

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date Period end date
From 1st April 2023 **To** 31st March 2024

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 trustee (if any)
1	Rev S Woodcraft	Pastor & Elder		Church Members
2	Mr B Fidler	Elder		Church Members
3	Mr D White	Elder		Church Members
4	Mr A Harvey	Elder		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.

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 4 Church Members' Meetings during the year including the AGM. The average attendance was 36. The 4 meetings with attendance figures were: 25th April 2023 (33), 11th July 2023 (41), 10th October 2023 (35) and 9th January 2024 (35).

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.

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). An additional Communion Service was held on Maundy Thursday.

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

We have held occasional Sunday evening Café Free events at Bashley Village Hall, consisting of an informal Service with an invited speaker and refreshments.

The Church premises have been used for regular morning and evening mid-week prayer meetings and quarterly Members' Meetings. A week of intensive prayer meetings held in the Church premises and in the homes of members was conducted in January 2024.

In seeking to encourage bible study, prayer, and fellowship amongst the congregation numbers of smaller groups meet during each month. These include monthly ladies' and men's groups, and fortnightly home groups with daytime and evening meetings to suit the congregation. No Christianity Explored courses were run during the year for those enquiring about the Christian faith but it is hoped to run one early in the summer of 2024.

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 17). We also run two mid-week clubs 'K'neked' (for school years 3-6) and K'lossal (for school year 7 upwards). Both these clubs held weekend summer camps in 2023 with 27 young people attending.

Other activities during the year included occasional Church Sunday lunches or teas, a Church barbecue, a Harvest Quiz, occasional Church sports events, men's breakfasts and social evenings, ladies' breakfasts, 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 and have worked with other evangelical churches to display a Christian witness in the town when appropriate. We have continued a monthly stall at the town's farmers market providing Christian literature and information. A small team of church members have also undertaken a regular open-air witness further afield in Bournemouth town centre.

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 01/04/2023 was 61 members. During the year we received 4 new members and there was one relocation and one death amongst the membership of the church. We therefore concluded the year at 31/03/2024 with 63 members. It is encouraging to report that we have also had good numbers of 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 a series on Psalm 119. 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 been improved by substantial expenditure on new seating for our entire worship area as well as an additional monitor for the music team.

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 continue to pray for more families with younger children.

We run two mid-week clubs K'nektd' (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 a reasonable 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 weekend 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 generally well supported. At present we have seven 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 and ladies' breakfasts.

Our Church Diaconate consisting of six deacons has served the congregation well in undertaking or co-ordinating key practical areas of church life. In February 2024, one of our deacons was appointed as salaried part-time church administrator.

We own outright our Church premises and the Manse, which we seek to keep in good order, with regular inspections. Our deacons and members carry out maintenance in the grounds and buildings, with tradespeople employed as appropriate. Considerable expense was incurred early in 2024 in order to improve the drainage of surface water from the car park at the rear of the church building

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.

Section E

Financial review

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 2024/25 will be increased from £25,000 to £30,000, 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.

Unrestricted income was £156,882 and was significantly above budget (£98,950) and last year (£97,693). A large proportion of the increase was due to one-off giving which included a legacy of £46,031. However, ignoring the one-off gifts there was still an increase of £12,116. Unrestricted expenditure increased by £14,403, to make the surplus in the year £49,557.

With the exception of a small amount of investment income & interest (<1%), all other income comes from the Church family as gift-aided giving (58%), donations (18%), gift aid tax claimed back (15.5%), the offertory box (4%) and GASDS (3.5%).

We tithe 10% of unrestricted income, making half-yearly donations to the 4 missionaries/missions we support. This included 10% of the legacy so we were able to increase our tithes to £3,800 for each of the 4 missionaries/missions we support. A further £2,893 was contributed from both general funds and restricted gifts.

Our unrestricted expenditure areas as a proportion of the total are 53% ministry (including the Pastor's salary, expenses & accommodation); 18% Church premises; 14% missions; 8% discretionary expenditure; 5% administration and 2% other. Discretionary expenditure includes £4,045 on Evangelism & Outreach.

Specific large items of expenditure during the year were 163 new chairs at a total cost of £9,482, car-park drainage repairs £3,130 and replacement of a manse window £1,932.

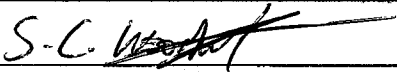

Thanks to the generosity of the Church family all works including un-budgeted items were paid for out of income, and thanks to the legacy our cash assets have increased enabling work to be planned in 2024/25 which might not otherwise have been possible.

The budget for next year, from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, has most income lines level, although interest from deposit accounts and an investment give a small overall increase in income. Expenditure overall will be at 2023/24 levels, with reductions in Premises and Mission giving, offset by increases in Ministry and Administration costs.

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

24 th June 2024



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

New Milton Evangelical Free Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31st March 2024

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 31/03/2024.

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:

24th June 2024

Name:

Andrew A Clark FCA

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

Chartered Accountant

Address:

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



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

NEW MILTON EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

1168045

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2023



To

31/03/2024

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	4,163	-	-	4,163	1,640
Offerings (GASDS)	3,912	-	-	3,912	5,172
Gift aided offerings	63,855	-	-	63,855	57,367
Gift aid tax recovered	16,899	-	-	16,899	15,355
Donations	20,026	4,966	-	24,992	20,957
Investment income	955	-	-	955	270
Rent from use of premises	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry Fund	-	100	-	100	-
Youth Ministry Fund	-	500	-	500	560
Building & Development Fund	-	-	-	-	90
Other Income incl. legacies	47,072	-	-	47,072	80
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	156,882	5,566	-	162,448	101,491
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	156,882	5,566	-	162,448	101,491
A3 Payments					
Ministry	56,447	-	-	56,447	53,235
Mission	15,200	-	-	15,200	11,166
Upkeep of church premises	19,561	3,000	-	22,561	9,094
Administration	5,563	-	-	5,563	6,034
Donations & other expenses	1,930	-	-	1,930	1,572
Building Development	-	-	-	-	25,842
Discretionary Expenditure	8,624	3,676	-	12,300	9,724
Sub total	107,325	6,676	-	114,001	116,667
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
United Trust Bank (1 yr charity bond)	10,000	-	-	10,000	-
Sub total	10,000	-	-	10,000	-
Total payments	117,325	6,676	-	124,001	116,667
Net of receipts/(payments)	39,557	- 1,110	-	38,447	- 15,176
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	51,227	1,713	-	52,940	68,116
Cash funds this year end	90,784	603	-	91,387	52,940

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	784	603	-
	CAFBank Gold Account	30,000	-	-
	Cambridge & Counties Bank Account	60,000	-	-
	Total cash funds	90,784	603	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	United Trust Bank (1 year charity bond)	General	10,000	
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Church Premises	Restricted	-	-
	Fixtures & Fittings	Restricted	-	-
	Manse	General	-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	None		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		REV. SIMEON C. WOODCRAFT	24/06/2024	
		ALAN D. HARVEY	24/06/2024	

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.