many Christian ministries across the country and all over the world that is re-discovering the joy of knowing Jesus Christ and serving Him in this way. The vision of Desiring Truth is to see the people of the United Kingdom (which is our primary mission field) come into this experience of knowing Jesus as their Lord, Saviour and Friend and in so doing, find both physical and spiritual support, which in turn they can offer to others in their community. The Christian faith, being one of love and acceptance within their community and beyond is able to offer service to others whilst maintaining the true value of that faith as laid out in the holy text of the Bible

Directions relating to charitable trust are made by the Trustees in consultation with the Leadership Team, who are responsible for governing the life and teaching of this ministry. Day-to-day decisions on expenditure and activities are decided by the Leadership Team who is responsible for different areas of activity within Desiring Truth Ministries, with budgets set and monitored by the Trustees. The powers of appointment or removal of Trustees rests with the Trustees. New Trustees are primarily selected from the members of the Desiring Truth family who share the same vision, since this means that the Trustee body is wholeheartedly involved in seeing the mission of the Desiring Truth Ministry worked out in practice. After being appointed new Trustees spend time with the existing Trustees to ensure they understand their responsibilities and the legal and financial framework in which the ministry operates. Guidelines etc. from the Charities Commission are made available and a copy of the Desiring Truth agreed Constitution made available.

Having now come through the Covid crisis of 2020-2021, Desiring Truth has continued to develop ways of using the media to its best effect within current guidelines and/or legislation. There are a growing number of participants who opt to participate online rather than to attend the Desiring Truth Teaching Centre. By using various media platforms such as You Tube and Zoom, Desiring Truth Ministries have been able to expand its audience to international circles. Most teaching sessions are recorded and streamed on the Desiring Truth website for later viewing.

However, there are continued discussions to ensure that we use the existing premises innovatively and to wider effect within its local setting thereby making various activities more accessible to other churches and/or denominations in this locality. It is hoped that in so doing, Desiring Truth might continue to build bridges within the community.

Our aim is for output to increase over time. For this reason, Desiring Truth have followed the advice of the Trustees (2023 Report of Aims and Objectives) and increased the financial investment in our media services, enabling this ministry to reach the wider audience in a more professional and businesslike manner. The new technology acquired has been placed in the main teaching rooms which have been refurbished etc. to include a variety of 'studio' opportunities that will eventually increase our programmed output. There is now a relay system in place in another part of the Desiring Truth premises which can support any overflow that can sometimes occur.

Our new Media administrator has been in place for the past year and has successively increased our advertising output. He has been able to inject new ideas to broaden our audience participation which has resulted in some positive feedback and growth in the number of people connecting online with Desiring Truth. This objective will remain central to the Ministry of Desiring Truth. Among the tasks of the administrator there will be an expectation that he/she will follow the media guidelines laid out by each service we use, i.e. Facebook, You Tube, Twitter etc. We currently have two partially trained people in house to use the system to its maximum potential and possibly the addition of further voluntary technicians to be trained to cover holidays/sickness

Desiring Truth still feels that face to face contact is vital, and we therefore continue to offer group and individual support in prayer, actual visits or contact by various means of technology to those feeling isolated, lonely or without practical and/or emotional support. This kind of support continues to be necessary through the many changes coming through government policies and an unstable current world situation. On a personal level it is acknowledged that there are growing hardships within many households as a deepening financial crisis emerges. War situations and subsequent refugee problems continue, and the United Kingdom has not escaped from these growing problems. Help/support is now sought from many charities and institutions and Desiring Truth Ministries are willing to help as and where it is appropriate and/or possible.

Churches are now for the most part open throughout the UK and therefore our need and calling to support those Churches where possible and/or appropriate, also continues. Our teaching courses are set to reach all levels of understanding, and we ensure that people are directed to the course that would be the most satisfying and/or appropriate for them. For example, we go from in depth study to one-to-one Bible courses, to completely informal meeting times where those attending can talk together in a more casual setting, being assured that all conversations will be respected and held confidential.

Desiring Truth encourages those involved with the ministry to be proactive within their communities and as part of that objective we ensure that there are training courses available to build confidence and develop understanding for sensitivity whilst engaging with the public when out and about in the community. There is always space for more volunteers to support the various aspects of this ministry, individuals can be involved training others (discipling), or in public teaching and worship, and also in various practical forms of administration. The financial resources of the ministry, to a very large extent, are given by the members and their private assets and equipment are regularly used in the work of the ministry. Much of this work is done voluntarily, privately, without recognition, and the hours and value of that time cannot be quantified.

: THE YEAR: ITS OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year ended 28th February 2024 the main ways the ministry sought to achieve the calling of Christ upon it and its charitable purposes for the public benefit have been as follows:

- Fulfilling the objective in teaching, preaching and showing practical care in the community wherever the opportunities present themselves. We continue to use Zoom but are now able to include 'Live' broadcasting via You Tube. We currently have two volunteers trained for this purpose and another two volunteers willing to be trained in order to cover sickness/holidays. However, the equipment is highly advanced, and we realize that there is more that can be done through this medium, therefore one of the initial volunteer technicians has agreed to seek further training which would enable the full use of our current equipment.

ZOOM has enabled group participation online such as small group studies, prayer meetings and informal discussion groups in a secure setting. This has been increased this year as the troubles around the world have increased and with that the need for prayer.

Through this kind of media usage, we hoped to be able to provide support for those we hoped to provide supports for those seeking a deeper understanding of Christian principles. Feedback so far on the whole has been positive and we are resolved to continue through all the ups and downs of any ministry to ensure that God's Word is sustained and held up within the Christian Church both here and overseas. All those involved with Desiring Truth remain positive and excited about what the future holds for this ministry.

Each group payer meeting and/or mid-week teaching classes are open to all, newcomers are always made welcome and soon feel comfortable within the sense of 'family' which we try to create amongst us all. There have been new faces in this past year and those who understand the vision of Desiring Truth are generally willing to volunteer in the outworking of our aims and objectives.

- The ministry also runs specific courses which address particular aspects of Christian living and these too are open to the wider community. The aims of the teaching, preaching and discipleship programs is to primarily make some impact upon a person's lifestyle which would then flow naturally from Biblical teaching of Christ's own understanding on how to love God and your neighbour as yourself.

The mid-week Bible school meetings have a steady average of around 25 people coming together at the main teaching Centre of Desiring Truth, whilst numbers continue to increase of those watching online. We have a healthy turnover of people with some moving on to be more active within their own church community and in place of them, others feeling less supported have joined the various groups and/or activities provided by Desiring Truth Ministries for strength and support within the field of their personal calling and/or choice.

- A growing number of volunteer members of the ministry are involved in various levels of community work i.e. Social Work, tach counseling and are enabled through the activities delivered by Desiring Truth Ministries to carry forward their skills, within Christian principles, into both the community and the workplace.
- There are two monthly prayer meetings, one online and one face to face, that happen each month with regularity and when appropriate overnight prayer meetings are announced and on average all are well attended. There are at least two overnight prayer meetings planned for 2025. We have a prayer app on Signal which is used by those wanting to participate for the purpose of personal prayer requests, we respect peoples' need for confidentiality and those wanting to join are vetted. So far Signal has a very good privacy record, and we find that the 'prayer support' offered through these various openings/opportunities have been appreciated by all those currently involved.

Recognition of the immediate needs of individuals and groups of society have caused us to develop such a program of prayer that could touch the lives of many who are suffering/and or struggling with life situations.

- Evangelism and Missions: Street evangelism continues but changes have occurred during 2024 when Desiring Truth joined with the local Baptist Church to work together in the streets of Cirencester, some going out on other days as well as the designated Tuesday. This has caused us to reconsider our position in regard to street evangelism to see if we can broaden our contact with the general public. The idea of creating a small choir has been introduced and will go before the Leadership Team and Trustees in the New Year. Desiring Truth has invested financially in the purchase of Bibles and literature for all ages and this will continue as appropriate.
- Bringing support to churches working elsewhere both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Ann accepts invitations to speak at various churches both here and abroad but we are looking with a renewed vision as to how Desiring Truth may become a recognized 'hub' or centre of support for individuals attending churches of small/large mixed congregations where the opportunity to understand the Bible may be limited and in the case of discipleship, can sometimes be non-existent. The courses of in depth studies we provide are not only meant to produce more and more students of the Bible, (the Christian's handbook) but to provide opportunities for those students to go back to their churches, communities and/or families armed with the Truth they know and want to share joyfully with others according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17. "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God (Christian) may be adequate, equipped for every good work".
- Bi-monthly Day conferences have continued and the annual retreat from August 2024 was a resounding success with good attendance. We used a Christian Conference Centre in Poole, Dorset and because of such positive feedback we have booked another Retreat at the same centre for July 2025
- The members of the ministry have consistently been applying the principles of church life outlined in the New Testament identified earlier to be 'salt and light' in the community, in the places they live and work and in having an impact on social attitudes in wider national society. This is a very major part of the purpose of this ministry and much of it is done without publicity and the amount of time spent in this way cannot be quantified. The Trustees have complied with the duty under the Charities Acts to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in December 2008.

PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

The key strategies for the ministry are to remain the same. The Leadership Team and trustees have not set specific objectives for the coming year in quantitative terms, although we are building on the media opportunities as stated above.

We will continue to seek advice re the expansion of the media side of Desiring Truth and support the volunteers who work alongside the media administrator. We will continue to develop the Media Team and the opportunities that can be used by this medium as the Lord leads.

We will continue to encourage support and develop the outreach side of Desiring Truth especially into the local community amongst young people.

We hope to have an increase of volunteer participation especially in the leading of small groups and those taking a teaching role at the Desiring Truth Centre. It is believed that these smaller local groups can be a vital sense of keeping in touch and offering support in these uncertain times.

Although we continue to investigate some kind of worship band and encourage those with musical talents where possible, we currently use a media program to accommodate times of worship.

The ministry proposes to investigate how we could further join with other ministries with the same core values in order to broaden our work and reach more people from various walks of life.

The ministry wants to expand its use of the current premises.

Ideas such as a studio for filming, podcasting and increased opportunities for those wanting to know more about the Christian faith, 'Beginner's classes and small fellowship groups run by volunteers and other social activities, are being prayerfully considered.

Financial review

During the year income increased by £3144 and expenditure decreased by £3135.. The cash held by the charity decreased by £1232 to £2108, of which £2108 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Reserves policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £1,000 (which equates to about 1 month of property rental) should income vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £2108 and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity.

Risk statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by :

Rosie Short

Rosie Short - Chairman

Date: 10 December 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DESIRING TRUTH MINISTRIES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Desiring Truth Ministries ('the charity') for the year ended 29 February 2024.

I confirm that I have examined the accounts, bank statements and other documents produced to me by the Treasurer, including information provided to her by other members.

I can confirm that I am satisfied that the accounts and balance sheet correctly reflect the financial situation of the charity for the year 2023/24.

A.R. Absolom

Alan Absolom

Accounts Examiner

Elizabeth House,
Flecknoe
Warwickshire CV23 8AT

4 December 2024

DESIRING TRUTH MINISTRIES

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEB 2024

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Notes				
Income receipts				
Donations, Legacies, Grants	19177		19177	18759
Conferences and Bible Study	9447		9447	7355
Book and CD Sales	148		148	42
Mission donation (other)		40	40	3
Standard Earned Income (Interest)	11		11	
Tax Reclaimed	100		100	
Sale of Speakers	380		380	
Total Receipts	29263	40	29303	26159
Payments				
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	30902		30902	34037
Total Payments	30902		30902	34037
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers	(1639)	40	(1599)	(7878)
Transfers between Funds	40	(40)		
Net movement in Funds	(1599)	40	(1599)	(7878)
Cash funds as at last year end	3320	20	3340	11218
Cash funds as at this year end	1721	20	1741	3340

DESIRING TRUTH MINISTRIES

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2024

	Unrestricted General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024	2023
A Cash Funds				
Cash at bank with immediate access	2078		2078	3310
Petty Cash	30		30	30
	<u>2108</u>		<u>2108</u>	<u>3340</u>
B Other monetary assets				
Property Rental Deposit	2000		2000	2000
	<u>2000</u>		<u>2000</u>	<u>2000</u>
C Liabilities				
Fee for independent Examination				540
Media Equipment				2560
Loan - AL Absolom	400		400	
	<u>400</u>		<u>400</u>	<u>3100</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs		Cost £
Audio equipment		Depreciated	2267.32	12183
Office equipment Fixtures + Fittings		Depreciated	6157.82	12781
			<u>8425.14</u>	<u>24964</u>
The values are the cost prices for the item purchased over the past 3 years				

E Guarantees and Secured Debts

None

The Accouts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their belhald

by

Rosie Short

Date :10 December 2024

Rosie Short

DESIRING TRUTH MINISTRIES

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors, they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects

	Unrestricted Funds General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024	Total 2023
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly				
Venue Hire Conferences	7817		7817	5380
Property Costs (See note 2 (a))	14987		14987	15552
Outreach	15		15	911
Book and CD Purchases	74		74	68
Website, Advertising	4238		4238	3599
Insurance	761		761	690
Office + Admin	1282		1282	1186
Travel + Subsistence	648		648	1770
Office/Audio Equipment	96		96	3501
Mission Donations		40	40	120
Accounts Preparation + Independent Examination	744		744	720
Governance	240		240	540
	30902	40	30942	34037
	30902			

2 (a) Property Costs Comprise

Rent	10800		10800	10800
Maintenance	1429		1429	1459
Cleaning	673		673	660
Council Tax and Utilities	2085		2085	2633
	14987		14987	15552

3. Movement of Funds

	Balance at 1/3/23 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 28/2/24 £
General Funds	3320	29263	30902	40	1721
	3320	29263	30902	40	1721
Restricted Funds	20	40		(40)	20
Israel Various Ministries	20	40		(40)	20
Total Funds	3340	29303	30902		1741

Donations for ministries in Israel are no longer accepted by the charity; donors are encouraged to donate directly to these ministries the monies will be returned to the donor.