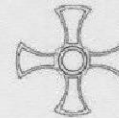


# NIGHT CHURCH CHESTER

## ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

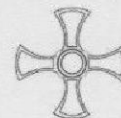
for the year ended 31 October 2023

Charity No: 1167728



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## Charity Information

### Registered Charity Name

Night Church Chester

### Address

St Peter's Church  
Watergate Street  
Chester  
CH1 2LA

### Contact Information

Telephone: 01244 403634

Email: [nightchurchchester@gmail.com](mailto:nightchurchchester@gmail.com)

Website: [www.nightchurchchester.org](http://www.nightchurchchester.org)

### Charity Number

1167728

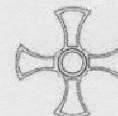
### Trustees who served during the year

J Green  
E Jewkes  
M Johnson  
A Williams

### Independent Examiner

W J Webb ACMA  
Brookfield House  
3 Brookfield Drive  
Newton  
Chester  
CH2 2EF





## Trustees' Annual Report

### Background

Night Church Chester was launched in December 2010 as a project by The Light Project, an evangelical charity based in Chester. In September 2015 Night Church Chester separated from The Light Project and became an independent small charity. Then in June 2016, as resources exceeded £5,000, it registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charities Commission. It operates from St Peter's Church, Chester.

### Who we are: Structure, Governance & Management

Night Church Chester is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by Constitution. Trustees are appointed by serving trustees, in accord with the Constitution and good practice set out in the Charities Commission.

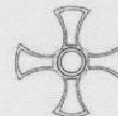
### The current Trustees are :

Mr John Terence Green	re-appointed 14 June 2021 for 3 years
Mrs Elizabeth Jewkes	re-appointed 14 June 2021 for 3 years
Mr Michael Johnson	re-appointed 27 September 2021 for 3 years

In September 2023 Anne Williams stood down as a trustee, leaving the charity with 3 trustees, the minimum number permitted in the charity's constitution. New trustees are needed and this is being actively pursued by the charity. The Trustees regularly meet quarterly and receive update reports from the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team, itself meets quarterly before Trustee meetings. Night Church Chester is not part of any wider network but is supported by some of the Churches in Chester.

We are delighted that Night Church re-opened in November 2021 following closure due to the Covid Pandemic. We have been open once a month rather than twice a month because our team of volunteers had reduced. Night Church did not open in August 2023 due to holidays and was unable to open in September and October due to an insufficient number of volunteers being available. The Charity has overall therefore still been able to fulfil its Constitutional objective this year. Trustees have met regularly by Zoom to review the situation.

We still have a Memorandum of Understanding with St Peter's Church which was signed in 2017 and has not been amended since other than updating the amounts we pay. This is the basis of our working relationship with St Peter's Church, what they provide for us and what we pay them. Night Church Chester has a very close working relationship with St Peter's Church and a representative of Night Church is



invited to attend their PCC Meetings. We greatly value the support we receive from St Peter's.

The structure of Night Church Chester is the Board of Trustees: a Project Leader and a Leadership Team. We clarify, from time to time, what Trustees are responsible for and how governance is exercised. The Project Leader works with the Leadership Team to plan and operate Night Church Chester at St Peter's Church. The Project Leader Gemma Sheridan, continues in post. The Treasurer, Nev Kite, is a member of the Leadership Team and both he and Gemma Sheridan prepare reports for Trustees and attend Trustee Meetings

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The Charity does not make gifts other than to St Peter's Church and a policy on social investment including programme related investment is not applicable. The Charity does not have sufficient funds to merit an investment policy. Funds are held in a Co-operative Bank current account. No payments are made to Trustees and they do not receive any non-cash benefits: we do not have any overseas income or expenditure and we do not have professional fundraising. We do not have any employees.

Alongside our grassroots nature and independence, we believe in the importance of networks and collaboration. We have networked locally with Churches in Chester, with Cheshire West and Chester Council, with the Police and with other organisations involved in the night time economy. Street Angels are currently establishing themselves in Chester, and will also be operating out of St Peter's Church. This should give further opportunities for collaboration in the future.

**What we do and why: Objectives and Activities (see our website [www.nightchurchchester.org](http://www.nightchurchchester.org))**

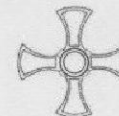
***The objective of the CIO is to advance the Christian faith for the benefit of the public through the operation and running of a night time Church, in accordance with the statement of faith.***

*(from our Constitution)*

This objective is developed through our values, see our website, and through our procedures, especially in our Policy Documents which are now available to Trustees on Microsoft Teams. Our objectives are summarised in our Mission Statement:

"Night Church a sacred space in the centre of Chester open to everyone: where anyone in town on a Saturday night can experience something of God's presence.





We welcome people of all faiths and none. We are seed sowers, participants in God's mission; trusting that God has planned our visitors' next step, knowing that we are not likely to see it"

We continue to have an illuminated sign above the front door with the words "Night Church" which is very visible and so important in indicating our presence. Inside we have tables at a safe distance from each other and serve coffee and tea. There is a prayer corner where visitors can light a candle, pray or leave a prayer request; there is also background Christian music, at times with live music and song. Lighting in the Church is subdued. We have a minimum of 9 team members including 2 team leaders each night, along with musicians and a prayer team. (These numbers are based on a risk assessment.) One or two of the volunteers each night will have had first aid training. Our objective is to ensure that volunteers and visitors are safe. This has been even more important in the post Covid times.

In October 2022 we had 20 volunteers and in October 2023 we had 21 volunteers. We currently have sufficient volunteers to open one night per month and our hope is to reach a sufficient number in 2024 to enable us to open twice per month. The Trustees are so thankful for our volunteers and greatly value the time and many skills that our volunteers give: they are key to the high quality service which we provide. We have Trustee Liability and Employer and Public and Products Liability Insurance. Buildings insurance is covered by St Peter's Church.

We begin each evening by setting up facilities for Night Church and then having a time of preparation when volunteers are reminded of safety procedures, safeguarding and possible risks. We then will have a time of quietness, prayer and introductory words. This is good preparation for visitors to Night Church.

Two volunteers stand at the door to greet people passing by and invite people into Night Church. Other volunteers are at various places inside the Church. We are a place of hospitality and visitors are free to have a drink or sit quietly listening to music or chatting among themselves. Volunteers are always available to help or to have conversations on topics raised by the visitor. Each time we are open there are always amazing conversations. Very occasionally we have a difficult visitor, usually drink or drug related and we help as necessary, liaising with the police if needed. We are also aware that the toilet can be used for taking or leaving drugs. We will continue to take precautions and inspect the toilets regularly as required by our drugs policy.

Intercessors spending the evening in prayer are a key aspect of Night Church. The leader of the intercessors states "We pray for Night Church during the preceding week and often God will give us a message to give to the other intercessors: sometimes it is a message for everyone. We come expecting to hear from God and



we do. Sometimes He gives us situations for prayer, which may be local, national or international. We want to encourage people to come and sit in God's presence. Just being there, waiting on God, we have a sense of doing God's will"

Our policies cover values, appointment of Trustees, strategic plan, safeguarding, volunteer policy and role, dealing with drugs and alcohol, health and safety, dealing with incidents, risk assessment, prayer policy, and complaints policy which is on our website. They ensure that the Charity and its operations are on a secure basis and equip volunteers for ensuring a safe and friendly environment. We have re-introduced a programme for reviewing the policies since being closed by Covid19. Volunteers will continue to be regularly reminded of the Safeguarding policy.

We continue to be careful to make it clear that we are rooted gently and deeply in the Christian spiritual tradition, but offer a safe space where people of any faith or none who are enjoying their night out in Chester can feel completely at ease. Although currently unable to open more than once a month due to volunteer numbers, it remains our objective in the Strategic Plan to open at least twice a month.

#### **Our success: Achievements and Performance including Public Benefit**

On the nights we have been open this year we have had an average of 76 visitors per occasion and we receive very encouraging comments thanking us for offering hospitality and a safe space. At the end of each night we have a review of the service provided. There are always encouraging stories of conversations and reactions of members of the public for which we are most thankful. So often people leaving after a visit are thankful and say that it was a very good occasion for them and that there was something special in the Church.

Our volunteers come from a range of local churches and we are so thankful for the many still available when we re-opened and for the new volunteers who have joined us this year. It has also been good to re-connect again with the staff in the pub next door. They are mostly so thankful when we are open on a Saturday night.

The charity was delighted to receive a grant of £1,000 from the Safer Streets project run by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire in September 2023 in recognition of the work that Night Church does in providing a safe space in the centre of Chester. The money will be used to improve our lighting and signage as well as to refresh and extend the first-aid equipment we hold. We are very grateful to the Safer Streets project for this generous grant.



## Financial review

Night Church Chester's main sources of funding are from donations from churches in Chester, individual regular giving and donations received on the night. As mentioned above, we also received a grant of £1,000 in September 2023 which had not yet been spent by the end of the financial year.

Reserves at the end of the financial year stood at £2,197 (Oct 2022: £3,698), including the grant of £1,000 from the Safer Streets project. The bank/cash balance at the end of the financial year was £2,160 (Oct 2022: £3,686). The charity does not have sufficient funds to merit an Investment Policy and funds are held in a Co-operative Bank account. As at the date of the report the Trustees do not have any uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:

Full Name: John Terence  
Green

Position: Chair Trustees

Date: 21 March 2024

Signature:

Full Name: Elizabeth Jewkes

Position: Trustee

Date: 21st March 2024





## **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Trustees recognise their responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

We are also responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records;
- safeguarding the charity's assets;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.
- ensuring the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations including Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Employment and Charity legislation.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.



### Independent Examiner's Report

TO THE TRUSTEES OF NIGHT CHURCH CHESTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 OCTOBER 2023

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

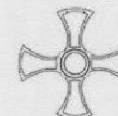
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;

Or have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Date 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

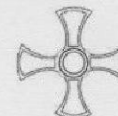
W J Webb ACMA  
Brookfield House  
3 Brookfield Drive  
Newton  
Chester  
CH2 2EF



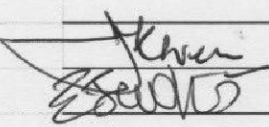
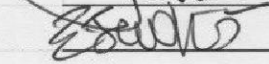
## Statement of Financial Activities for the 12 months ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

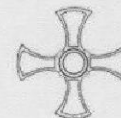
Recommended categories by activity	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources (Note 2)	F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	1,343	1,000	-	2,343	2,058
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>2,058</b>
<b>Resources expended (Note 3)</b>					
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3,844	-	-	3,844	3,365
Separate material item of expense	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>3,365</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	<b>- 2,501</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,501</b>	<b>- 1,307</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>- 2,501</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,501</b>	<b>- 1,307</b>
<b>Extraordinary items</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>- 2,501</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,501</b>	<b>- 1,307</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward	3,698	-	-	3,698	5,005
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,197</b>	<b>3,698</b>





## Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 4)	37	-	-	37	12
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 6)	1,160	1,000	-	2,160	3,686
<b>Total current assets</b>	1,197	1,000	-	2,197	3,698
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 5)</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>	1,197	1,000	-	2,197	3,698
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	1,197	1,000	-	2,197	3,698
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>	1,197	1,000	-	2,197	3,698
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>					
Endowment funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	1,197	1,000	-	2,197	3,698
Revaluation reserve	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total funds</b>	1,197	1,000	-	2,197	3,698
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy		
		John F. Green	21/3/24		
		Elizabeth Sewke	21/3/24		



## Notes to the accounts

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### a) Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### b) Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. Unrestricted reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 represent approximately six months' expenditure and the trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern.

#### c) Change of accounting policy

There has been no change of accounting policy during the year to 31 October 2023.

#### d) Changes to accounting estimates

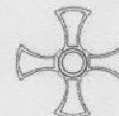
No changes to accounting estimates have occurred during the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

#### e) Material prior year errors

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period (3.47 FRS 102 SORP).

#### f) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Donations and collections are recognised when received by or on the behalf of the charity.



**g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not registered for VAT and all VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure as incurred.

**h) Stocks**

There is no stock on the balance sheet.

**i) Debtors**

Debtors, which consist solely of Gift Aid reclaims, are recognised at the settlement amount due.

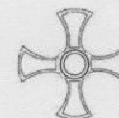
**j) Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and a current account at Co-operative Bank.

**k) Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.





## 2 Analysis of income

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
	Analysis					
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	1,174	1,000	-	2,174	1,886
	Gift Aid	169	-	-	169	172
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	-	-	-	-	-
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>2,058</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>1,343</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>2,058</b>

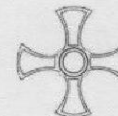
All income in the prior year was unrestricted.

## 3 Analysis of expenditure

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
	Analysis					
Expenditure on charitable activities	Contribution to St Peter's Church Chester	2,400	-	-	2,400	2,400
	Insurance costs	382	-	-	382	384
	Consumables, equipment & other running costs	1,062	-	-	1,062	581
		-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>3,365</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>3,844</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,844</b>	<b>3,365</b>

## 4 Debtors and Prepayments

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Trade debtors	0	0
Prepayments and accrued income	37	12
Other debtors	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>



## 5 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and on hand	2,160	3,686
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>3,686</b>

## 6 Transactions with trustees and related parties

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.