

**ANNUAL STATEMENT – Year to 31 December 2022**

**SECTION A – REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

<b>Registered Charity number</b>	11682820
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	243 Lower Way, Thatcham West Berkshire RG19 3TP
<b>Charity trustees</b>	Christopher Paul Edwards - Secretary Benjamin David Cox - Treasurer and Administration Committee Member Miriam Elisabeth White – Administration Committee Member Stephen Beresford Robinson – Administration Committee Member Simon William Turner – Administration Committee Member (resigned January 2023)
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Stephen Robinson
<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank plc, Newbury Building Society

**SECTION B – STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>Type of governing document</b>	Constitution
<b>How charity is constituted</b>	Unincorporated association
<b>Trustee selection method</b>	Membership of the Newbury Ecclesia's Administration Committee – subject to election every two years

**SECTION C – OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Charity's objectives are to advance a Bible based Christian faith – to the glory of God and honour of Jesus Christ for the benefit of the Christadelphian community and members of the public, particularly in the Newbury area.

The Charity's main activities, undertaken for the public benefit, in pursuit of these objects are:

- 1 Holding meetings for worship, prayer and Bible teaching.
- 2 Preaching through personal engagement and by invitation to meetings.
- 3 Provision of Sunday School, a youth club and other occasional activities.
- 4 Periodic collection for charitable needs, including disaster relief.
- 5 Serving, to the extent feasible, attendees' pastoral and welfare needs.

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The foregoing activities promote a fuller understanding of the human condition, relative to the eternal things of God, and serve members of the public with direction, balance and purpose in today's complex world.

In the exercise of their powers and duties in connection with the Charity's objectives, the trustees have reviewed and had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit as last updated in September 2013.

**Activities in 2022**

Newbury Christadelphian Ecclesia holds regular and ad hoc meetings both at the hall and online. On Sundays, we regularly hold two services in the hall. One is our regular Breaking of Bread meeting in which we remember the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The other is our Bible Time, where we provide introductions to Bible topics mainly aimed at those visiting or in the early stages of learning about the Bible. These meetings are open to all and we have welcomed a number of visitors.

Once a week, we hold an online baptism preparation class, which has been well attended and run several times, adapting to the needs of the attendees. We also have a mid-week Bible discussion group that is a regular feature of our programme. The Ladies Tuesday Group meets at the hall from time to time and online every week.

We regularly review our services to ensure they continue to meet the needs of our members. For example, we introduced a monthly 'Family service' to the Bible Time slot aimed at our younger attendees. We have also spent time and money ensuring our technical set-up works for both in-person and online services. Translation has been an ongoing point of discussion as we do our best to find a way of making our services accessible to all without losing the flow.

We have had a number of changes to our membership over the year to December 2022 and very many regular visitors to our services - both online around the UK and in person at our hall. We witnessed and celebrated 16 baptisms in the course of 2022 and welcomed 3 new members from other Christadelphian ecclesias. We also transferred 5 members to other ecclesias with our blessing and mourned the falling asleep in Christ of one of our members. At the end of 2022, our membership numbered 87 people.

**Preaching**

Our regular Bible Time on Sundays is a cornerstone of our preaching activities and has been well attended by visitors over the year - with many of these visitors joining our membership as time went on. There are also regular classes online (usually with Farsi translation) that help people learn about the Gospel.

Invitations to our activities are mainly by word of mouth. Those that attend already are keen to bring new friends along. We have also had some people drop in from the local area thanks to our notice boards outside. From time to time, we produce paper/ email invitations for our members to hand out - such as to invite people to our Christmas service.

**Youth**

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We hold three Sunday School Classes for the younger visitors - the children benefiting from these classes range from 3 years old to 13 years old. Our youngsters are also involved in the local Thames Valley Youth Group (older children) and pre-Youth Group (younger children) we occasionally host. We also have links to a Summer Camp which some of the older children attend.

The whole church comes together to celebrate the children twice a year when we have the Sunday School party (January) and the Sunday School Outing and Prize Giving (June/July).

All of those involved in teaching our Youth are DBS checked and we have secure Safeguarding policies procedures in place.

**Charitable Donations**

As well as providing items for those that need them in our membership, we make regular donations to the local foodbank, with a box provided at the hall for attendees to donate into.

We are pleased to support the work of NHS Berkshire Mental Health by regularly allowing them to use our hall for meetings.

We supported a number of charities financially over the year. Amongst these were 8 Christadelphian charities which do a range of activities from Preaching to Financial Aid to projects in developing countries. Disaster relief funds were channeled through the Disasters Emergency Committee and the Christadelphian Samaritan Fund.

**Pastoral and Welfare**

We have recently welcomed a number of Iranian refugees into our community and have provided support for them in both spiritual and practical ways. The majority of our new membership has come from these contacts, who have been a welcome addition to our church family. Some have since moved away and now join us online. We have been supporting them through their applications for leave to remain and providing advice and practical help where needed.

Once a month, we join together for a bring and share lunch at the hall, to which all are invited. There are other opportunities for pastoral support in the way of socials - be that meeting up in a park, going for a walk or celebrating birthdays together. The monthly lunch club was relaunched (following a Covid-induced hiatus) and continues to reach out to people, many of whom are unable to attend on other occasions.

Some of our members are unable to attend in person due to illness or age and some now choose to attend online. We are in contact with all our members regularly and the Welfare Committee ensures nobody is forgotten. It has been very encouraging to see our members gradually come back to in person services on the whole, after the Covid period put people off.

Every Sunday we have a welfare report giving us news and updates on our members and people we may know. This is followed by a welfare prayer and is an opportunity for anyone to ask for prayers they need. From time to time, we send cards to people to give them comfort or encouragement

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**SECTION D – ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The church collects for external charities on a weekly basis. This year we were pleased to raise over £9000. The benefiting charities were:

- The Christadelphian Bible Mission (CBM), which supports preaching worldwide and provides welfare to churches and individuals.
- The Christadelphian Auxiliary Lecturing Service (CALS), which supports preaching in the UK.
- The Christadelphian Benevolent Fund (CBF), which provides support for members of Christadelphian churches who are in need.
- Christadelphian Care Homes (CCH), which provides a network of care to those in need of residential, nursing, dementia or respite care.
- The Christadelphian Sunday School Union (CSSU), which provides teaching resources for children.
- Christadelphian Meal-a-Day, which provides worldwide 'down-to-earth' support for vulnerable children, the provision of clean water, agricultural skills, basic health care and education and a meal a day.
- The Christadelphian Samaritan Fund, which funds external charities supporting relief from natural disaster and war.
- The Shunem Home, which provides shelter, education and care for some of the most vulnerable in Hyderabad, India.
- Christadelphian Aid for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (CARA), which aims to provide relief for asylum seekers in our churches in the UK.

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**SECTION E FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The accounts are prepared on a cash basis, due to the size of the Charity.

The principal source of income is from voluntary member donations, including gift aided donations. The expenditure in the year has supported the Charity's objectives in respect of:

- Upkeep of the property, the objective of which is for a provision of a suitable premises for the main activities of worship, study and fellowship.
- Charitable giving to external organizations, including local charities.
- Pastoral welfare of members needing support.

Income in the year fell by 17% which reflects changes in membership in the year. The levels of future income will be dependent on membership mix. Expenditure fell by 27% due to there being no capital or repairs incurred during the year.

**Receipts and Payments**

	<b>2022</b>			<b>2021</b>
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Donations	12,699	7,511	20,210	25,653
Tax reclaimed from Gift Aids	3,342	2,438	5,580	5,615
Interest on deposit account	53		53	18
Sales	30		30	40
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>16,124</b>	<b>9,949</b>	<b>26,073</b>	<b>31,326</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Repairs and maintenance				5,340
Electricity and gas	1,460		1,460	506
Water and sewage	200		200	165
Insurance	1,059		1,059	1,014
Telephone and internet	383		383	271
Administration				1,353
Donations paid	1,125	9,988	11,113	15,932
General Housekeeping	2,813		2,813	2,133
Outreach activities	6,631		6,631	5,720
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>13,671</b>	<b>9,988</b>	<b>23,659</b>	<b>32,434</b>
<b>Net of receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>2,414</b>	<b>(1,108)</b>
Cash funds last year end	11,067	4,183	15,250	16,358
Cash funds this year end	<b>13,520</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>17,664</b>	<b>15,250</b>

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

**Cash funds**

Newbury Building Society Deposit account	3,058	4,144	7,242	7,189
Lloyds Bank Current account	10,422		10,422	8,061
	<b>13,481</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>17,664</b>	<b>15,250</b>

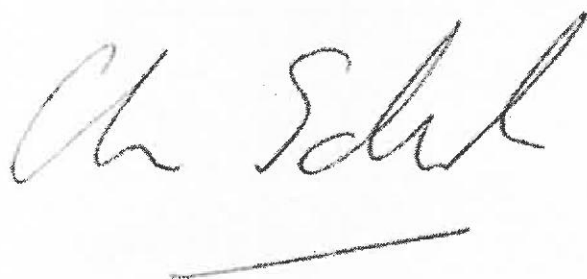
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The charity's reserves policy is to hold 1 year's operating budget, to provide some resilience. This was the case at the end of the year.

**SECTION F – DECLARATION**

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

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ch Edwards', is written over a faint, light blue rectangular stamp. Below the signature is a single horizontal line.

**Christopher P Edwards**  
**Secretary**  
**Date: 29 October 2023**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Newbury Christadelphian Ecclesia**  
**Registered Charity No:1168280**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity ("The Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Responsibility 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. 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 that 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



Stephen Robinson

30 October, 2023

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Belgium