



## **TRUSTEES REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS**

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

Charity Registration: 1173974

## Charity Reference and Administration

**Registered Number:** 1173974

**Registered:** 27 July 2017

**Location:** Kirklees, West Yorkshire

**Contact:** Kevin Ball, 57 The Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 8EG;  
office@spenvalleychurch.org

**Trustee Board:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>Position</b>
Graham Thomson	27-Jul-2017	Chairman and Pastor
Kevin Ball	29-Apr-2020	Elder
Mark Frost	28-Mar-2021	Acting Trustee

**Note of Record:** As an external Acting Trustee, Mark Frost was re-elected to this role during this reporting period, at extraordinary members' meetings held on 01-Oct-2023 and 31-Mar-2024.

**Bankers:** CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

**Note:**

**public benefit** In compiling this report and in exercising their powers and duties, the Trustees have had due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Commission and, in particular, on charities for the advancement of religion.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Purposes of Spen Valley Church

The church Constitution Section 3 has the following:

*“The purposes of the Church are:*

- the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Cleckheaton and the surrounding neighbourhood; and*
- such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, put into practice the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith, including but not limited to: the prevention and relief of need, hardship and sickness; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.”*

### Trusteeship of Spen Valley Church

There must be at least three trustees at all times, and non-paid trustees of the charity must be in the majority for Spen Valley Church to function, and appointment and duties must be as per sections 13– 20 of the church Constitution.

The charity trustees are the Officers of the Church, as defined by the Constitution. The criteria and qualification for being elected as a Church Officer are defined in the Church Handbook.

If the number of Church Officers falls below three, the Constitution makes provision for the church members to elect temporary Acting Trustees who are Pastors of like-minded local churches to fulfil the legal required minimum number of trustees.

### Governance and Management

The Trustees meet at least four times a year as stated in section 19 of the church Constitution. Extra meetings can be arranged for urgent matters if the chairman or two trustees call a meeting. Ten days’ notice must be given to all trustees unless the trustees all agree on an earlier date. An agenda is sent out for each meeting and proper minutes are taken as per section 19.4 of the Constitution.

Meetings can be held by suitable electronic means as per the guidelines set out in 19.5 of the Constitution.

## Activities and Achievements

### **Trustees Report, 01 April 2023 – 31 March 2024:**

After a year or two of readjusting after Covid disruptions, this year saw Spen Valley Church firmly re-established in the community. We have continued to hold public worship services on Sunday mornings, which provide a welcome time of informal fellowship, friendship, refreshments, worship of God, and a time to reconnect. We have seen a number of new people start to regularly attend our services this year, which has been a real encouragement. A big highlight of our year is the carol service that we hold each December, which again saw new people and guests attending.

In total, this year we added 8 new members to our number – people who have committed to each other for encouragement, discipleship, and accountability. The number is a mix of local people new to the Christian faith, as well as other Christians who have moved into the area for a few different reasons but whom have chosen to make their spiritual home with Spen Valley Church. Three of the new people were baptised (we have to borrow the use of a local church with a baptistery to do this), and this is a great thrill to us. We are very encouraged!

From Sep 2023 we changed the time of our Sunday afternoon Discipleship meeting, and started a new varied programme of Bible overview, times of sharing and praying for each other, and specific training sessions on contemporary issues – all to help people grow in their faith and understanding of Christianity, as well as built community links between us.

We have seen a number of new individual support relationships grow between members, as we help and support one another during the week. This expression of love and support in day-to-day life is a great encouragement to the church, and even includes some regular attenders who meet regularly with various of our number as they explore their relationship with Christianity.

After a number of years of quite intense work to plant the church and then navigate us through Covid, we were pleased to be able to grant Graham (our employed pastor) a three-week sabbatical in July 2023, extra time for him to reflect and care for his own soul. Our regular meetings continued during this time, covered by others.

In September 2023 we started a year of eldership training with one of our members who had shown significant growth and potential to be a new leader. This programme explored the challenges of church leadership and the personal characteristics that define strong leaders, and was a help to both current elders as well as the potential candidate.

Our elders were further supported this year by a number of conferences: we sent 4 delegates to the FIEC Leaders conference in November; Graham (our employed pastor) attended a spiritual leadership conference in Romania for a week, and then Graham and his wife assisted with the weekend FIEC Hub conference in January, where potential ministry candidates are helped and trained. And much of the church was again able to attend the Medhurst Ministry weekender in June, where friendship, fellowship, and teaching for churches working in deprived areas were all strengthened.

We ran an 'Away weekend' in Oct 2023 at a nearby church, with a guest speaker from another Medhurst Ministries church, and many opportunities for fellowship, growth, and fun.

January saw us appoint our first ministry apprentice, an opportunity for us to see rapid growth in an individual who had shown potential for possible future ministry service. It's exciting that the church has enough resources to enable us to explore these sorts of opportunities, the better to grow future workers – we hope to do more of this sort of training in the future, as the need for ministry workers in our context remains pressing.

Three times during this year we were able to run a Holiday Bible Club during school holidays. Each time we used facilities at the school where we hire the hall for our Sundays, and where our pastor is a school governor. This has continued to strengthen our links with the school community, and has attracted a number of new children this year, with opportunities for us to get to know their families also. All who attend are very grateful for the provision of these activities.

## Financial Review

Spen Valley Church began the year with cash in the bank of £51,403

During the year, total receipts amounted to a further £84,740

During the year, total expenditure amounted to £70,534

The year closed with a balance of £65,609

Spen Valley Church has two paid employees and a ministry apprentice, and relies on internal and external giving throughout the year. We are pleased to be able to report that our income exceeded our expenditure for this reporting period, thanks to both the good level of giving from members and also some generous external givers. The trustees continue to explore additional avenues of external giving to enable the church to function for the coming years.

## Declaration

The Trustees of Spen Valley Church declare that they have approved the above Trustees' Annual Report, and the following has signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Kevin Ball  
Trustee (Elder)

13 January 2024

## Statement of Financial Activities

### Spenn Valley Church Accounts for the Year Ended 31-Mar-2024

2022/2023 Total		2023/2024 Unrestricted	2023/2024 Restricted	2023/2024 Total
	<b>INCOME</b>			
£340	Collections	£141	£0	£141
£21,155	Individuals gifts (Gift Aid)	£25,930	£500	£26,430
£2,501	Individuals gifts (no Gift Aid)	£2,400	£360	£2,760
£34,101	External Organisations gifts	£6,553	£41,971	£48,524
£640	Helping Hands Fund	£0	£600	£600
£4,612	HMRC Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	£5,227	£323	£5,550
£100	Reimbursements	£611	£0	£611
£0	Bank Interest	£124	£0	£124
<b>£63,449</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£40,986</b>	<b>£43,754</b>	<b>£84,740</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
£47,475	Employee Remuneration	£18,580	£38,065	£56,645
£261	Admin & IT (inc printing)	£2,637	£0	£2,637
£4,290	Building hire	£5,370	£0	£5,370
£156	Catering / Cleaning	£46	£0	£46
£565	Church Away Day	£194	£0	£194
£730	Conferences, special events	£343	£278	£621
£293	Copyright Licence	£313	£0	£313
	FIEC Conference	£912	£0	£912
	Holiday Bible Club	£774	£0	£774
£222	Insurance	£232	£0	£232
£617	Misc	£200	£0	£200
£1,600	Mission Giving	£600	£0	£600
£144	Pastoral Expenses	£670	£0	£670
£101	Payroll software	£112	£0	£112
£129	Safeguarding	£196	£0	£196
	Training Expenses	£376	£0	£376
£221	Visiting Ministry Expenses	£636	£0	£636
<b>£56,804</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£32,191</b>	<b>£38,343</b>	<b>£70,534</b>
<b>£6,645</b>	<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure before transfers</b>	<b>£8,795</b>	<b>£5,411</b>	<b>£14,206</b>
£0	Transfer between funds	£0	£0	£0
<b>£6,645</b>	<b>Net excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>£8,795</b>	<b>£5,411</b>	<b>£14,206</b>
	<b>Funds</b>			
£44,758	Brought Forward	£40,139	£11,264	£51,403
£6,645	Excess of Income over Expenditure	£8,795	£5,411	£14,206
£51,403	Carried Forward	£48,934	£16,675	£65,609
	<b>Assets 31-Mar-2024</b>			
£51,403	Current Account CAF Bank	£48,934	£16,675	£65,609

Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Charity number 1173974

## Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31-Mar-2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash in Bank	65,609	40,139
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	65,609	40,139
<b>Income funds</b>		
Unrestricted funds	40,986	43,807
Restricted funds	43,754	19,642
Total income	84,740	63,449

Approved by the Trustees on 13-Jan-2025 and signed on their behalf by  
Graham Thomson (Chair) and Kevin Ball (Secretary)





## Independent Examiner's Report

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SPEN VALLEY CHURCH (CHARITY NUMBER 1173974)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Organisation") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

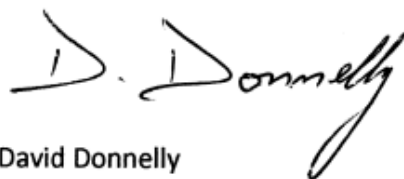
I report in respect of my examination of the Organisation's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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.



David Donnelly  
19 Cleveland Avenue  
Lupset Park  
Wakefield  
WF2 8LE

26 November 2024