



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date
From 1st April 2022 To 31st March 2023
Period end date

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name New Milton Evangelical Free Church

Registered charity number (if any) 1168045

Charity's principal address 24-26 Whitefield Road

New Milton

Hampshire

Postcode BH25 6DF

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustees (if any)
1	Rev S Woodcraft	Pastor & Elder		Church Members
2	Mr J Harman	Elder	Until 11 th October 2022	Church Members
3	Mr B Fidler	Elder		Church Members
4	Mr D White	Elder		Church Members
5	Mr A Harvey	Elder	From 31 st July 2022	Church Members

Names and addresses of advisers

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent examiner	Andrew Clark Carter & Coley Ltd Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors	3 Durrant Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 6NE

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	CIO - ASSOCIATION REGISTERED 05 JUL 2016
How the charity is constituted	CHARITABLE TRUST
Trustee selection methods	The trustees of the Church are the Elders, who are the Pastor and other Elders. Elders are nominated by the Pastor and existing Elders, who shall bring names to a Church Business Meeting. An Elder will be elected in a secret ballot for 5 years if at least 75% of the votes recorded at the Meeting are in favour.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Background

NMEFC was established as a CIO, Registered Charity No. 1168045 on 5th July 2016.

The Unincorporated Association and the new CIO were merged at the start of the 2017/18 financial year (1st April 2017) when Fixed Assets were transferred from our holding Trustees (FIEC) and Current Assets transferred from the Unincorporated Association.

Structure, governance and management

The detailed structure, governance and management details are contained in the Church Constitution. In summary: -

- a) The Trustees are the Pastor and the other church Elders.
- b) There must be at least 3 Trustees.
- c) The Trustees shall have the general control and management of the administration of the Church and may, for that purpose, exercise all the powers of the Church subject to the provisions contained in this constitution and the Church Handbook.
- d) The Charity Trustees must hold at least 4 meetings in each 12-month period.
- e) Quarterly Members' meetings are held to keep members informed and to be involved in major decisions.

Governing Documentation:

1. Church Constitution dated 17th May 2016 with amendments dated 3rd February 2023.
2. Church Handbook (Rules) dated 17th May 2016 with amendments dated 24th January 2023.
3. Charity Commission Registration 5th July 2016.
4. Deed of Gift dated 18th July 1934
5. Charity Commission Scheme dated 19 July 2007

Meetings: -

Meetings cover both Church Elder and Charity Trustee responsibilities and there were 11 such meetings during the year.

Mr C Simpkins the Secretarial Deacon as part of his duties attends meetings of the Church Elders / Charity Trustees.

The Church Elders / Charity Trustees are supported by a team of Deacons who serve in practical areas of church life. The Deacons meet separately under the chairmanship of the Pastor.

An Away Day was held during the year facilitating a time of discussion between Elders and Deacons.

There were 5 Church Members' Meetings during the year including the AGM. The average attendance was 33. The 5 meetings with attendance figures were: 12th April 2022 (30), 28th June 2022 (26), 31st July 2022 (41), 11th October 2022 (35) and 24th January 2023 (33).

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Charity are:

- a) The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within New Milton and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- b) Such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting, put into practice the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ in accordance with the Basis of Faith.

Following the completion of building work at our church premises which included a two-story rear extension incorporating a new entrance, accessibility toilet, sound & video room, and a first-floor meeting room, we concluded our time of meeting at Bashley Village Hall and returned to Whitefield Road, New Milton following Easter 2022.

Our Sunday Services, morning (10.30am) and evening (6.00pm) have been held throughout the year. Communion is celebrated twice each month (once at 10am & once during the evening Service). A baptismal Service was held in September 2022.

We have maintained an on-line presence with an improved website launched in autumn 2022, and have also continued with our online ministry of recorded Services available via YouTube or audio on the website.

We held a Café Free event, an informal evening Service with an outside speaker and refreshments. Midweek courses on 'A Passion for Life' and apologetics were organised.

The Church premises have been used for regular mid-week prayer meetings and quarterly Members' Meetings. A week of intensive prayer meetings held in the Church premises and in members' homes was conducted in January 2023.

In seeking to encourage bible study, prayer, and fellowship amongst the congregation numbers of smaller groups meet during each month. These include weekly and monthly ladies' groups, a monthly men's group, and fortnightly home groups with daytime and evening meetings to suit the membership. A Christianity Explored course was run during the year for those enquiring about the Christian faith.

Our activities for young people on Sunday mornings are Crèche (for those under 5) and Junior Church (for ages 5 to 11), and on Sunday evenings Gravity youth group (for ages 11 to 18). We also run two mid-week clubs 'K'nektd' (for school years 3-6) and K'lossal (for school year 7 upwards). A new development was that both clubs held three-day summer camps in 2022.

Other activities during the year included occasional Church Sunday lunches, a Church barbecue, a Harvest Quiz, Mens' & Church family walks, Mens' breakfasts and social evenings, and filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

We have sought to serve the congregation and wider community with the provision of a monthly lunch (Food4Thought). We have also manned a stall at community events in the town, and since autumn 2022 have established a monthly stall at the town market providing Christian literature and information.

We tithe unrestricted income to support Christian work in Malawi, SE Asia, France and in local UK schools.

We have an active safeguarding team to ensure the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Our membership as at 01/04/2022 was 51 members. During the year we received 10 new members and there were no relocations, resignations, or deaths amongst the membership of the church. We therefore concluded the year at 01/04/2023 with 61 members. It is encouraging to report that we have also had numbers of new regular attendees worshipping with us.

Our Sunday Services, morning (10.30am) and evening (6.00pm) have been held throughout the year. Our Pastor has faithfully expounded God's word and is currently undertaking series in Luke's gospel and the book of Job. Other preachers from within the membership or from other churches have also provided biblical ministry. The attendance at our Sunday Services is approximately 80-100 in the morning, and 35-50 in the evening.

We are blessed by having a gifted music team who significantly enhance our corporate worship, alongside technical and welcoming teams who facilitate Services. Our worship area has also been improved by an additional monitor for the rear seating area.

Our activities for young people on Sunday mornings are Crèche and Junior Church, and Gravity youth group on Sunday evenings. Whilst the older group is well attended, we pray for more families with younger children.

We run two mid-week clubs K'nekted' (for school years 3-6) meeting on Thursday evenings and K'lossal (for school year 7 upwards) meeting on Friday evenings. Both clubs have a mix of Bible teaching and activities. The aim of the clubs is to give young people a greater understanding of the Christian faith and its practical outworking, as well as providing opportunities for social interaction. There has been good attendance at both these clubs during the year and we are grateful for all our Church members who are committed to serving the youth of our congregation and community. The holding of three-day summer camps for each club provided a special opportunity to engage with the young people entrusted to our care.

Our various midweek prayer meetings, bible study groups and home groups have all been well supported. At present we have six home groups offering a choice of morning and evening meetings and approximately 70 adults are committed to these groups.

The monthly Food4Thought lunches have attracted approximately 30 attendees and a similar number have attended the occasional men's breakfasts.

Our Church Diaconate was enlarged with the appointment of a care Deacon to co-ordinate the dedicated Church members who are engaged in various ways with caring for those within the congregation.

We own outright our Church premises and the Manse, which are kept in good order, with regular inspections. The main bathroom of the Manse has been refurbished during the past year. Our Deacons and members carry out maintenance in the grounds and buildings, with tradespeople employed as appropriate.

We have an ongoing programme for the protection of children and vulnerable adults including regular DBS checks overseen by our active safeguarding team. Under the Data Protection regulations, Church members and regular attendees aged 16 and over are asked to read and consider the Data Privacy Notice and to consent to what of their information can be used on Church business.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We aim to maintain free reserves sufficient to cover at least 3 month's general expenditure in order to give the church time to respond to unexpected needs. Our target level for the coming year 2023/24 will be increased from £22,500 to £25,000, an amount considered adequate to cover quarterly expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

We budget for unrestricted income and expenditure and review actual figures against the budget monthly.

Services, meetings, and attendance in 2020/21 and 2021/22 were disrupted by the Covid pandemic and a building extension in 2021/22, and these also affected income and expenditure.

Unrestricted income has recovered well in 2022/23 and has been increased by new and increased offerings. Unrestricted expenditure has also increased but less than income. Unrestricted income was £12,193 above budget, and unrestricted expenditure was £3,422 above the budgeted figure, giving a surplus in the year of £4,771.

With the exception of a small amount of investment income & interest (<1%), all other income comes from the Church family as gift-aided giving (59%), donations (18%), gift aid tax claimed back (16%) and the offertory box (7%).

We tithe 10% of unrestricted income, making half-yearly donations to the 4 missionaries/missions we support. A further £1,731 was contributed from both general funds and restricted gifts.

Our main unrestricted expenditure areas are 57% ministry (including the Pastor's salary, expenses & accommodation); 14% discretionary expenditure which include final payments of £6,063 for the building extension, 11% missions; 6.5% administration and 10% Church premises.

Work on the building extension was completed by Easter 2022 with final payments made in this financial year taking the total expenditure to £183,148. Payments in the 2022/23 financial year were £19,186 out of the restricted building fund which was then closed and £6,063 out of unrestricted general funds.


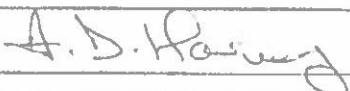
Thanks to the generosity of the Church family, the extension was completed without borrowing and with all bills paid.

The budget for next year, from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, has increases in both income and expenditure. There are notable increases in electricity and gas costs where we have been protected by long term fixed priced contracts at the Manse until June 2023 and at the Church until 2024.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	SIMEON COLIN WOODCRAFT	ALAN DOUGLAS HARVEY
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Pastor, Elder & Chair of Trustees	Elder & Trustee

Date 12th June 2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	New Milton Evangelical Free Church		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st March 2023	Charity no	11684045
Set out on pages	8-9		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

12th June 2023

Name:

Andrew A Clark FCA

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

Chartered Accountant

Address:

Carter & Coley, 3 Durrant Road, Bournemouth, BH2 6NE



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NEW MILTON EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

1168045

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

01/04/2022

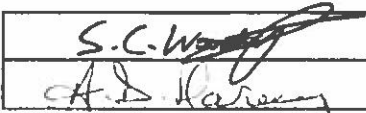
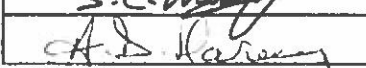
To

31/03/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings	1,640	-	-	1,640	4,886
Offerings (GASDS)	5,172	-	-	5,172	-
Gift aided offerings	57,247	120	-	57,367	68,602
Gift aid tax recovered	15,153	202	-	15,355	22,779
Donations	18,191	2,766	-	20,957	19,193
Investment income	270	-	-	270	1,212
Rent from use of premises	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry Fund	-	-	-	-	1,382
Youth Ministry Fund	-	560	-	560	-
Building & Development Fund	-	90	-	90	5,360
Other Income	20	60	-	80	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	97,693	3,798	-	101,491	123,414
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Investment (M&G Charibond)	-	-	-	-	54,689
Sub total	-	-	-	-	54,689
Total receipts	97,693	3,798	-	101,491	178,103
A3 Payments					
Ministry	53,235	-	-	53,235	42,675
Mission	10,200	966	-	11,166	7,576
Upkeep of church premises	9,094	-	-	9,094	5,851
Administration	6,034	-	-	6,034	6,845
Donations & other expenses	1,572	-	-	1,572	1,414
Building Development	6,658	19,186	-	25,842	182,800
Discretionary Expenditure	8,131	3,593	-	9,724	16,610
Sub total	92,922	23,745	-	116,667	263,771
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
None	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	92,922	23,745	-	116,667	263,771
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,771	- 19,947	-	- 15,176	- 85,668
A5 Transfers between funds	- 1	1	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	46,457	21,659	-	68,116	153,784
Cash funds this year end	51,227	1,713	-	52,940	68,116

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAFBank Current Account	2,678	-	-
	CAFBank Gold Deposit Account	28,377	1,713	-
	Shawbrook Bank	20,172	-	-
	Total cash funds	51,227	1,713	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details: None	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details: None	-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details: Church Premises	Restricted	-	-
	Fixtures & Fittings	Restricted	-	-
	Manse	General	-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details: None		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		REV. SIMEON C. WOODCRAFT	12.6.23	
		ALAN D. HARVEY	12.6.23	

New Milton Evangelical Free Church (Unregistered) was merged with New Milton Evangelical Free Church (1168045). Notification of the merger was submitted 16th December 2017, the merger was registered 13 March 2018 with a transfer date of 1 April 2017.