

New Growth Ministry (Charity no. 1172546) – Trustees Annual Report for 2023
Charity Address: 27 Peto Avenue, Colchester, Essex

Trustees as of December 2023

Michael Baker
Lesley Walder
Lynsey Heslegrave
John Pulford

Trustees as of October 2024

Michael Baker
Lesley Walder
Lynsey Heslegrave
Jon Jarratt
Pauline Heron

Board and Membership

The New Growth Ministry (NGM) board consists of 4-5 trustees. Trustees are active Christians who have an interest in or are involved with the ministry of NGM. A balance is sought of different skills and professional or voluntary experience related to the work of NGM or governance of an organisation, such as finance, pastoral ministry and education. NGM has a small membership who, along with the trustees, make decisions by consensus about the everyday activities of the ministry as well as issues such as finance and safeguarding. NGM members are all practising Christians who are a regular attenders at NGM activities. Membership is reviewed each year.

Gatherings for worship, prayer and discipleship

NGM is a small Christian Church and a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. It aims to enable people to explore faith and grow as Christian disciples, particularly through alternative ways of worship – meeting in homes, local community spaces and nearby woodland. NGM uses contemplative approaches to spirituality and is interested in styles of prayer, worship and discipleship that support each person's day-to-day emotional well-being as well as their spiritual development. Gatherings are facilitated so that all can share, ensuring that worship, prayer and study is multi-voiced. Throughout 2023 NGM has met weekly as a small 'house church' community, exploring faith and the Bible through books and films and other media, and learning Christian meditative and mindful prayer practices.

Forest Church

NGM also runs a monthly Forest Church in the local country park. In 2023, NGM pastor Lynsey qualified as a Level 3 Forest School Leader, this has enabled more activities to be included in Forest Church sessions. Forest Church runs in a similar style to Forest School and allows people to explore Christian themes out in the natural world. Several new families from the community joined the Forest Church in 2023 and most of the children who attend have additional needs or are neurodivergent. The sessions give freedom to children (and adults) who struggle in traditional church environments to find their own way of connecting with God as well as building physical and social confidence.

Drop-in, Warm Space and Community Pantry

NGM also seeks to serve the local community of Myland, Colchester in a number of ways. In November 2022, in partnership with the local Methodist Church, NGM established a drop-in, warm space and Community Pantry. Throughout 2023 the Methodist Church building was open for weekly sessions, for a drop-in with lunch and refreshments and surplus supermarket food – supplied in conjunction with Fareshare Go and Neighbourly. Fortnightly, the drop-in also included the Community Pantry, where for a donation of £2 a session people can collect a bag or more of food

provided by Fareshare East Anglia. By the end of 2023 the community pantry had 50 members from the local community. Anyone from the Myland area is able to become a pantry member but over half of the members have indicated that they are in receipt of benefits or are on a low income. As well as providing food for individuals and families and reducing food waste, each week at the drop-in and pantry people are supported, signposted to local agencies, experience friendship and have a listening ear. The drop-in is also a hub where members of the community can get to know each other, share their experiences and advice, and sometimes pass on items such as children's clothes and equipment. Each week the drop-in is open at the end of the school day, so that parents and carers can bring their children for snacks, games and friendship.

MakeLunch

Another project that ran throughout 2023 was MakeLunch, again in partnership with the Well Methodist Church. MakeLunch Myland provided free freshly prepared hot lunches and activities for families in the school holiday. MakeLunch ran one session a week in the summer and once in each of the other school holidays through that year. In the summer alone, well over 100 hot lunches were provided, as well as other food provision from surplus food collections. Families value the warm welcome and friendship at the group and the children feel valued and cared for. Some of the families who come to MakeLunch are facing difficult circumstances or are at crisis point and appreciate the care and support they receive at the group.

School Chaplaincy and Mentoring

NGM's pastor, Lynsey, has provided chaplaincy at a local secondary school since 2020, offering weekly one to one mentoring sessions for student, support to staff and input into the spiritual life of the school. In 2022 another member of NGM became a volunteer mentor at the school. Both roles are supported by a local Christian school's work charity, CYO. At the beginning of 2023 Lynsey ran sessions for all year 11 students to explore the theme of soul, including thinking about what is important to them and what makes them who they are.

Pastoral Care in the neighbourhood

Members of NGM seek to use all they have learnt and experienced in their gatherings together to enable them to be a non-anxious presence in the local community. Much of the work of NGM is difficult to quantify but has involved people finding more peaceful ways to deal with conflict and supporting others they know do the same, to provide a compassionate and non-judgment listening ear to those who need it, to explore spirituality and the Christian faith with those who are interested and have questions, and simply being good neighbours. NGM is a member of Churches Together in Myland and seeks to contribute to the ministry of the family of churches in the area as they offer spiritual care within the community.

Funding

NGM is funded through grants (particularly Baptist Home Mission) as well as regular and one-off donations from individual, organisations and churches.

New Growth Ministry

Charity Number 1172546

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

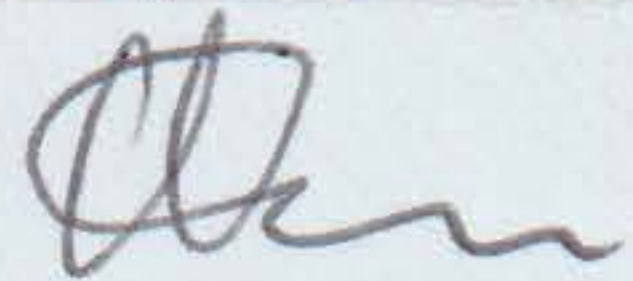
2022

	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations/giving				
HMF	13,250			9,468
Grants	500			500
Other donations	1,551			1,146
Regular giving	4,372	19,673		5,207
Income from activities				
Annabaptists	6,945			7,018
CYO	3,422			1,739
Spiritual Director	1,045			733
Preaching	265	11,677		755
Total Income			31,350	26,566
Expenditure				
Stipend/pension		24,670		18,341
Housing allowance/rates		5,901		4,043
Travel/telephone/expenses		1,160		921
Training		186		1,525
Insurance		237		214
BUGB donation		52		59
Total Expenditure			32,206	25,103
General surplus/(deficit)			(856)	1,463
Make Lunch				
Income		1,064		1,250
Expenditure		(1,382)	(318)	(1,565)
Surplus/(Deficit)			(1,174)	1,148
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023				
Current assets				
Cash at bank	4,203			3,484
Debtors	1,358	5,561		1,102
Current liabilities				
Creditors		(2,371)		(222)
Net assets			3,190	4,364
General reserve				
Opening balance			4,364	3,216
Movement in current year			(1,174)	1,148
Closing balance			3,190	4,364
Trustee:		Independent reviewer:		

M. G. Balw

24/11/2024

M. G. BAKER



24/11/2024

LIZZIE CHINGATI-PHIRI

New Growth Ministry

Accounts and Report 2023

Independent Examiners Statement

In connection with my examination of New Growth Ministry accounts for 2023, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me reason to believe that in any material respects:

- Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
- The accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements of the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Independent Examiner: LIZZIE CHINGATI-PHIRI



Dated: 24/11/2024

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