

GREAT HARWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

England & Wales · Charity number 1174952

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-10-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
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Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIS OF FAITH PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN GREAT HARWOOD AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD; AND3.1.2 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 COMMUNITY FACILITIES;3.1.3 PROVIDED THAT THE ADVANCEMENT OF SUCH PURPOSES MUST BE UNDERTAKEN IN A MANNER THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DOCTRINAL DISTINCTIVES AND ETHICAL STATEMENTS AS MAY BE ADOPTED AND AMENDED BY THE CHURCH FROM TIME TO TIME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHURCH HANDBOOK.

Activities: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIS OF FAITH PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN GREAT HARWOOD AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Lancashire

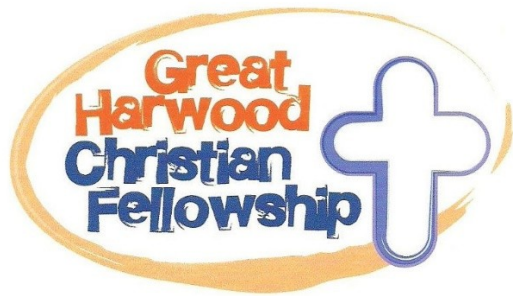
Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£58,896	£57,088	-	-
2024-03-31	£57,802	£61,238	-	-
2023-03-31	£45,999	£47,815	-	-
2022-03-31	£42,446	£31,838	-	-
2021-03-31	£45,023	£45,524	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Catherine Fay Ridgway		2026-05-21
Colin McCall		2023-05-11
Daniel Mark Ridgway		2026-05-21
Gil Ratcliffe		2018-05-10
JENNIFER BLACKMORE		2017-05-09
Justin Craig Willis		2021-12-02
Michael James McCormick		2022-05-26
Pastor Francois Van Staden		2022-04-06
Rachel Helen Van Staden		2026-05-21
SHIRLEY COLLIER		2017-05-09

Accounts



Great Harwood Christian Fellowship Annual Report 2025

(Covering Financial Year April 2024 – March 2025)

Charity Registration Number: 1174952

Date of Annual General Meeting : Thursday 15th May 2025

Aim and Purposes

The aim and purposes of the Church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Great Harwood 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 or other leisure time occupation 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;

Provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Doctrinal Distinctives and Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the Church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

Objectives and Activities

GHCF promotes the Christian faith by providing a weekly programme of events which are open to everyone and provided free of charge. In particular, we try and support people in their Christian faith by providing:

Times of Worship and Prayer where the gospel message is clearly shared and believers are built up and strengthened in their faith.

Pastoral care for those who need support.

Information about Missionary and Outreach work – sharing the Christian gospel with others, both at home and overseas.

Mercy ministries – helping to provide for those in need.

In order to provide these services, it is important that we maintain our property on commercial Road, Great Harwood in accordance with all appropriate guidelines.

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship Pastor's Report May 2025

1. Introduction

The Lord has been gracious to us again this past year. As I reflect on another year of ministry, it is with thankfulness in my heart that I say—God is building His church here in Great Harwood. Christ is the Head of His church, and we are His body, and it has been a joy to watch His providence unfold among us in new faces, deeper fellowship, and a growing desire to glorify Him in word and deed.

Our mission has not changed. We remain committed to biblical truth, the centrality of the gospel, and the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry (Eph 4:12), under the authority of Christ, governed by His Word, and empowered by His Spirit.

2. New Members

It is always an occasion of great joy when the Lord adds to our number. As Acts 2:47 reminds us, it is the Lord who adds to the church daily those who are being saved. This past year, we rejoice in welcoming the following individuals into membership:

Alison Conboy

Let us remember that membership is not simply about being part of a congregation, but a public commitment to the body of Christ in a particular place. We are all accountable to one another under the headship of Christ therefore we also have responsibilities as members of GHCF. I would just as a friendly reminder state what our responsibilities are as members as taken from the GHCF Church Handbook:

- a. Regular attendance at Sunday worship. (Acts 20:7, Heb. 10:25)
- b. Regular personal prayer and Bible study. (2 Tim 3:15-17, Phil. 4:6)
- c. Regular attendance, when possible, at the main weekday meeting of the church for prayer,
Bible study and fellowship. (Acts 1:14, 2:42)
- d. Sharing in the life, work and witness of the local church. (Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 15:58)
- e. Regular giving to the local church and the Lord's work in general. (1 Cor. 16:2, 2 Cor. 9:6-7)
- f. The showing of Christian love and concern, both for the members of the church family and
for the community at large. (John 13:35, 1 Thess. 3:12)
- g. An endeavour to live a life consistent with the faith we profess. (Rom. 6:1-2, Eph. 4:1)
- h. Regular attendance at The Breaking of Bread (The Lord's Supper) - the pattern of
frequency being a matter for the individual member to decide. (Acts 2:42, 20:7)

3. Ministry Reflections

3.1. Sunday Afternoon Church Services

As a church committed to the authority of Scripture and the edification of the saints, we desire that every decision we make as elders be rooted in pastoral care and biblical wisdom. One such decision made this year was the adjustment of our Sunday evening service to a Sunday afternoon

gathering at 15:30, concluding at approximately 16:30. This change was prayerfully undertaken with the goal of encouraging broader participation from the entire congregation, including families with young children and our older brothers and sisters.

It is our prayerful vision that whole families would attend the Lord's Day afternoon service. With the earlier time, parents can more easily manage the bedtime routines of their young children, and elderly saints are spared the hardship of traveling home after dark during the colder months.

This decision is not merely pragmatic. It is rooted in our understanding of the Fourth Commandment:

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8, LSB)

"For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:11, LSB)

The Lord's Day, the Christian Sabbath, is a full day set apart for worship, rest, and spiritual refreshment in the presence of God and with His people. As the sun rises and sets, our hearts should be occupied with Christ. Public worship, morning and afternoon, is not optional for the people of God—it is a joy and a duty.

While our Sunday morning services continue to be well attended (65–80 in attendance), it grieves us as elders that our afternoon service attendance remains at 25–30. This disparity raises a concern—not simply about numbers, but about our corporate understanding and obedience to the Lord's will concerning His day.

The Word of God speaks clearly about the importance of gathering with the saints:

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24–25, LSB)

The Lord’s Day is not just a personal devotional time—it is a corporate appointment with the living God. When the church gathers, Christ walks among His lampstands (Revelation 2:1). He speaks through His Word, nourishes us by His grace, and builds up His body through the fellowship of the saints.

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.” (Acts 2:42, LSB)

“Now on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began speaking to them...” (Acts 20:7, LSB)

The pattern of Scripture is clear—the people of God gather on the Lord’s Day, not out of legalistic obligation but as a response to His redeeming grace and covenant mercies. To neglect these gatherings is not a small matter, but a spiritual danger. Fellowship is not a casual option; it is a vital means of grace.

Beloved, let us not treat the Lord’s Day as partly His and partly ours. Let us reclaim the entire day for worship, rest, fellowship, and ministry—beginning with the public gathering of the saints. Let us encourage one another by our presence and participation, showing love to Christ and to His body.

May the Lord grant us renewed conviction and joyful obedience as we gather not only in the morning but also in the afternoon to honour the risen King, whose day this is.

3.2. Tuesday Evening Prayer

The Tuesday evening prayer meeting remains, by God's grace, the lifeblood of our church. Though numbers have varied from week to week, a faithful core continues to gather, and we give thanks to the Lord for their perseverance in the ministry of intercession.

In 2025, we extended the prayer meeting from one hour to an hour and a half. This was not merely a scheduling change—it was a reflection of our growing conviction that the ministry of prayer must not be hurried. We seek to give space for thanksgiving, confession, intercession, and even silence before the Lord, as we wait upon Him together.

Yet, while this extension is encouraging, we note with some heaviness of heart that only 20 to 25 of our members consistently attend. This is not a matter of scolding, but of pastoral concern. As elders, we must ask: Why is the engine room of the church—the very gathering where we lay hold of God together in prayer—so lightly attended?

Prayer is not a peripheral activity in the life of the believer or the church; it is central. It is how we commune with God, how we align our wills with His, how we intercede for the lost, uphold one another, and advance the work of the gospel.

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”
—Ephesians 6:18, LSB

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”
—Philippians 4:6, LSB

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”
—Colossians 4:2, LSB

The Scriptures do not merely encourage prayer; they command it—and not just personal prayer, but corporate prayer. The early church, filled with the Holy Spirit, was marked by its devotion to communal prayer:

“These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

—Acts 1:14, LSB

“And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.”

—Acts 2:42, LSB

The apostles understood that prayer was the means by which the church laid hold of heaven, stormed the gates of hell, and nurtured the life of the Spirit within the body.

Corporate prayer also shapes our hearts in humility, dependence, and unity. We learn to weep with those who weep, rejoice with those who rejoice, and bear one another’s burdens as we plead before the throne of grace together.

As our Lord Jesus Himself said:

“Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

—Matthew 18:19–20, LSB

Let us not neglect such a holy privilege and spiritual weapon. When we pray together, we are engaging in the very heartbeat of gospel work. We stand in the gap for our families, for our town, for the church, and for the lost. To pray corporately is to join hands in the spiritual trenches, to wage war on our knees.

As Charles Spurgeon wisely observed:

“The condition of the church may be very accurately gauged by its prayer meetings.”

So, I urge you, brothers and sisters: Do not treat lightly the Tuesday prayer meeting. If you are able, make every effort to be there. Come not merely to receive but to give—to give your voice, your heart, your supplication, and your encouragement to the body of Christ.

Let us be a praying church—not only in name but in practice. Let us call upon the name of the Lord together, that He might rend the heavens and come down (Isaiah 64:1), that revival might begin not out there in the world, but in here, among us.

3.3. Wednesday “Equipping the Saints”

Since its inception, the Equipping the Saints class on Wednesday afternoons has been a valuable time for theological sharpening and spiritual edification. Over the past year, we have explored great doctrines of the faith—most notably the Doctrine of God and the Person and Work of Christ. In recent months, we also began working through the 1689 Second London Baptist Confession, a rich theological heritage that serves as a faithful summary of biblical truth.

However, just before Easter 2025, I (Francois) made the decision to pause the Wednesday sessions for the summer. This was not due to lack of interest or fruit, but out of a desire to prayerfully reflect on how best to move forward in a way that will further equip and strengthen the body for spiritual maturity and discernment.

In this time of reflection, I have returned to a deep and thorough study on the interpretation of Scripture—what is often called hermeneutics. And I have become increasingly convinced that this is something every believer should be equipped in—not just pastors or teachers. It is the

Word of God that brings life, light, and transformation. As our Lord prayed:

“Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.”

—John 17:17, LSB

The Scriptures are the primary means by which God has revealed Himself to mankind. The apostle Paul writes:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

—2 Timothy 3:16–17, LSB

It is through the Word that we come to know the character of God, the work of Christ, the call of the gospel, and the will of our Father in heaven. Therefore, it follows that the better we learn to rightly divide the Word, the better we will know our God, walk in obedience, and avoid error.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

—2 Timothy 2:15, LSB

With this in mind, I am prayerfully considering not resuming the Equipping the Saints class in its previous form, but instead launching a new, in-depth series on biblical interpretation that will provisionally take place on a Thursday evening from 7pm to 8.30pm. This will not be an abstract or purely theoretical study, but a hands-on, practical course, where we learn to handle the Word of truth by working through short passages of Scripture together each week where we put into practice what we have learnt not just that week but also in the previous weeks.

The goal is to equip the saints to read, understand, and interpret Scripture with greater clarity, confidence, and reverence—so that they

may grow in grace and be more firmly rooted in truth. It is my desire to help brothers and sisters to see the glory of Christ in every page of Scripture, and to understand how the whole counsel of God hangs together in perfect unity.

Before launching this course, I will of course gauge the interest within the fellowship. It is my prayer that many will see the value in such a study and make every effort to attend, but it will have to be committed to. In light of that there will be a small monetary fee which will serve as a pledge of commitment to attend the course. If the Lord leads, this could become a pivotal season in the life of our church—a time of deepening roots, strengthened convictions, and greater joy in the Word.

Let us be a people who do not merely hear the Word, but who rightly understand it, believe it, and obey it—for therein lies the blessing:

“But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

—James 1:25, LSB

3.4 12-Week Discipleship Course - Following Christ in Truth and Life

As a church, we recognise the pressing need for true biblical discipleship within the body of Christ. It is a tragic reality that many churches today neglect this crucial aspect of Christian growth, and even fewer teach discipleship as Christ Himself and the apostles modelled and commanded.

Discipleship is not an optional extra in the Christian life—it is the very heartbeat of what it means to follow Jesus. Our Lord’s final commission to His disciples was a call to disciple-making:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

—Matthew 28:19-20, LSB

Notice that Jesus did not command us to make converts alone, but disciples—men and women who are taught, trained, and equipped to obey all that Christ has commanded. This is a lifelong commitment to learning, growing, and imitating Christ.

The apostles clearly understood this. They did not merely preach the gospel but also invested deeply in the spiritual formation of those they led. The apostle Paul modelled this well:

“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

—1 Corinthians 11:1, LSB

“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

—2 Timothy 2:2, LSB

Paul’s relationship with Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus, and others was not merely pastoral, but discipleship in its truest sense. He walked alongside them, trained them in doctrine, rebuked them when necessary, encouraged them in their labours, and passed on the pattern of sound teaching they would need to lead and equip others.

True discipleship is not merely about gaining head knowledge; it is about transformed lives, renewed hearts, and Christ-like character. It is about walking as He walked, loving as He loved, and serving as He served.

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

—John 13:35, LSB

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

—Luke 14:27, LSB

A Call to True Discipleship

For this reason, we are launching a 12-Week Discipleship Course at GHCF. This course is designed to ground believers in the fundamentals of the faith, deepen their walk with Christ, and equip them to disciple others. It is not merely a Bible study, but an intentional, scripture-focused journey into what it truly means to be a disciple.

I prefer to be called a disciple of Jesus Christ rather than a Christian. The term Christian has become so broad today that it has often lost its biblical depth. But to be a disciple of Christ is to embrace the call to follow, learn from, and live like our Master. It is to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). It is to submit every thought, word, and action to His Lordship.

As a church, we have a duty to teach this kind of discipleship. It is not enough to fill pews or grow numbers. We are called to make disciples—true, humble, faithful followers of Christ.

Please join me in praying that this course will bear fruit in the lives of our people, that we might be a church of disciples who are deeply rooted in Christ and faithful to His mission.

3.5 Sunday School

First, on behalf of the Great Harwood Christian Fellowship, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who serves in our Sunday School ministry. Your faithful and sacrificial service does not go

unnoticed, and we recognise that each of you is giving up your place in the main Sunday morning worship service to invest in the next generation. This is a precious and weighty calling, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to the spiritual growth of our children. This year, we have begun using the Answers in Genesis (AiG) curriculum in our Sunday School. This is an intentional decision, grounded in our conviction that our children need a solid, biblical foundation that will equip them to stand firm in the faith in an increasingly hostile and secular culture.

The AiG curriculum is not just a biblical history lesson, though it faithfully teaches the historical narratives of Scripture. It also includes a strong apologetics element, training children to defend their faith against the many challenges they will encounter. It seeks to prepare young hearts and minds to give a reason for the hope that is in them, as Scripture commands:

“...sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.”

—1 Peter 3:15, LSB

As a church, we recognise that the primary responsibility for the spiritual instruction of children lies with their parents (Deut 6:6-7; Eph 6:4).

However, the church has a vital role in supporting and supplementing this discipleship. Our Sunday School is not a substitute for the daily teaching that should take place in the home, but it is a critical part of their spiritual formation and biblical grounding.

We live in a time when the truth of God’s Word is under constant attack. Our children are facing a worldview battlefield like never before. Therefore, it is imperative that we equip them with a firm grasp of biblical truth, a deep love for Christ, and the confidence to stand for Him in a godless generation.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

—Proverbs 22:6, LSB

So, let us pray for our Sunday School teachers, that they may teach with wisdom, patience, and passion. Let us also pray for the children themselves, that the seeds of truth being planted in their hearts may bear much fruit in the years to come.

Thank you once again to all who serve in this vital ministry. May the Lord strengthen your hands and encourage your hearts as you labour for the next generation of Christ's church.

3.6 Epic Youth - Equipping the Next Generation for Christ

This year, we have had the joy and privilege of establishing Epic Youth here at Great Harwood Christian Fellowship. This ministry represents an important step in our commitment to discipling the next generation, and we want to express our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated team of leaders who faithfully give up their time on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings to invest in the lives of these young people.

Epic Youth meets on Friday evenings, providing a safe, fun, and Christ-centred environment where teens can fellowship, learn, and grow together. In addition to their regular activities, the group has also adopted the Answers in Genesis (AiG) curriculum, tailored for their age group. This curriculum is designed not only to teach the historical truths of Scripture but also to equip these young believers to defend their faith in a culture that increasingly rejects the gospel.

"I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

—3 John 1:4, LSB

As a church, we recognise the seriousness of this task. These young people are preparing to enter a world that, as our Lord Himself warned, hates Him and His gospel (John 15:18-20). It is our responsibility to ensure that they are rooted and grounded in the truth, able to stand firm in the day of trial, and to shine as lights in a dark world.

"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who

believe.”

—1 Timothy 4:12, LSB

We also thank those leaders who meet with the youth after the Sunday morning service to discuss and apply the teaching they have just heard. This is a critical time for spiritual growth, and we are grateful for the intentional investment these leaders are making in the lives of our young people.

Praying for Growth and Fruitfulness

We ask for your prayers as Epic Youth continues to grow. In particular, we pray that the Lord will send young men to join this group, that they might grow in Christ, be shaped by His Word, and become bold witnesses for the gospel.

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

—1 Corinthians 15:58, LSB

Thank you again to all who serve in this ministry. May the Lord bless your labours and may we see lasting fruit for His kingdom in the lives of these precious young people.

3.7 GHCF Annual Conference

On 21st September 2024 GHCF had its first annual conference. Our speaker was Dr. Samuel Renihan. He spoke for 4 sessions and the church was richly blessed. We also had some brothers and sisters from Trinity Grace Church (TGC) in Ramsbottom join us.

GHCF have partnered with TGC for our Annual conference on 20th September 2025 and we have successfully booked Samuel's Father Dr. James Renihan.

4. Deacons

The office of Deacon is a noble calling, rooted in the Scriptures and vital to the health and function of the local church. As a body of believers at Great Harwood Christian Fellowship (GHCF), we are deeply grateful for the deacons whom the Lord has raised up in our midst—faithful men and women who serve the church with humility, consistency, and a heart for Christ.

The qualifications for this office are clearly outlined in Scripture:

“Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not fond of dishonest gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.”

—1 Timothy 3:8-10, LSB

The role of deacon is one of practical service, modeled on the early church’s appointment of deacons to meet the physical needs of the congregation, allowing the apostles to focus on the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:1-7). This foundational pattern continues today.

Deacons support the elders by managing the practical and logistical aspects of church life, thus freeing the elders to shepherd the flock and devote themselves to the ministry of the Word.

Deacons serve the church in many ways.

We are especially grateful for the faithfulness of those who serve as deacons in GHCF. They are the practical arm of the eldership, and their service is a beautiful demonstration of Christ-like humility and sacrifice. They labour, often behind the scenes, with little recognition but great love for the body of Christ. For this, we give thanks.

As a church, we pray that the Lord, in His wisdom and grace, will continue to raise up men and women who aspire to this high calling. May they prove themselves faithful, serving the church with glad hearts and steady hands, and may their lives adorn the gospel they profess.

“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”

—1 Timothy 3:13, LSB

Please join me in praying for our deacons, that they might continue to serve with joy, humility, and strength, and that the Lord would be pleased to call others to this precious work in the days to come.

5. The Eldership of GHCF - Shepherds Under the Chief Shepherd

At Great Harwood Christian Fellowship (GHCF), we understand that the eldership of the church is not merely an administrative body, but a group of shepherds called by God to lead, feed, protect, and care for the flock of Christ. This is a high calling and a weighty responsibility, for elders are under-shepherds of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ (1 Peter 5:4).

Please join us in praying for the elders of this church, that they may be humble, sensitive, and responsive to God's leading. We desire only to follow where God leads, for we know that to move forward without His presence is to labour in vain.

We echo the heart of Moses, who prayed:

"If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here. For how then can it be known that I have found favour in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?"

—Exodus 33:15-16, LSB

May the elders of GHCF be men who, like Moses, refuse to move without the presence and blessing of God.

The Biblical Responsibilities of Elders

The New Testament is clear about the character and responsibilities of those called to shepherd the flock:

"For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of dissipation or rebellious. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of dishonest gain, but

hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to reprove those who contradict.”

—Titus 1:5-9, LSB

“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but willingly, according to God; and not for dishonest gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”

—1 Peter 5:1-4, LSB

Elders are called to shepherd the flock, to guard against false teaching, to pray for the sick, to equip the saints for ministry, and to model godly living for the church to follow.

A Call to Prayer

Please pray for the elders of GHCF, that they may lead well, with wisdom, humility, and faithfulness. Pray that they may cling to Christ, hold fast to His Word, and guide this church in a way that honours the Chief Shepherd, to whom they will one day give an account.

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

—Hebrews 13:17, LSB

May the Lord strengthen our elders for this great work, and may we, as a church, encourage them as they lead us, for God’s glory and the good of His people.

6. Vision & Plans for the Future

5.1. A Visible Church, a Praying Church, a Serving Church

As the pastor of Great Harwood Christian Fellowship (GHCF), I am convinced that God has sovereignly planted this congregation in Great Harwood and the surrounding area for such a time as this (Esther 4:14). We are not here by accident, but by divine appointment. Our God has a purpose for this church, and it is our calling to fulfil that purpose with faithfulness, conviction, and courage.

A Visible Church

We live in a time when the world desperately needs to see the light of Christ. In a culture that often rejects truth, we are called to stand as a beacon of hope and holiness. The Lord Jesus said:

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”

—Matthew 5:14-15, LSB

To be a visible church is to shine the light of Christ through our words, deeds, and corporate witness. It means we do not shrink back in fear, but boldly proclaim the truth of the gospel, even when it is unpopular or costly. It means we are known in our community as those who love Christ, love His Word, and love our neighbours.

Our visibility is not just a matter of location or presence, but of testimony. May our lives and our church reflect the glory of our risen King.

A Praying Church

No church can be truly visible without first being a praying church. If we are to be light in this dark world, we must first draw near to the Source of that light. Prayer is not merely an activity; it is the lifeblood of the church. It is how we lay hold of the promises of God, seek His will, and intercede for the lost.

“And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.”

—Acts 2:42, LSB

“Pray without ceasing.”

—1 Thessalonians 5:17, LSB

A praying church is a dependent church, a humble church, a hopeful church. It is a church that wages spiritual warfare on its knees, calling upon the Lord of hosts to do what only He can do. Without prayer, we labour in vain. With prayer, we stand armoured and ready for the work of the kingdom.

Brothers and sisters, let us not grow weary in our corporate prayer meetings. Let us come together week by week, lifting up our voices to the throne of grace, confident that God hears and answers.

A Serving Church

Our visibility and our prayers must lead to action. We are called to serve one another and our community with the love of Christ. True faith works itself out in love (Gal 5:6), and we are to be a people zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

—Mark 10:45, LSB

“As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

—1 Peter 4:10, LSB

A serving church is a church that reflects the heart of Christ. It reaches out to the lonely, the broken, the lost, and the needy. It opens its doors and extends its hands, knowing that every act of love is a seed planted for the kingdom.

Our Mission Field - Great Harwood and Beyond

Our mission field is right here, in Great Harwood and the surrounding area. We are not called to isolate ourselves, but to engage with our community. We must know the people around us, understand their needs, build relationships, and share the hope of Christ. Our work is not merely

to fill seats on a Sunday, but to make disciples of all nations, beginning at our doorstep.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

—Matthew 28:19-20, LSB

Christ - The Head of the Church

In all of this, we never forget that Jesus Christ is the Head of the church (Col 1:18). He is our King, our Shepherd, our Saviour, and our Lord. We serve not to make a name for ourselves, but to glorify His name. We labour not for earthly reward, but for the joy set before us in Christ. Let us then be faithful to His commission, seeking not the approval of men, but the honour of our God. He alone is worthy of all praise, all glory, and all honour.

May GHCF be a visible, praying, and serving church for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom. May our light shine brightly, our prayers rise fervently, and our hands work diligently until He returns.

7. Community Outreach

Thanks to Rachel’s work and the collaboration of many, we have a clearer understanding of the social needs in Great Harwood. From family breakdown to youth isolation and elderly loneliness, the needs are many. We have done several Cinnamon Network projects that meet genuine needs and open doors for gospel witness.

We have found that our “Home Grown” projects have done very well. Here is a list of outreach projects that GHCF ran and is still running in 2024/2025 :

- Going Bananas – 25 Registered with approx 18 attending regularly. GB has also extended their time from an hour to an hour and a half

recently which shows the impact it is having in the lives of children and in many cases their parents.

- Soul Food Street Ministry – Rob has stood back from fronthing Soul Food after many years of serving Christ and His church in this manner. We are trult thankful not just for Rob but all those who now and in the past have joined in this ministry to reach Great Harwood – our mission field.
- Creative English - Cinnamon
- Who let the dads out – Finished in December 2024 - Cinnamon

8. Land Request Update - Seeking the Lord's Will

Over the past three years, we have made numerous efforts to secure the land adjacent to the church for ministry purposes, sending approximately **Fifty** emails to the previous council and meeting with two Labour councillors to discuss the possibility of either gifting or leasing the land to the church at a peppercorn rent. While these discussions have included some positive conversations, they have yet to produce any firm commitments.

After much prayer and reflection, the Elders have prayerfully decided that if we do not receive a definitive response from the council by September 2025, we will formally withdraw our request for the land. As we consider this matter, we are reminded that the Lord is sovereign over all things, including the provision of land and buildings for His church. We do not want to move forward unless we are confident that this is His will for us.

“Commit your works to Yahweh, and your plans will be established.”

—Proverbs 16:3, LSB

We humbly ask the congregation to join us in prayer, that the Lord's will might be made clear and that we would have wisdom and discernment as we seek to faithfully steward the resources He has given us. May we rest in the knowledge that He is faithful and that His plans are always for our good and for His glory.

9. Conclusion

As we look back over 2024 and forward into the rest of 2025, we rest in the sovereignty of God and seek His glory above all. Let us not grow weary in doing good (Gal 6:9), and let us strive together for the faith of the gospel (Phil 1:27).

May GHCF continue to be a local Embassy of the Kingdom of God—visible, prayerful, and servant-hearted. And may everything we do, whether in teaching, prayer, service or outreach, be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him (Col 3:17).

Public Benefit Statement

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our community through worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Provision of pastoral care and Missionary and Outreach work.

Structure, governance and management

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship is an Independent Church and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Fellowship adopts the 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith. Its governing document (Constitution) and its Church Handbook for members, were approved at an Annual General Meeting of the membership on 9th May 2017.

The Deacons meet on a monthly basis to discuss finance, administration and building maintenance matters relating to the running of the Fellowship. The Elders meet with the Pastor on a monthly basis to discuss the Spiritual life of the Fellowship: direction of worship, teaching, Bible Study meetings, Outreach etc. The full board of Trustees (Elders and Deacons) meet together on 4 occasions during the year, as required by our constitution document.

Policy Documents

In addition to the Constitution Document, Great Harwood Christian Fellowship has the following policies in place to ensure the health, safety and protection of church members:

Fire, Health and Safety Management

Data Protection

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Serious Incident reporting

Internal Risk Management

Social Media

Financial Reserves

The church undertakes regular reviews of each of these policies and carries out audits and training as required by named individuals.

Administrative Information

The principal address of the charity is 9 Earl Street, Great Harwood, Blackburn, BB6 7JJ

The Trustees are as follows:

Francois Van Staden – Pastor

Neil Collier – Elder

Justin Willis - Elder

Gil Ratcliffe, Deacon, Treasurer

Shirley Collier – Deacon, Secretary

Jennifer Blackmore – Deacon

Michael McCormick - Deacon

Policy on Reserves

The Fellowship holds a sum of money in a Reserve Account for use in exceptional circumstances. The current level of these funds (at 31st March 2024 is £14,930) The funds are not restricted or specifically designated for certain uses. The Trustees authorise any use of these funds when requested by the Treasurer.

	<u>Receipts and Payments 2024-25</u>	<u>2023-24</u>
Cash in bank 31.3.24	£451	£832
Cash in Reserve account 31.3.24	£14,930	£17,985
(A)	£15,381	£18,817

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>2023-24</u>
Donations	£1,608	£3,384
Bookstall	£0	£151
Church service offertories	£9,464	£10,679
Offerings via Bank	£30,600	£29,448
Other Income	£10,175	£9,446
Reserve Account interest	£233	£235
Tithe income	£4,452	£4,459
	(B) £56,531	£57,802
<u>Payments</u>		<u>2023-24</u>
Bookstall	£0	£190
Church maintenance	£3,376	£8,593
Church running costs	£12,007	£14,628
Donations to Missions/Tithes	£4,420	£4,329
Other payments	£718	£706
Wages and expenses	£28,705	£28,525
Worship, SS, Mission resources	£4,410	£4,267
	(C) £53,637	£61,238
	(A plus B minus C =) £18,275	* £15,381
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		<u>2024-25</u>
Hardship Fund 31.3.24		£304
Income		£0
Total		£304
Payments		£0
Remaining 31.3.25		£304
WLTDO Grant 31.3.24		£1,086
Income		£0
Total		£1,086

Payments		<u>£1,086</u>
Remaining 31.3.25		<u>£0</u>
Creative English Grant 31.3.24		£0
Income		<u>£2,365</u>
Total		<u>£2,365</u>
Payments		<u>£2,365</u>
Remaining 31.3.25		<u>£0</u>
Cash in bank 31.3.25	£534	+ £304
Cash in Reserve account 31.3.25	<u>£17,741</u>	(Hardship)
Total	<u>£18,275</u>	*

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Tithes 2024-25

Outreach UK	£500.00
Platform 67	£600.00
Samaritan's Purse	£500.00
SASRA	£200.00
Scriptural Knowledge	£360.00
Slavic Gospel Association	£600.00
Uma Sharma (Nepal church)	£709.95
United Beach Missions	<u>£950.00</u>
	<u>£4,419.95</u>



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Receipts and payments accounts				CC16a
For the period from	01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025	

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					
All Other Donations	1,608	-	-	1,608	3,384
Bookstall Income	-	-	-	-	151
Church Service Offerories	9,464	-	-	9,464	10,679
Creative English Grant Income - Restricted Funds	-	2,365	-	2,365	-
Donations via SO & FP	30,600	-	-	30,600	29,448
Other Income	10,175	-	-	10,175	9,446
Reserve Account Interest	233	-	-	233	235
Tithe Income	4,452	-	-	4,452	4,459
Hardship Fund	-	-	-	-	400
WLTDO Grant	-	-	-	-	1,200
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	56,531	2,365	-	58,896	59,402
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	56,531	2,365	-	58,896	59,402
A3 Payments					
Bookstall Expenditure	-	-	-	-	190
Church Maintenance	3,376	-	-	3,376	958
Church running expenses	12,007	-	-	12,007	22,263
Mission donation & Tithes	4,420	-	-	4,420	4,329
Other payments	718	-	-	718	706
Wages & Expenses	28,705	-	-	28,705	28,525
Worship, Sunday School & Mission Resources	4,410	-	-	4,410	4,267
Hardship fund	-	-	-	-	408
WLTDO Grant	-	1,086	-	1,086	114
Creative English Grant Expenditure - Restricted	-	2,365	-	2,365	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	53,637	3,451	-	57,088	61,760
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	53,637	3,451	-	57,088	61,760
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,895	- 1,086	-	1,809	- 2,358
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,380	1,390	-	16,771	19,129
Cash funds this year end	18,275	304	-	18,580	16,771

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	Reserve Account	17,741	304	-
	Bank Current Account	534	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	18,275	304	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

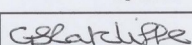
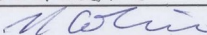
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Gil Ratcliffe	25.4.25
	Neil Collier	25/4/25

28 April 2025

Independent Examiner's report to the Great Harwood Christian Fellowship for the year ended 31 March 2025

This report on the accounts of the Great Harwood Christian Fellowship for the year ended 31 March 2025 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006

Respective responsibilities of the Great Harwood Christian Fellowship and the examiner

As members of the Great Harwood Christian Fellowship you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by Great Harwood Christian Fellowship and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts

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Independent examiner's statement

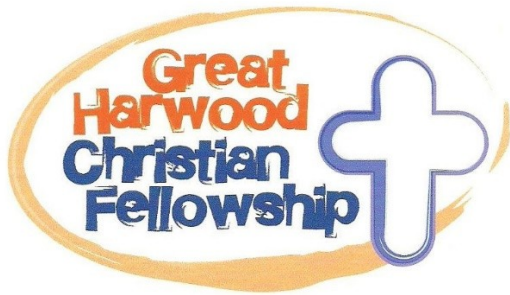
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- (2) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (3) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P.P. 

Laura Bolton
Simple Accounting NW Ltd

Accounts



Great Harwood Christian Fellowship Annual Report 2024

(Covering Financial Year April 2023 – March 2024)

Charity Registration Number: 1174952

Date of Annual General Meeting : Thursday 9th May 2024

Aim and Purposes

The aim and purposes of the Church are:

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Great Harwood 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 or other leisure time occupation 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;

Provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Doctrinal Distinctives and Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the Church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

Objectives and Activities

GHCF promotes the Christian faith by providing a weekly programme of events which are open to everyone and provided free of charge. In particular, we try and support people in their Christian faith by providing:

Times of Worship and Prayer where the gospel message is clearly shared and believers are built up and strengthened in their faith.

Pastoral care for those who need support.

Information about Missionary and Outreach work – sharing the Christian gospel with others, both at home and overseas.

Mercy ministries – helping to provide for those in need.

In order to provide these services, it is important that we maintain our property on commercial Road, Great Harwood in accordance with all appropriate guidelines.

Pastor's Report May 2024

Francois Van Staden

Introduction

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. As we gather for our Annual Members Meeting here at Great Harwood Christian Fellowship, I am reminded of the apostle Paul's words to the Ephesian church: "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called" (Ephesians 4:1).

This meeting is a significant occasion in the life of our church, a time when we gather to reflect on the blessings and challenges of the past year and to prayerfully set our course for the future. It is a time to affirm our commitment to the Lord and to one another, ensuring that our fellowship remains steadfast in its mission to glorify God and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As members of this body of Christ, each of you plays a vital role in the shaping and steering of our church's direction. Your insights, prayers, and participation are crucial as we review our ministries, financial stewardship, and strategic goals. Let us come together with humble hearts and a unified spirit, ready to listen, to learn, and to lead as the Lord guides us.

The Church

1.1 The Mission of the Church

The mission of the New Testament church is to glorify God through the proclamation of the Gospel and the making of disciples in all nations. Rooted in the Great Commission, Jesus commands us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). This mission encompasses evangelism and education, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, which offers salvation to all who believe.

Furthermore, the church is called to be a community of love and service, reflecting the character of Christ through acts of kindness, mercy, and justice. As we embody the fruits of the Spirit, we are to love our neighbours as ourselves, demonstrating the transformative power of Christ's love in our lives.

Ultimately, the New Testament church exists to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24),

encourage and equip believers for godly living, and serve as a beacon of hope to a broken world, all for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

1.2 Vision for 2024

A Visible Church

In 2024, the Great Harwood Christian Fellowship (GHCF) will stand as a beacon of hope and a testament to God's love in our communities. As Christ's ambassadors, we are called to be visible in our testimony and unwavering in our commitment to the Gospel. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This divine truth compels us to reach out, not only within Great Harwood but also to the neighbouring areas of Rishton, Clayton-Le-Moors, Accrington, Clitheroe, and Blackburn, showing the light of Christ in every action and interaction.

A Praying Church

As commanded by our Lord Jesus, prayer is the lifeblood of our fellowship. "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1). In 2024, GHCF will deepen its commitment to prayer, fostering a robust prayer life that undergirds every ministry and mission we undertake. Through continuous, fervent prayer, we will seek God's guidance and strength, ensuring that we remain aligned with His will and purposes. A praying church is a fortified church, equipped to face challenges and embrace opportunities with divine wisdom and insight.

A Serving Church

Following the Scripture's call to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10) and to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31), our mission extends beyond words into tangible acts of kindness and service. In

2024, GHCF will expand its outreach and service initiatives, actively seeking ways to demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Whether it's through community support programs, aiding those in need, or partnering with local organizations, our actions will speak of our love and commitment to those around us.

Ambassadors of the Kingdom

GHCF is not just a gathering of believers; we are an embassy of the Kingdom of God, representing Christ in a world that yearns for hope and salvation. As ambassadors, we are tasked with a high and holy calling—to witness to the dying world around us. "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20). In every endeavor, our goal is to reflect the character of Christ, inviting all to come to know Him as Lord and Saviour.

Conclusion

In 2024, Great Harwood Christian Fellowship will strive to be a visible, praying, and serving church, embodying the love and grace of Jesus Christ. As we reach out to our immediate communities and those further afield, we will remain steadfast in our mission to glorify God and make disciples. By living out our faith openly, praying without ceasing, and serving with joy, we will effectively communicate the life-changing message of the Gospel and fulfill our role as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 4:1). Together, as a church united in purpose and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will step into 2024 with anticipation, ready to embrace all that God has planned for us as we seek to advance His Kingdom on Earth.

2. 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith

In January 2024 the Elders sent out a letter to update the members of certain developments in the church as the AGM was still over three months away.

The first of which is the adoption of the 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith. As we navigate through times where societal norms increasingly depart from biblical teachings, the need for a clear and robust declaration of our faith becomes ever more crucial. In light of this, after prayerful consideration and discussion, the elders of GHCF have resolved that our church would be well served by adopting a more comprehensive Statement of Faith. We are thus proposing the adoption of the 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith to serve as our Statement of Faith. This historic document is renowned for its thorough treatment of doctrinal truths, rooted in the infallibility and sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures as outlined in 2 Timothy 3:15–17, Isaiah 8:20, Luke 16:29, 31; and Ephesians 2:20. One of the paramount reasons for this adoption is the need for unequivocal clarity on the Biblical definition of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:15; Matthew 19:5, 6), especially as the foundational principles of family and God's ordained order face increasing challenges in our society. We believe that the current statement, though true, lacks the depth and clarity needed to defend the gospel that was once for all delivered to the saints. We encourage every member of GHCF to diligently read the 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith. We welcome your questions or concerns regarding this important document. Please bring them to the attention of the elders at your earliest convenience but no later than the end of April 2024. Should there be any issues that require further discussion, the eldership is more than willing to meet with individual members to provide clarification and address any questions. Please understand that the adoption of the 1689 Confession is intended to enhance our doctrinal clarity and not to alter the primary theology or beliefs of our church. Our commitment to the gospel and the teachings of Jesus Christ remains steadfast. We look forward to engaging with you on this matter and are praying for God's wisdom and guidance as we seek to uphold His truth in our fellowship and beyond.

3. Church Officers:

3.1 Elders

Francois van Staden - Pastor/Teaching Elder

NC - Elder

J W - Elder

DR - Elder in Training

We are pleased to announce that DR has been nominated and has graciously accepted the offer to spend the upcoming year in a role we are designating as 'elder in training.' This period of service is essential in discerning the call to eldership. It is not an automatic ascension to the role of an elder but a time for both the individual and the church to affirm this calling through service, growth, prayer and mutual evaluation. The eldership is committed to raising up leaders from within our congregation at Great Harwood Christian Fellowship. This vision is central to ensuring that we have a continuous line of faithful and capable men to lead our church into the future. By investing in those who have shown potential and a heart for service, we are preparing for the health and vitality of our fellowship for years to come.

3.2 Deacons

MMcC

CMcC

SCC

GSR

JB

PI – P has tendered his resignation as a deacon as he feels that having served as a deacon he realizes that he is gifted to serve in other areas of the church.

P continues to serve in the church as the team leader for Epic Youth. We want to thank P for his efforts over the last year as a deacon.

4. Church Growth

4.1 Young Families

We are deeply grateful to the Lord for the blessing of young families that He has brought to our church over the past year. Among these blessings are the newest additions:

baby G to the McC family and baby S to the W family. It is truly a joy to hear the sounds of babies in our services—a reminder of life and growth, especially when some congregations lack these blessed noises. We continue to pray that God will graciously bring more young families into our church community.

4.2 New People

We are profoundly thankful for each individual the Lord has brought to our church over the past year, not just the young families but people from all walks of life. Our journey of discipleship is flourishing, with courses such as Discipleship Explored that build on the foundations laid in Christianity Explored. We praise the Lord for the growth and engagement we've seen in these programs. As we move forward, we remain committed to investing in and discipling believers of all ages, nurturing their faith and helping them grow deeper in their relationship with Christ.

5. Church Ministries:

5.1 Past

- a. Preaching/Teaching - Francois van Staden; N; JW
- b. Audio & Visual - Team Leaders: GSR & MR
- c. Band - Team Leader: HN
- d. Catering - Team Leader - JB
- e. Sunday School - Team Leader: PT
- f. Creche - Team Leader: SCC

5.2 New:

- a. *Epic Youth* - Team Leader: PI
- b. *Soul Food Evangelism* - Team Leader: RP
- c. *Pastoral Care Team* - Team Leader: MS
- d. *Maintenance Team* - Team Leader: CMcC
- e. *Going bananas* - Team Leader: RVS
- f. *Who Let The Dads Out* - Team Leaders: DR and CR & F and RVS

5.3 Teams still needed:

- 5.3.1 Meet & Greet & Welcome team

6. Church Meetings

6.1 Sunday Services

a. Morning

We are grateful to the Lord for the consistent attendance of 70-85 people at our morning services, where so many gather to hear the Word of God faithfully preached. Over the past year, we have had the privilege of delving deeply into the books of Hebrews and Philippians, as well as exploring the Covenants of God. In the coming weeks, we are excited to begin a new sermon series through the book of Romans.

b. Evening

In line with our commitment to the edification of the body through the Word, Great Harwood Christian Fellowship reinstated Sunday evening services, from the first Sunday evening in February 2024.

The services are held at 6pm and conclude at 7pm every week. This enables everyone to attend ensuring that both young and old can get home and prepare for Monday morning school and work. Those who want to fellowship a bit longer of course do so.

We encourage everyone to attend both services. This decision is motivated by our recognition that there are currently no other churches in the local area offering evening services. Thus, we are presented with a unique opportunity to minister to those within our community who are seeking additional times of worship and teaching. This development is not merely about increasing the number of services we offer; it is about deepening the spiritual nourishment available to our congregation and extending our reach within the community. As we grow in the number of capable, Spirit-led preachers, we anticipate a richer tapestry of biblical exposition that will benefit all who attend. Please join us for this new chapter in our church's life, for the preparation and delivery of these additional services, and for the spiritual growth of our congregation as we delve deeper into God's Word together.

6.2 Prayer Meeting

I am writing to share the wonderful news of God's faithfulness in responding to our collective prayers during our Tuesday evening prayer meetings. Over the past year, we have seen consistent participation, with attendance ranging from 13 to 28 faithful souls each week. It is a profound testament to the power of prayer and the gracious hand of God moving among us, as many prayers have indeed been answered by our Lord.

In light of the blessings we have witnessed and the challenges we face as a church and a community, I want to extend a heartfelt invitation to each of you to join us for this vital prayer gathering. We meet every Tuesday evening, a time set aside for us to come before God with our praises, petitions, and thanksgivings.

We understand the evenings can be dark and travel may be a concern for some. Please do not let this deter you. We are more than willing to arrange transportation to ensure that everyone who desires to join can do so without hesitation. If you need a ride to the prayer meeting, simply let us

know, and we will take care of the rest.

The imperative for GHCF to be a praying church cannot be overstated. Considering the state of our church, our country, the economy, government, and societal norms, as well as ungodly ideologies that seek to infiltrate our schools and the very fabric of our lives, it is crucial that we stand vigilant in prayer. The Scripture reminds us, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). As the church, we must be constantly on our knees, for this is when we wield the greatest power—through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Please, consider making our Tuesday prayer meetings a regular part of your spiritual discipline. Together, as a congregation united in prayer, we can expect to see God work mightily among us and through us.

Looking forward to seeing many more join this vital time of fellowship and prayer.

6.3 Equipping the Saints (Training)

As your pastor and brother in the Lord, I find it imperative to address the profound necessity for each of us to grow and mature in our faith. This spiritual maturity is not merely an option but a crucial aspect of our walk with Christ. The Apostle Peter urges us, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). Growth in grace is inseparable from growth in knowledge; the two go hand in hand as we deepen our understanding of who God is and what He has done for us. It is essential for believers not only to read the Bible and pray but also to diligently study the doctrines we hold dear. These doctrines form the backbone of our faith—they guide our understanding of Scripture, inform our worldviews, and equip us for every good work. In a culture increasingly detached from biblical truth, it is more important than ever that we know what we believe and why we believe it, and that we are prepared "to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). To aid in this essential aspect of Christian growth, we have initiated "Equipping the Saints" every Wednesday at 2 pm. This program is specially designed to delve into the doctrines that anchor our faith. Under the capable leadership of FVS and DT, who bring a wealth of biblical knowledge and a passion for teaching, these sessions are an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to deepen their theological understanding and spiritual fortitude.

This is not merely an academic exercise but a spiritual imperative. As society drifts further from God's Word as the standard of truth, the clarity and conviction with which we hold and express our beliefs must shine all the brighter. We must be a people who not only know our God but can articulate the truth of His Word with confidence and grace to a world in desperate need.

I strongly encourage each of you to make it a priority to attend these Wednesday sessions. Whether you are a new believer or a seasoned saint, there is much to gain from dedicating time to the study of God's truth. Let us commit together to being a church not only filled with believers but equipped disciples, ready and able to carry the truth of the Gospel into our families, workplaces, and communities. Looking forward to seeing many of you there as we grow together in the wisdom and knowledge of our Lord.

7. KiEL

After much consideration and prayer, we have decided to withdraw from hosting the Keswick in East Lancashire (KiEL) conference at our church premises. This decision was not made lightly, and we want to ensure that the congregation understands the reasons behind it. The eldership of GHCF firmly believes in the responsibility of overseeing the teaching that is imparted from our pulpit. This stewardship extends to all who attend our services, whether regular members or visitors. Recently, we have observed a decline in attendance and had some concerns regarding the teachings of the last two speakers invited by the KiEL conference. We presented our questions and suggestions to the KiEL board; however, the responses we received were not wholly receptive.

8. GHCF Events

8.1 Road to the Gospel - Engaging with Islam

On Saturday, May 18th, we will host a training day entitled "Road to the Gospel - Engaging with Islam." This event is free of charge and designed to equip you to navigate through the ten most common objections to Christianity and lead directly to the sharing of the Gospel.

Our primary aim in engaging with Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and unbelievers is to communicate the Gospel clearly and effectively. We seek to avoid circular reasoning and focus on proclaiming the Gospel, for it is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). Join us as we learn to uphold the truth of Scripture and extend the hope of Christ to all.

8.2 GHCF Annual Conference

I am filled with great anticipation and joy as I extend this invitation to you for our upcoming annual GHCF Conference. This significant gathering is scheduled for Saturday, 21st September 2024, right here at Great Harwood Christian Fellowship. It promises to be a day rich in learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

We are profoundly blessed to have Dr. S R as our guest speaker for this year's conference. Dr. R is the lead pastor at Trinity Reformed Baptist Church in La Mirada, California.

Dr. R, a respected scholar and minister, brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep passion for the Reformed Baptist heritage. His academic journey includes a Bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature and Culture from the University of California, Irvine, an MDiv from Westminster Seminary California, and a Ph.D. from the Free University of Amsterdam. His dissertation, now published as *From Shadow to Substance: The Federal Theology of English Particular Baptists (1642-1702)*, alongside his other works like *The Mystery of Christ, His Covenant, and His Kingdom*, have contributed significantly to our understanding of Baptist covenant theology.

The conference will include four sessions, all led by Dr. R, focusing on themes that are central to our faith and practice. This is a unique opportunity to gain deeper insight into the riches of Scripture as expounded by a seasoned theologian.

Please note that attendance is limited to 150 seats, and the conference will operate on a registration basis. Registration will initially be open exclusively to GHCF members for the first three weeks, ensuring that you, our church family, have the first opportunity to join. Following this, registration will open to the Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship and a select few other churches.

Details of the Conference:

Date: Saturday, 21st September 2024 **Time:** 09:00 to 17:00

Location: Great Harwood Christian Fellowship **Registration:** Open first to GHCF members for three weeks, then to wider fellowship. We are also delighted to announce that Broken Warfe, who are a distinctly confessional Baptist resource base in the UK consistent with the faith and life characterised by those churches affirming the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith, will supply a range of theological books for the conference, transforming our small hall into a bookshop for the day. This will be a wonderful opportunity to enrich your personal libraries with sound theological resources. There will be ample time for tea, coffee, and fellowship, allowing you to connect and share with like-minded believers from our community and beyond.

We encourage you to mark your calendars and prepare your hearts for a day that we trust will be a milestone in our spiritual journey as a church family. Let us come together to be encouraged, edified, and equipped through the ministry of Dr. R. Looking forward to sharing this special day with each of you.

9. Training

9.1 Expository Preaching Academy

We are also excited to inform you that both D R and M McC will be undergoing homiletic training under the guidance of FVS. This training is in anticipation of adding both men to our preaching roster by mid-2024. Their development in this area is crucial, as preaching is a

significant part of shepherding the congregation. We ask you to support D and M in prayer as they undertake these responsibilities and training. May their service be a testament to their dedication to the Lord and His church. May the Lord bless this time of preparation and training, and may He continue to raise leaders who are after His own heart to guide His people.

9.2 Theology for ministry

Theology for Ministry is a theological discussion group tailored for the men of our church who are committed to deepening their understanding of theology. This group will reconvene in June. Our goal is to cultivate a steady and dedicated group of men who are eager to grow together in their grasp of theological doctrines and issues. This is an excellent opportunity for those serious about strengthening their theological foundation and enhancing their spiritual maturity.

10. Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship

The Eldership would also like to provide an update on our association with the Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship. Great Harwood Christian Fellowship is in loose affiliation with the Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship (LRBF) as there is no formal membership. The LRBF is a collective of churches within the Lancashire area that share Reformed Baptist convictions. T F chairs this fellowship. Representatives from the member churches convene quarterly with a focus on intercessory prayer, specifically seeking revival in our nation. Another quarterly meeting is dedicated to Bible teaching, fellowship, and prayer, with the intent that through these gatherings, our churches will be fortified in faith and in mutual support. Below is the list of churches that are part of the Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship:

1. Peel Street Baptist Church, Accrington – www.peelstreet.org.uk
2. Aughton Park Baptist Church – www.aughtonparkbaptistchurch.org
3. Bethel Evangelical Church, Bolton – www.bethelbolton.org
4. Radcliffe Road Baptist Church, Bury – www.rrbc-online.org
5. Chorley Evangelical Free Church – www.chorleyevangelicalfreechurch.org.uk
6. Free Grace Church, Lancaster – www.gracebaptistlancaster.church
7. Bethany Evangelical Church, Leigh – www.bethanyevangelical.weebly.com
8. Parbold Evangelical Church – www.parboldchurch.org.uk
9. Ashton Baptist Church, Preston – www.ashtonbaptist.uk
10. North Preston Evangelical Church – www.npec.org.uk
11. Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom – www.trinitygracechurch.net 4
12. Grace Baptist Church, Southport – www.gracebaptist.org.uk
13. Pemberton Free Grace Church, Wigan – www.pembertonfgc.org.uk
14. Great Harwood Christian Fellowship - www.ghcf.org.uk

We are encouraged by the unity and commitment displayed within this fellowship and are hopeful that our collective efforts will result in a strengthened body of believers, equipped to face the challenges of our times with steadfast faith and unwavering support for one another. We welcome any inquiries or comments regarding our involvement with the Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship and encourage your active participation in the prayers and activities facilitated by this community of churches. In addition to the aforementioned updates, the elders would like to address the importance of Christian fellowship beyond the scope of our local church body. While Great Harwood Christian

Fellowship is an independent congregation, we firmly believe that no church is meant to stand in isolation. We are integrally connected to the universal church of God, which spans the globe and unites us all in the body of Christ. It is within this understanding that we emphasise the importance of fostering connections with like-minded churches in our local context. The elders hold to the conviction that our strength as a church is amplified when we stand in fellowship with believers from other congregations. Such relationships encourage mutual edification and collective witness to the truths of the gospel. In a time when secular ideologies pervade our culture, it is crucial that we, as the church, unite to affirm and spread the biblical doctrines that constitute our faith. By affiliating with the Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship, we are not simply aligning ourselves with an organisation, but we are reinforcing the bonds that hold us together as followers of Christ. We believe that through this partnership, we will:

- Strengthen our doctrinal foundations by learning from and supporting one another.
- Increase our impact in the community through unified efforts and shared initiatives.
- Provide a robust support network for our members, offering a broader community of faith to lean on.

The scripture reminds us in Hebrews 10:24-25 to consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, but encouraging one another. This is the essence of why we seek to build and nurture relationships with fellow believers and congregations. We welcome your thoughts and prayers as we pursue these connections, and we are excited to see how the Lord will work through these partnerships to strengthen His church.

11. Proposal for the vacant/derelict land next to the church.

GHCF has recently submitted a proposal for the currently vacant and derelict land adjacent to our church facilities. This document serves as a formal request for the adoption of the plot located at the intersection of Holgate Street and James Street, close to Great Harwood Christian Fellowship. In our initial discussions, including a productive meeting with Councillor SB who has shown robust support, we have outlined a vision that promises substantial community advantages.

Proposal Overview

Purpose and Usage of the Site

Our vision for the land is to develop a community 'peace' garden along with spaces for educational events, aiming to:

Foster community engagement and togetherness. Promote environmental sustainability.

Enhance the well-being of local residents through accessible green spaces.

Community Benefits

Adopting this land would offer:

A new communal area for recreation and social events. Improved local environmental practices with the introduction of a community-managed green space. Beautification of the area, enhancing local quality of life. Educational and skill-building opportunities for the community, particularly through volunteer projects and events. Educational partnerships with local primary schools for practical learning in growing fruit and vegetables. through: Grants, donations, and fundraising activities. Volunteer efforts from church members and the community. Possible partnerships with local businesses, Hyndburn Council, and Lancashire County Council.

Next Steps

We are keen to discuss this proposal further with the Council to align on details and move forward cooperatively. For further information or to schedule a meeting, please contact me at 07944407434 or via email at communityoutreach@ghcf.org.uk.

The adoption of this land represents a significant opportunity to enhance our community's social and environmental landscape. We are excited about the potential to collaborate with the Council to realize this vision, contributing positively to our

community's development and sustainability.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We eagerly anticipate the possibility of working together to transform this space into a vibrant community asset.

Lease and Management

We propose that Great Harwood Christian Fellowship oversees the management of this land, under a peppercorn rent agreement, to ensure:

Clear accountability and management of the site. Effective handling of legal liabilities and insurance for public use. **Lease Duration**

We seek a long-term lease to ensure sustained benefits to the community and stability for ongoing and future projects.

Funding and Maintenance

The development and maintenance will be supported.

Conclusion

In closing, we stand on the threshold of exciting times for GHCF. The introduction of a comprehensive Statement of Faith, the launch of our own conference, our affiliation with likeminded churches, and the nurturing of future leaders signal a season of growth and deepening faith. As we reinstate evening services, let us embrace this opportunity to further the reach of God's Word in our lives and community. We warmly invite you to journey with us, with prayerful hearts and united spirits, as we faithfully step into what God has prepared for us. May His grace abound in us all.

Public Benefit Statement

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our community through worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Provision of pastoral care and Missionary and Outreach work.

Structure, governance and management

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship is an Independent Church and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Fellowship adopts the 1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith. Its governing document (Constitution) and its Church Handbook for members, were approved at an Annual General Meeting of the membership on 9th May 2017.

The Deacons meet on a monthly basis to discuss finance, administration and building maintenance matters relating to the running of the Fellowship. The Elders meet with the Pastor on a monthly basis to discuss the Spiritual life of the Fellowship: direction of worship, teaching, Bible Study meetings, Outreach etc. The full board of Trustees (Elders and Deacons) meet together on 4 occasions during the year, as required by our constitution document.

Policy Documents

In addition to the Constitution Document, Great Harwood Christian Fellowship has the following policies in place to ensure the health, safety and protection of church members:

Fire, Health and Safety Management

Data Protection

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Serious Incident reporting

Internal Risk Management

Social Media

Financial Reserves

The church undertakes regular reviews of each of these policies and carries out audits and training as required by named individuals.

Administrative Information

The principal address of the charity is 91 St Huberts Road, Great Harwood BB6 7AF.

The Trustees are as follows:

Francois Van Staden – Pastor

Neil Collier – Elder

Justin Willis - Elder

Gil Ratcliffe, Deacon, Treasurer

Shirley Collier – Deacon, Secretary

Jennifer Blackmore – Deacon

Paul Iddon – Deacon (Resigned 9.5.24)

Michael McCormick - Deacon

Policy on Reserves

The Fellowship holds a sum of money in a Reserve Account for use in exceptional circumstances. The current level of these funds (at 31st March 2024 is £14,930) The funds are not restricted or specifically designated for certain uses. The Trustees authorise any use of these funds when requested by the Treasurer.

	<u>Receipts and Payments 2023-24</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
Cash in bank 31.3.23	£832	£2,482
Cash in Reserve account 31.3.23	£17,985	£18,152
(A)	£18,817	£20,634
<u>Receipts</u>		<u>2022-23</u>
Donations	£3,384	£274
Bookstall	£151	£214
Church service offertories	£10,679	£7,306
Offerings via Bank	£29,448	£27,394
Other Income	£9,446	£6,984
Reserve Account interest	£235	£33
Tithe income	£4,459	£3,794
(B)	£57,802	£45,999
<u>Payments</u>		<u>2022-23</u>
Bookstall	£190	£174
Church maintenance	£8,593	£3,125
Church running costs	£14,628	£8,789
Donations to Missions/Tithes	£4,329	£3,969
Other payments	£706	£0
Wages and expenses	£28,525	£30,460
Worship, SS, Mission resources	£4,267	£1,299
(C)	£61,238	£47,816
(A plus B minus C =)	£15,381	£18,817
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		<u>2023-24</u>
Hardship Fund 31.3.23		£312
Income		£400
Total		£712
Payments		£408
Remaining 31.3.24		£304

WLTD0 Grant 31.3.23			£0
Income			£1,200
Total			£1,200
Payments			£114
Remaining 31.3.24			£1,086
Cash in bank 31.3.24	£451	+	£1,390
Cash in Reserve account 31.3.24	£14,930		(Hardship + WLTD0)
	£15,381	*	£16,771

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Tithes 2023-24

Blackburn C.A.P.	£550.00
Billy Graham	£250.00
Charlie Preece	£900.00
Outreach UK	£700.00
Platform 67	£500.00
Samaritan's Purse	£150.00
SASRA	£250.00
Scriptural Knowledge	£360.00

Slavic Gospel Association	£115.00
Uma Sharma (Nepal church)	£353.80
United Beach Missions	£200.00
	£4,328.80



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2023	To	31/03/2024
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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					
All Other Donations	3,384	-	-	3,384	-
Bookstall Income	151	-	-	151	-
Church Service Offeratories	10,679	-	-	10,679	-
Donations via SO & FP	29,448	-	-	29,448	-
Other Income	9,446	-	-	9,446	-
Reserve Account Interest	235	-	-	235	-
Tithe Income	4,459	-	-	4,459	-
Hardship Fund	-	400	-	400	-
WLTDO Grant	-	1,200	-	1,200	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	57,802	1,600	-	59,402	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	57,802	1,600	-	59,402	-
A3 Payments					
Bookstall Expenditure	190	-	-	190	-
Church Maintenance	8,593	-	-	8,593	-
Church Running Expenses	14,628	-	-	14,628	-
Mission Donations & Tithes	4,329	-	-	4,329	-
Other Payments	706	-	-	706	-
Wages & Expenses	28,525	-	-	28,525	-
Worship, Sunday School & Mission Resources	4,267	-	-	4,267	-
Hardship Fund	-	408	-	408	-
WLTDO Grant	-	114	-	114	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	61,238	522	-	61,760	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	61,238	522	-	61,760	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,436	1,078	-	- 2,358	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	18,817	312	-	19,129	-
Cash funds this year end	15,381	1,390	-	16,771	-

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

Category	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Current Account	451	-	-
	Reserve Account	14,930	1,390	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	15,380	1,390	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

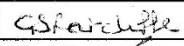
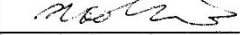
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	GILL RATCLIFFE	15.4.24
	NEIL COLLIER	15.4.24

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Charity number: 1174952

On the accounts for the period ended
which are set out on pages

31 March 2024
1 to 2

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and
Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

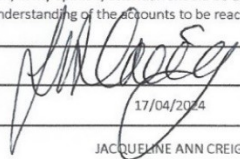
Signed:

Date:

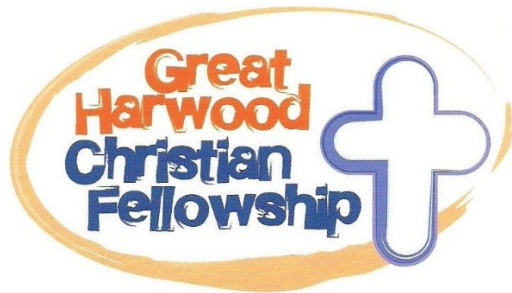
Name:

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

Address:


17/04/2024
JACQUELINE ANN CREIG
PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING LTD, RIBBLE COURT, 1 MEAD WAY, PADIHAM, BB12 7NG

Accounts



Great Harwood Christian Fellowship Annual Report 2023

(Covering Financial Year April 2022 - March 2023)

Charity Registration Number: 1174952

Date of Annual General Meeting : Thursday 11th May 2023

Aim and Purposes

The aim and purposes of the Church are:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Great Harwood 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 or other leisure time occupation 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;
- Provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Doctrinal Distinctives and Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the Church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

Objectives and Activities

GHCF promotes the Christian faith by providing a weekly programme of events which are open to everyone and provided free of charge. In particular, we try and support people in their Christian faith by providing:

- Times of Worship and Prayer where the gospel message is clearly shared and believers are built up and strengthened in their faith.
- Pastoral care for those who need support.
- Information about Missionary and Outreach work – sharing the Christian gospel with others, both at home and overseas.
- Mercy ministries – helping to provide for those in need.

In order to provide these services, it is important that we maintain our property on commercial Road, Great Harwood in accordance with all appropriate guidelines.

Pastor's Report May 2023

Introduction

I preached my first official sermon on the 17th April 2022 and it seems like that was just yesterday. The year has passed so quickly. But God has been good to us as a family of believers here in Great Harwood. God is answering our prayer in many ways but also in the addition of new believers and members to our church.

1. New Members

We thank God that he is adding to our fellowship's membership.

David Smith

David started coming to the fellowship not long after I started here. He is the result of the Lord blessing the labour of the outreach table on a Thursday. For years David walked past the table until he stopped one day and had a conversation with Colin Kay.

Ena van Staden

My mum has come with us from GBC Lancaster. She has been a member there until now. She has committed to become a member and serve the church here at GHCF. I am amazed at her spiritual growth and thank God for her diligence in studying the scriptures.

David Talbot

I am really thankful for David who has been serving this fellowship so faithfully for a long time. He has decided to become a member of the church. This will mean that we can utilise David's gifts even more in the future.

2. Past Achievements

2.1. Sunday evening bible study through the Psalms.

After COVID there was no evening service so the Elders thought it appropriate to start a bible study going through the Psalms on Sunday evenings.

This was done with several outcomes in mind:

- To encourage the church to deepen their study with basic exegetical techniques.
- To take time looking and exploring the Psalms.
- To have an interactive study where questions can be asked, and to challenge the audience to engage with the text.

2.2. Tuesday evening Prayer meeting

The Tuesday evening prayer meetings which started at 7.30pm in the summer, was well attended. In the winter the attendance dropped due to the dark nights. The prayer starting time was also changed to 7pm.

After the attendance stabilised at approx 15 people, it started to grow to almost 30 attendees.

The elders want to keep encouraging members and non-members to attend the prayer meeting. It is imperative that the whole church pray together. This is how we grow in unity and we better understand the heart of the church. It is the engine of the church. It drives the church. Do we want a 1.2 engine or a V12 super charged engine?

1 Thess 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always;

17 pray without ceasing;

18 in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2.3. Wednesday afternoon Equipping the Saints doctrinal studies.

This started nine weeks ago, we started with a Wednesday afternoon bible study called "Equipping the Saints." (Eph 4:12). This bible study looks at the doctrines that the church believes in.

The purpose of this bible study is two-fold.

- We look at scriptures that underpin the doctrines we believe such as the doctrine of the Trinity, the doctrine of the Inerrancy and Infallibility of scripture etc... This will enable brothers and sisters to defend the faith (Jude 3) and to defend their theological position from scripture.
- It is also an opportunity to hold up our theological position against scripture and to see if it holds up against the truth of scripture.

3. Deacons

1 Tim 3:13 "For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."

There are a few things I would like to say about deacons in the church.

Firstly we distinguish between standing in the office of a deacon and the function of a deacon.

Any office by its definition in the church no matter how small comes with authority. Paul is clear when he writes in 1 Tim 2:12 "But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man..."

Phoebe -Rom 16:1 Now I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; 2 that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a benefactor

of many, and of myself as well.”

Letters of introduction to strangers were common in Bible times. The mention of Phoebe in this way means that she was probably either the bearer of the letter or accompanied those who took it to Rome.

Paul’s reference to Phoebe as “our sister” indicates that she was a member of the Christian church and his sister in Christ. Her designation as “deacon or servant” (m and f: one who serves as a deacon, with responsibility to care for the needs of believers—‘deacon, one who helps the believers.’) could mean that she was someone who was known to serve the church faithfully (the Greek diakonos means “servant”). Phoebe was a trusted member of the body of believers.

Lydia was a worshiper of God (Acts 16:14), and, when Paul found her, she was honouring the Sabbath, which means she was likely a Jew. The account of Lydia’s conversion says that she was gathered with a group of other women on the Sabbath at a place of prayer near the river outside of Philippi. The fact that Paul, Timothy, Luke, and Silas came to the riverside to speak to the women most likely indicates there were not enough Jewish men in Philippi to open a synagogue there.

The leaders of the New Testament church are the elders (1 Tim 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5) who are assisted by the deacons who carry out the practical duties as required in the church.

We are all told to serve each other, to do good to each other, to bear each other’s burdens to serve the body of Christ (Matt 20:26-28; John 13:12-14; Gal 5:13-14; Gal 6:2; Gal 6:10). Hebrews 10:24 says that we are to stir up one another to love and good works. Surely we should be thankful for men and woman who are willing to serve the church? Should we not encourage brothers and sisters to serve the body of Christ?

So, we look back over this past year at the two deacons who were appointed last year.

Paul

Paul has been a deacon now for a year. We are seeing Paul grow into this role and we pray that he continues to serve the church diligently. In the future Paul will take over from Rob as the mission coordinator for GHCF.

Michael

Michael has become a new father recently. We are thankful that the Lord has blessed both Michael and Alice with baby Grace. This will add to the responsibilities that Michael has as a deacon.

Deut 6:1-2,7

6:1 “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments, which Yahweh your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do it in the land where you are going over to possess it,
2 so that you and your son and your grandson might fear Yahweh your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I am commanding you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

7 “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Michael has served diligently on the sound & media team over the last year. Michael is also along with David Talbot responsible for the church's social media presence which will be increasing in the very near future.

Colin

As a man who has been nominated as a deacon the scriptures say in 1 Tim 3:10 "And these men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."

The words "first be tested" here in this text as indicated by the present tense of the verb speaks of an ongoing evaluation of all the deacons characters in the church.

1 Tim 3:2 makes the term "above reproach" clearer for us. It is a general heading to the qualifications for overseer or elder. This expression does not mean "without sin," which would disqualify everyone except Jesus, but "above scandalous reproach."

Galatians 5: 13-14 says it so beautifully

"13 For you were called to freedom, brothers; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF."

Paul's overriding concern is that elders and deacons have a good standing among both Christians and non-Christians.

So, we do not expect Colin to be perfect this evening, nor do we seek to judge him by his past as this would disqualify any of us from serving in the church. But we have seen that Colin over the last 6 months has served the church more and more. Over the last 6 months I have spent a lot of time with Colin and Jayne. I have encouraged him and have rebuked him. I have learnt that a man's true character is revealed when he is rebuked and Colin's response was immediate repentance and he immediately addressed the issue. He was humble and non-argumentative. Colin freely submits to the eldership of this church as stated in Heb 13: 17 "Obey your leaders and submit to them..."

So, I ask you, to prayerfully and with love, kindness and grace to consider Colin as deacon for the church. I have the utmost faith that he will grow as the other deacons will grow in their service to this church and their relationship with God, as we should all do.

Colin Kay, retiring Deacon

Colin was married recently and has relocated to Southampton with his new wife. He goes with our blessings and grateful thanks for his enormous contribution to the life of the Fellowship over many years. He has exercised his many gifts, with particular strengths in assisting the Outreach Team and with general maintenance work in and around the church building. We are happy that they will return to our Fellowship when they are back in the north visiting family and friends and we look forward to welcoming them.

4. Vision & Future Plans

4.1. Vision

Last year, I lay a vision for the church to become a

1. Visible church

2. Praying church

3. Serving church

We are growing into this vision. For the church to have an impact in its community it must be a visible church. The community must know that the church is present in the community. The church must be serving the community or else it will be branded as a church who is a church without action.

For the church to know how it should serve and respond to the community, it has to be a praying church. As a church we need to seek the guidance of our God to lead us in the direction we need to go but also how to reach out to our specific community. That is why it is so important for the whole church to come together in prayer on a Tuesday evening. To call out collectively to our God. This is an encouragement to the church when we pray together. It brings unity to another level.

Only then can we be effective in our serving of the community.

This brings me to the plans of the church for the next year.

4.2. Future Plans

As a church we have an opportunity to reach out to our community as a church in a very effective way.

We pray daily for the Lord to open doors for us so that we can engage with unbelievers. We also know that many people don't want to come into a church building as many find it intimidating and daunting. That makes inviting people to church challenging. Also, people have a lot of prejudices and preconceived ideas about Christians.

That can make reaching out to the community as Christians more challenging.

Many see the church just as a voice who tells them what they can and can't do. But the church needs to become a church that is visible serving the community.

When I first came to Great Harwood I saw the Muslim's across the road at the clock tower making a big issue of how they have helped a child with a wheel chair. The mother who was not a Muslim and was white was encouraging people to go to the mosque because they are "loving and caring" people.

Is the not what we should be doing?

How will the world know that we are His disciples?

John 13:32 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, [if you have love for one another]."

4.2.1. Community Outreach Projects

Rachel Van Staden:

Introduction

I've been asked to give a short presentation on church-led social action; what it is; how we can start. I'm going to touch on the biblical basis and motivation for church-led social action.

Then we'll take a look at our community because we need a profound understanding of the community to help us identify what the needs are.

I'll talk about the Cinnamon Network (who they are and what they do and how they can support us) and then give a few examples of social action projects

that we could do here at GHCF.

Lastly, I'll talk briefly about funding sources for social action projects.

4.2.1.1. Church-led social action?

Social action is all about increasing our effectiveness and impact in our local community. It's about running a project (or several projects) where we meet a need in our community; we help people in our community in a practical way. Through a social action project, we will develop relationships with people outside church and through these relationships, we will have the opportunity to share the gospel.

4.2.1.2. What's the biblical basis and motivation for church-led social action

Knowing this is important and it's simple...because of Scripture. Scripture is the motivation for us as Christians to reach out to people in our community and to demonstrate Christ's love to others through love, practical care and support.

Winning the lost for Christ is our mission! Great Harwood; Rishton and Clayton is our mission field! God seeks to save the lost and He uses ordinary men and women like us to win others for himself.

The concept of loving, caring and supporting others is rooted in the Old Testament law; in Exodus; Leviticus 19:9-10 and Deuteronomy 14:28-29 and 26:12. In the New Testament, the command throughout is to model our lives on Christ and to help those who have less. As a Social Worker, I find it fascinating that almost all modern social services have roots in the Christian church yet with the secular progression of our society, social work has now completely abandoned its Christian roots. This gives an opportunity for the church. We are in a unique position to respond to poverty and hunger, to family breakdown, to loneliness; to mental health issues and so on.

Go through scriptures...

4.2.1.3. Having a profound understanding of our community helps us to understand the needs of the community.

- I started with the Geography of our community and looked at the Indices of Deprivation (2019)

Although this is sad to state and to realise - this will be to our advantage when applying for funding (I'll talk more about this shortly).

- Civic - Looking at the civic side of our community.

It's important to understand what other civic agencies, organisations and voluntary groups are already doing in the community. Understanding what areas are most stretched and where the gaps are to ensure that we compliment rather than compete with other good work.

We all know that statutory provision is most under-resourced and strained.

Lancashire County Council is no different. friend SW; what is the social need? Family breakdown support (prevention) of).

Hyndburn Borough Council have written a Local Economic Plan and a Corporate Strategy in which it says that Housing is their priority. Cllr - what is the social need? Families are isolated (partly due to technology).

From a website search there are clubs and societies here and they are mainly interest clubs (sport; hobby clubs etc). The Methodist church is prominent on the high street with their charity shop and they do

lunches every week (which is wonderful). Spoke with CVS - what is the greatest social need in Great Harwood; Clayton and Rishton - family support/loneliness/youth

- Looking at the Business side of our community - Lots of independent businesses here which is great especially because the larger businesses are more socially conscious of their community. Major supermarkets (Tesco; Morrisons and Aldi and the Coop) all have community champions (networking opportunities & fundraising opportunities)
- GHCF

Our asset is the church building - we have this room we can use for a group. Volunteers motivated by the love for Jesus who want to love and serve the Town.

Social action projects will be an income stream for our church (rent of this room; contribution to the energy bills - increased recently!)

4.2.1.4. Cinnamon Network - Christian charity

They want to make it as easy as possible for churches to set up and deliver social action projects in their communities.

Find effective social-action projects and help them develop so they can be replicated through churches across the country to help even more people.

They have a list of recommended projects which offer best practice, tried and tested initiatives that churches can replicate easily and quickly.

4.3 Theology for Ministry

Starting on the 22nd of May 2023 the Theology for Ministry Group will gather together for the first time. The main goal of the meeting of this groups for is the creation of depth in theology not only with the male deacons but also to create depth in the church.

We also need to look to the future of the church and develop men who are grounded with a solid foundation in biblical theology that has been tested. This is the basis of a strong and lasting biblical church.

4.4 Social Media

As a church we recognise that a large portion of our culture now “live life” online. Therefore, it is relevant for the church to have a presence online on various platforms through which we as the church can preach the gospel. Both David and Michael are using their gifts to help create and post sermons and other information that proclaim Christ. It is also helpful to keep the church and the wider community informed of meetings and events at church.

Conclusion

Our vision remains to be a visible, praying and serving church.

Through the Community Action Projects we aim to serve the community as the church of Jesus Christ.

Through Social Media, Community Action projects and Evangelism both personal and corporate we aim to be a visible church in Great Harwood and the surrounding area.

In training believers we are looking to the future of the church in that it will have future leaders.

In all of this, we are a praying church, only following where God the Father leads us through Jesus Christ His only begotten Son

Public Benefit Statement

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our community through worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Provision of pastoral care and Missionary and Outreach work.

Structure, governance and management

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship is an Independent Church and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Fellowship adopts the FIEC statement of faith. Its governing document (Constitution) and its Church Handbook for members, were approved at an Annual General Meeting of the membership on 9th May 2017

The Deacons meet on a monthly basis to discuss finance, administration and building maintenance matters relating to the running of the Fellowship. An Elder attends these meetings for communication purposes. The Elders meet with the Pastor on a monthly basis to discuss the Spiritual life of the Fellowship: direction of worship, teaching, Bible Study meetings, Outreach etc. The full board of Trustees (Elders and Deacons) meet together on 4 occasions during the year, as required by our constitution document.

Policy Documents

In addition to the Constitution Document, Great Harwood Christian Fellowship has the following policies in place to ensure the health, safety and protection of church members:

Fire, Health and Safety Management

Data Protection

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The church undertakes regular reviews of each of these policies and carries out audits and training as required by named individuals.

Administrative Information

The principal address of the charity is 91 St Huberts Road, Great Harwood BB6 7AF.

The Trustees are as follows:

Francois Van Staden – Pastor

Neil Collier – Elder

Justin Willis - Elder

Gil Ratcliffe, Deacon, Treasurer

Shirley Collier – Deacon, Secretary

Jennifer Blackmore – Deacon

Colin Kay – Deacon (Resigned 31.3.23 to relocated to Southampton)

Paul Iddon – Deacon

Michael McCormick - Deacon

Policy on Reserves

The Fellowship holds a sum of money in a Reserve Account for use in exceptional circumstances. The current level of these funds (at 31st March 2023 is £17,985) The funds are not restricted or specifically designated for certain uses. The Trustees authorise any use of these funds when requested by the Treasurer.

Receipts
and
Payments
2022-23

2021-
22

Cash in bank 31.3.22	£2,482	£2,874
Cash in Reserve account 31.3.22	£18,152	£7,151
(A)	£20,634	£10,025

		<u>2021-22</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Donations	£274	£960
Bookstall	£214	N/A
Church service offertories	£7,306	£12,433
		£23,892
Offerings via Bank	£27,394	
Other Income	£6,984	£600
Reserve Account interest	£33	£1
Tithe income	£3,794	£4,560
(B)	£45,999	£42,446

		<u>2021-22</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
Bookstall	£174	N/A
Church maintenance	£3,125	£2,189
Church running costs	£8,789	£9,761
Donations to Missions/Tithes	£3,969	£4,466
Other payments	£0	£988
		£13,304
Wages and expenses	£30,460	
Worship, SS, Mission resources	£1,299	£1,130
(C)	£47,816	£31,838
(A plus B minus C =)	£18,817	£20,634

Restricted Funds

Hardship Fund 31.3.22	£287
Income	£300
Total	£587
Payments	£275
Remaining 31.3.23	£312

Cash in bank 31.3.23	£832	+	£312
Cash in Reserve account 31.3.23	£17,985		
	£18,817	*	

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Tithes 2022-23

Blackburn C.A.P.	£750.00
Charlie Preece	£500.00
Open Doors	£200.00
Platform 67	£350.00
Reach Across	£150.00
Samaritan's Purse	£550.00
SASRA	£150.00
Scriptural Knowledge	£360.00
Slavic Gospel Association	£150.00
Uma Sharma (Nepal church)	£713.80
United Beach Missions	£95.00
	£3,968.80



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship

1174952

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2022	To	Period end date 31/03/2023
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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					
All Other Donations	274	-	-	274	-
Bookstall Income	214	-	-	214	-
Church Service Offerings	7,306	-	-	7,306	-
Donations via SO & FP	27,394	-	-	27,394	-
Other Income	6,984	-	-	6,984	-
Reserve Account Interest	33	-	-	33	-
Tithe Income 3673	3,794	-	-	3,794	-
Hardship Fund	-	300	-	300	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	45,999	300	-	46,299	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	45,999	300	-	46,299	-
A3 Payments					
Bookstall Expenditure	174	-	-	174	-
Church Maintenance	3,125	-	-	3,125	-
Church Running Expenses	8,789	-	-	8,789	-
Mission Donations & Tithes	3,969	-	-	3,969	-
Other Payments	-	-	-	-	-
Wages & Expenses	30,460	-	-	30,460	-
Worship, Sunday School & Mission Resources	1,299	-	-	1,299	-
Hardship Fund	-	275	-	275	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	47,815	275	-	48,090	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	47,815	275	-	48,090	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,817	25	-	- 1,792	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	20,633	287	-	20,921	-
Cash funds this year end	18,817	312	-	19,129	-

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	Bank Current Account	832	312	-
	Reserve Account	17,985	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	18,817	312	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

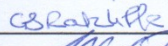
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature



Print Name
 GIL RATCLIFFE
 NEIL CORNER

Date of approval
 4.4.23
 4-6-23

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Charity number: 1174952

On the accounts for the period ended
which are set out on pages

31 March 2023
1 to 2

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent
Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year
under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an
independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

- In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention
1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met; or
 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

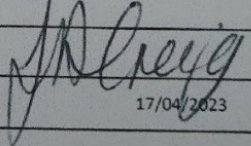
Signed:

Date:

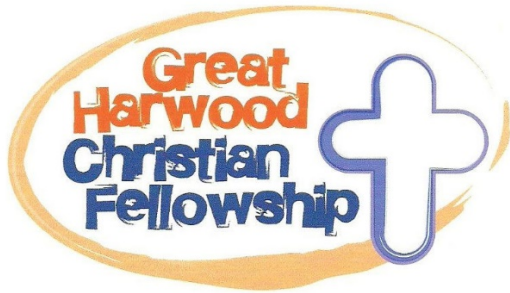
Name:

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

Address:


17/04/2023
JACQUELINE ANN CREIG
PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING LTD, RIBBLE COURT, 1 MEAD WAY, PADIHAM, BB12 7NG

Accounts



Great Harwood Christian Fellowship Annual Report 2022

(Covering Financial Year April 2021 - March 2022)

Charity Registration Number: 1174952

Date of Annual General Meeting : Thursday 26th May 2022

Aim and Purposes

The aim and purposes of the Church are:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Great Harwood 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 or other leisure time occupation 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;
- Provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Doctrinal Distinctives and Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the Church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

Objectives and Activities

GHCF promotes the Christian faith by providing a weekly programme of events which are open to everyone and provided free of charge. In particular we try and support people in their Christian faith by providing:

- Times of Worship and Prayer where the gospel message is clearly shared and believers are built up and strengthened in their faith.
- Pastoral care for those who need support.
- Information about Missionary and Outreach work – sharing the Christian gospel with others, both at home and overseas.
- Mercy ministries – helping to provide for those in need.

In order to provide these services, it is important that we maintain our property on commercial Road, Great Harwood in accordance with all appropriate guidelines.

Achievements and Performance during 2021-2022

Trustee's Report May '22 (Neil Collier - Elder)

Last year at this time we were still wearing face masks! How we praise God that we're done with all this now and we pray that we won't ever need them again as we meet. Let's never take for granted the gathering together of the Lord's people and pray that our freedoms to worship remain.

April '21

As we emerged from the various lockdowns of the previous year, and most people had had at least one covid vaccine, we gradually began opening up our church activities again. Easter was our first great celebration, albeit with social distancing in place and no Good Friday walk or Maundy Thursday Breaking Bread service.

May'21

By May we had started having our after-church fellowship, along with tea & coffee outside in the old playground; and, Praise the Lord, the weather stayed fine almost every Sunday morning from then on.

June'21

In June, Matthew announced that he had accepted a post as Pastor of Trinity Church, Tenterden in Kent; and that he, Hannah and the girls would be leaving Great Harwood at the end of August.

Before Matthew left, we welcomed into membership EIGHT people, most of whom had joined us during lockdown. The Lord has richly blessed us by directing

them to join us. And we thank them for the way they have all involved themselves in the life and witness of the church.

August '21

So, on 22nd August, after a generous thank offering had been collected, as a parting gift, we said goodbye to Matthew, Hannah, Zoe and Ruth, so that they could take up the Lord's work there, and also be near both sets of Grandparents. At that time we were still well separated but each month we relaxed the rules little by little and adding more chairs as others returned to church.

Because of Matthew's departure, we therefore needed to seek God's guidance concerning a new Pastor for GHCF and so a Pastor Search Group had already been formed who met regularly for prayer and discussion, working behind the scenes to find a new Pastor. And as you can see the Lord answered our prayers in His timing and we welcome Francois Van Staden most warmly.

During the time we were without a Pastor, besides searching for a new one, the church activities didn't stop; Sunday Morning services continued to be held and we were helped in this task by many of our own Fellowship stepping in to lead services and to preach (many for the 1st time). We were greatly blessed too by Pastors and Elders from other nearby churches who also came to help. And special thanks to Colin for arranging all the rotas for this and contacting other churches for us. And to Joan for organising the rotas for people praying and reading. Glad to report too that many people who started using their gifts in this way, have continued to do so. We also continued with our Monthly church prayer meeting and, once a month, again Colin arranged for a speaker to visit, to talk about one of the missionary organisations we support regularly.

Autumn/Winter '21

Services continued as outlined, and as more and more people returned for worship, as lockdown restrictions eased, more and more chairs were moved back into church, prompting Gil (Treasurer) to suggest we buy some new ones to replace the old tired brown ones.

We held our usual Harvest Thanksgiving Service at the beginning of October, with the food donated being sent, as usual to our local food bank.

Keswick in East Lancashire held their bi-annual meeting in our building, both in March - under Covid restrictions, and then again in October, when things were much free-er, and we could accommodate many more people to listen to Roger Carswell speak. By then, we had also started serving refreshments indoors.

By December, we realised that a Fellowship our size needed more than one Elder and so Justin was nominated and elected overwhelmingly at an extra-ordinary Meeting held in early December. He then hit the ground running in his new post by volunteering to preach throughout the whole of January on the Book of Philippians.

Christmas is always a busy time for everyone, but we still managed to hold a Carol Service on the 19th Dec, followed by a service on Christmas Morning (which last year was a Saturday), and by a Christmas Communion service the next day.

Again, thanks to all involved in leading, preaching, praying, or reading at all those services within the space of a week.

Spring 2022

By early January, just as the Pastor Search Group were considering re-advertising for a Pastor, someone who had voluntarily withdrawn his application the first-time round, re-applied, as his circumstances had changed. He was therefore interviewed, asked to preach-with-a-view and finally answered the call to be our new Pastor. Francois then, very fittingly, preached his first sermon, as Pastor on Easter Day this year – which brings us full circle.

Finally, we can't finish the Trustee's report without paying tribute to two members, who went to be with the Lord this past year.

Firstly, in June last year, Malcolm died after a short illness. He had been a regular attender at church with his wife Olga, who is herself recovering from a recent illness, and he was always so cheerful and pleased to see everyone, despite his ongoing health issues;

And then in March this year, as will be fresh in your memories, Keith our first Pastor died after a protracted illness, during which for the most part, he had kept cheerful and kept in touch with many of the Fellowship. Keith was certainly a great help shortly after Matthew left. Although by then, unable to help with preaching himself, he provided us with a list of people he had known over many years of ministry, who might be able to help with preaching during those first few months. His standing in the local Christian community was evidenced by the number of people from all over Lancashire and beyond who attended his funeral, held here in March.

We continue to uphold Olga, Aileen & Helen in our prayers.

Finally, thanks to all of you – the church – for your prayers and support during this last year. We have faced many difficulties and trials but the Lord has led us through good times and bad and we go on serving Him, as he leads us forward into a new and exciting era.

Future Plans

GHCF Vision (Pastor Francois van Staden)

The overarching vision of GHCF is to be a **“Visible Church”** (Matthew 5:14-16). In addition to this we see the mission of the church to be a **praying** (Rom 12:12; 1Thess 5:16-18; Eph 6:18; Col 4:2; 2 Chron 7:14; Heb 5:7; James 5:13, 16; 3 John 1:1; and a **serving** (Peter 1:10; Matt 5:16; Matthew 20:28; Matt 25:35-40) church.

Visible Church:

GHCF should endeavour to be the light of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 5:14-16).

GHCF exists to help build the catholic church of God in and around Great Harwood for all people through the declaration of the gospel that brings about personal conversion, Christian community and impacts the culture in a biblical way. As God's New Covenant church, we are not called to conform to the culture in order to preach the gospel but to engage the culture in our area first and also further afield. We engage the culture through relationship and divine appointments. This means that we engage those who are unbelievers by building relationships and befriending our neighbours and those in our area. We also believe that God in His sovereign grace can arrange a divine meeting where through evangelism someone asks to know more about Jesus Christ. We will then respond giving a reason for the hope we have in Jesus Christ with gentleness and respect. The church sees all its ministries flowing from mission and evangelism as demonstrated in the following diagram:



Prayer

Both believers and by default the whole church is called to pray without ceasing. Through this the church shows its dependence on God. We are called to pray both for the church but also for God to grant men and woman repentance. Jesus gives us this example.

Serving

The church is called to good works both to believers and unbelievers. We see examples of this in both the Old testament and in the New Testament as well as in the examples of Christ and the Apostles. For the church to be visible it has to preach the whole counsel of God declaring the truth of God to the nations. But faith has to be accompanied by works and we are to follow Christ's example in this regard. Jesus sat and ate with tax collectors and

prostitutes, there was no one who he would not associate with showing them God's love.

We believe that we can far more effectively spread the gospel of Jesus Christ when we

have built relationships with unbelievers. This may include serving them not only spiritually but also practically. We need to show the love of Christ in a practical way. This

may be as simple as having a coffee with someone who is lovely or mowing the lawn of

your neighbour or their neighbour who is not able.

Evangelism and Mission

All of the ministries that flow from the church is driven by evangelism and missionary

outreach. We are called to make disciples which means that we are called to build

relationships and come alongside any new believers to encourage them as they mature

as believers.

Mobilise

The whole church is called to mobile through active evangelism or active prayer.

The

church is a family that bows in submission to the God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We

serve in obedience to our God and pray that He adds to the church in GHCF and that the

gospel will go out faithfully to Great Harwood, Rishton, Clayton le Moors, East Lancashire and the rest of the United Kingdom.

Public Benefit Statement

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our community through worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Provision of pastoral care and Missionary and Outreach work.

Structure, governance and management

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship is an Independent Church and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Fellowship adopts the FIEC statement of faith. Its governing document (Constitution) and its Church Handbook for members, were approved at an Annual General Meeting of the membership on 9th May 2017

The Trustees meet as a Leadership Team on a monthly basis to discuss all matters relating to the running of the Fellowship, including worship, outreach, finance and building maintenance. The Elders meet with the Pastor also on a monthly basis to discuss the direction of worship, teaching, Bible Study meetings etc. and report to the full Leadership Team at their monthly meetings.

Policy Documents

In addition to the Constitution Document, Great Harwood Christian Fellowship has the following policies in place to ensure the health, safety and protection of church members:

Fire, Health and Safety Management

Data Protection

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The church undertakes regular reviews of each of these policies and carries out audits and training as required by named individuals.

Administrative Information

The principal address of the charity was 15 Coleridge Place, Great Harwood BB6 7JY until 31st August 2022. This will be replaced with the new Pastor's address asap.

The Trustees are as follows:

Matthew Clay – Pastor (Resigned 31.8.21)

Neil Collier – Elder

Justin Willis - Elder

Gil Ratcliffe, Deacon, Treasurer

Shirley Collier – Deacon, Secretary

Jennifer Blackmore – Deacon

Colin Kay – Deacon

Pastor Matthew Clay took up a new position in Kent on 1st September 2021 and GHCF entered a period of interregnum until 1st April 2022.

Policy on Reserves

The Fellowship holds a sum of money in a Reserve Account for use in exceptional circumstances. The current level of these funds (at 31st March 2022 is £18,152) The funds are not restricted or specifically designated for certain uses. The Trustees authorise any use of these funds when requested by the Treasurer.

Treasurers Report and Financial Statement - April 2021 - March 2022:

	<u>Receipts and Payments 2021-22</u>	
Cash in bank 31.3.21	£2,874	
Cash in Reserve account 31.3.21	£7,151	
(A)	<u>£10,025</u>	
<u>Receipts</u>		
Donations (Keith Nichol)	£960	
Church service offertories	£12,433	
Offerings via Bank	£23,892	
Other Income (Matthew Clay)	£600	
Reserve Account interest	£1	
Tithe income	£4,560	
(B)	<u>£42,446</u>	<u> </u>
<u>Payments</u>		
Church maintenance	£2,189	
Church running costs	£9,761	
Donations to Missions/Tithes	£4,466	
Other payments	£988	
Wages and expenses	£13,304	

**Worship, SS, Mission
resources**

£1,130

(C)

£31,838

(A plus B minus C =)

£20,634

Restricted Funds

Hardship Fund

£287

Cash in bank 31.3.22

£2,482

+

£287

**Cash in Reserve
account 31.3.22**

£18,152

£20,634

**Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Tithes 2021-22**

Missionary Ventures (Until July 21)

£600.00

Blackburn C.A.P.

£500.00

Scriptural Knowledge

£360.00

Slavic Gospel Association

£650.00

SASRA

£300.00

Samaritan's Purse

£350.00

Open Doors

£400.00

The Gideons

£400.00

Platform 67

£100.00

Uma Sharma (Nepal church)

£505.70

Keswick in East Lancs (KIEL)

£200.00

Real Lives Mission

£100.00

£4,465.70



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship

1174952

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1.4.21		31.3.22

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					
All Other Donations	960	-	-	960	-
Church Service Offerings	12,433	-	-	12,433	-
Donations via SO & FP	23,892	-	-	23,892	-
Other Income	600	-	-	600	-
Reserve Account Interest	1	-	-	1	-
Tithe Income	4,560	-	-	4,560	-
Hardship Fund	-	287	-	287	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	42,446	287	-	42,733	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	42,446	287	-	42,733	-
A3 Payments					
Church Maintenance	2,189	-	-	2,189	-
Church Running Expenses	9,761	-	-	9,761	-
Mission Donations & Tithes	4,466	-	-	4,466	-
Other Payments	988	-	-	988	-
Wages & Expenses	13,304	-	-	13,304	-
Worship, Sunday School & Mission Resources	1,130	-	-	1,130	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	31,838	-	-	31,838	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	31,838	-	-	31,838	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,608	287	-	10,895	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,025	-	-	10,025	-
Cash funds this year end	20,633	287	-	20,920	-

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	Bank Current Account	2,482	287	-
	Reserve Account	18,152	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	20,634	287	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

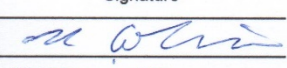
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	N COLLIER	14/4/22
	G. S. RATCLIFFE	14.4.22

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Charity number: 1174952

On the accounts for the period ended
which are set out on pages

31 March 2022
1 to 2

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and
Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

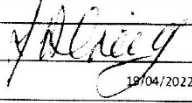
Signed:

Date:

Name:

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

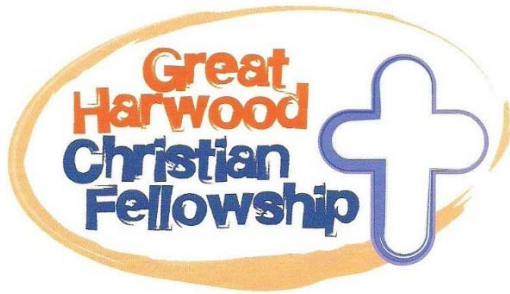
Address:


19/04/2022
JACQUELINE ANN CREIG
PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING LTD, RIBBLE COURT, 1 MEAD WAY, PADIHAM, BB12 7NG

GREAT HARWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1174952

Accounts



Great Harwood Christian Fellowship Annual Report 2021

(Covering Financial Year April 2020 – March 2021)

Charity Registration Number: 1174952

Date of Annual General Meeting : Thursday 27th May 2021

Aim and Purposes

The aim and purposes of the Church are:

- The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Great Harwood 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 or other leisure time occupation 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;
- Provided that the advancement of such purposes must be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the Doctrinal Distinctives and Ethical Statements as may be adopted and amended by the Church from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.

Objectives and Activities

GHCF promotes the Christian faith by providing a weekly programme of events which are open to everyone and provided free of charge. In particular we try and support people in their Christian faith by providing:

- Times of Worship and Prayer where the gospel message is clearly shared and believers are built up and strengthened in their faith.
- Pastoral care for those who need support.
- Information about Missionary and Outreach work – sharing the Christian gospel with others, both at home and overseas.
- Mercy ministries – helping to provide for those in need.

In order to provide these services, it is important that we maintain our property on Commercial Road, Great Harwood in accordance with all appropriate guidelines.

Achievements and Performance during 2020-2021

During normal times we aim to provide a rich blend of worship services, children's and youth work alongside dedications, baptisms and funerals. We also aim to provide support for local food banks, as well as mission and evangelism work in the UK and overseas. However, the Covid 19 pandemic has seriously restricted the range of our ministries.

Worship Services

Once we were able to re-open in a Covid 19 secure manner, we reduced our physical meetings in the building to just one Sunday morning a week. This service involved listening to worship songs, prayer and a sermon. All children's and youth work ceased apart from the occasional additional service that was run for families.

The video technology provided by Zoom was widely used. Initially for leaders meetings, then an after church fellowship, where people could freely chat after the Sunday morning 'worship at home' online worship service. It was also utilised for prayer meetings and Bible studies during the week. Another useful piece of technology was a WhatsApp group that allowed news and prayer requests to be quickly spread around the congregation. Those who struggled with technology were regularly contacted by phone and when needed, sermon manuscripts were delivered to their homes.

Dedication, Baptisms + Funerals

Despite having several babies born in the congregation, we did not perform any dedication services and we did not have any baptismal services either. However, we did hold several funeral services; one of these was conducted within the church building while the others were held at Accrington or Blackburn Crematoriums.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping and supporting other people is a central part of the Christian faith. As a church, we seek to provide help and support to local, national and international Christian initiatives.

Our local outreach team was seriously limited in its ability to offer free literature here in Great Harwood. But, we were able to continue to support a wide range of national and international ministries financially.

While the church was open it was used as a place where donations for the local food bank could be received.

Relationships with Other Churches

As an Independent Evangelical Church, we are not a part of a denomination, but this does not mean we operate in isolation. We are affiliated with the North West Partnership (NWP), a network of like-minded churches that operate in this area. The NWP runs an annual conference, minister's conferences and training days which we are able to take part in.

Our Church minister is a member of a national network, the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) and he also meets up with other local ministers both in Great Harwood and the surrounding areas. These links enable communication and cooperation to exist between us and the wider Christian family.

Volunteers

GHCF would not be able to operate without its army of volunteers who keep the building clean and tidy, perform basic maintenance and decorating, run children's and youth meetings, play musical instruments, operate the AV system, prepare refreshments, welcome people into the church, serve as Elders and Deacons and help out in a thousand other ways.

Future Plans

For the future, GHCF will continue to seek to promote the Christian faith in and around Great Harwood through the weekly provision of Church services and opportunities for people to learn more about the Bible.

Public Benefit Statement

When planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We aim to enable people to live out their faith as part of our community through worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Provision of pastoral care and Missionary and Outreach work.

Structure, governance and management

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship is an Independent Church and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The Fellowship adopts the FIEC statement of faith. Its governing document (Constitution) and its Church Handbook for members, were approved at an Annual General Meeting of the membership on 9th May 2017

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direction of worship, teaching, Bible Study meetings etc. and report to the full Leadership Team at their monthly meetings.

Policy Documents

In addition to the Constitution Document, Great Harwood Christian Fellowship has the following policies in place to ensure the health, safety and protection of church members:

Fire, Health and Safety Management

Data Protection

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The church undertakes regular reviews of each of these policies and carries out audits and training as required by named individuals.

Administrative Information

The Principal address of the charity is 15 Coleridge Place, Great Harwood
BB6 7JY

The Trustees are as follows:

Matthew Clay – Pastor

Neil Collier – Elder

Kathryn Ashworth – Deacon, Treasurer

Shirley Collier – Deacon, Secretary

Jennifer Blackmore – Deacon

Gil Ratcliffe – Deacon

Policy on Reserves

The Fellowship holds a sum of money in a Reserve Account for use in exceptional circumstances. The current level of these funds (at 31st March 2021 is £7150.91) The funds are not restricted or specifically designated for certain uses. The Trustees authorise any use of these funds when requested by the Treasurer.

Treasurers Report and Financial Statement - April 2020 – March 2021:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Balance Sheet 2020 - 2021

Cash in Bank A/c as at 31.3.20	-	3377.09	
Cash in Reserve A/c as at 31.3.20	-	7149.09	10526.18

Income 2020 - 2021

Offerings	-	44169.40	
Interest on Reserve A/c	-	1.82	
EDF Refunds (Gas & Electric)	-	496.38	
Donation for Nepal Campus Church	-	150.00	
Transferred from Reserve A/c	-	1000.00	
Donation	-	205.00	<u>46022.60</u>
			56548.78

Expenditure 2020 - 2021

Tithe (see attached)	-	4400.00	
Salary - Pastor	-	22210.48	
Expenses - Pastor	-	452.76	
Revenue & Customs	-	5049.52	
Close Backhouse	-	2456.52	
Standard Life	-	2392.50	
BT Group	-	431.24	
Good News Fellowship	-	219.75	
EDF - Gas	-	1224.00	
EDF - Electric	-	738.00	
Water Plus	-	874.97	
Amazon	-	417.24	
Pennine Fire & Safety	-	186.72	
Edward Connor Solicitors	-	1420.08	
Andrew Feeley	-	690.00	
Transferred back to Reserve A/c	-	1000.00	
Miscellaneous Invoices	-	2360.18	<u>46523.96</u>
			10024.82

Cash in Bank as at 31.3.21	-	2873.91	
Cash in Reserve A/c as at 31.3.21	-	7150.91	<u>10024.82</u>

Accounts found to be true and correct.....*C. S. R. 19/6*
Dated.....*6.5.21*.....

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Tithes 2020 - 2021

Blackburn C.A.P.	-	200.00
Samaritan's Purse	-	200.00
Slavic Gospel	-	150.00
Platform 67	-	150.00
Nepal Campus Church	-	200.00
Open Doors	-	200.00
Our Food Bank	-	100.00
Nepal Campus Church	-	400.00
Good News For All	-	200.00
North West Partnership	-	200.00
Scriptural Knowledge	-	360.00
Blackburn C.A.P.	-	240.00
Missionary Ventures	-	<u>1800.00</u>
		<u>4400.00</u>

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Miscellaneous Invoices 2020 - 2021

ICO Data Protection	-	40.00
Staples	-	89.93
Staples	-	32.23
Principle Accounting Ltd	-	396.00
Eastham Secret Gardens	-	50.00
Western Union (fees)	-	1.90
C.C.L.I.	-	489.18
Outreach Float	-	150.00
Microsoft Office	-	59.99
Western Union	-	151.90
F.I.E.C.	-	100.00
Focus On Testing	-	88.68
10ofthose.com	-	158.00
Staples	-	69.59
S.M.Haworth	-	312.00
Western Union	-	1.90
Good Book Co Ltd	-	39.88
ThirtyOneEight	-	<u>129.00</u>
		<u>2360.18</u>



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

To

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Voluntary receipts	-	-	-	-	-
Church service offertories	17,014	-	-	17,014	-
Standing orders & Faster Payments	27,155	-	-	27,155	-
All other Donations	355	-	-	355	-
Reserve account interest	2	-	-	2	-
Refunds and other income	496	-	-	496	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	45,023	-	-	45,023	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	45,023	-	-	45,023	-
A3 Payments					
Mission donations & tithes	4,400	-	-	4,400	-
Pastor Salary, expenses, pension contributions and HMRC	30,423	-	-	30,423	-
Worship, Sunday School & Mission resources	608	-	-	608	-
Church running expenses	7,465	-	-	7,465	-
Church maintenance	1,205	-	-	1,205	-
Other Payments (FIEC legal fees re CIO set up)	1,420	-	-	1,420	-
Bank fees	4	-	-	4	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	45,524	-	-	45,524	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	45,524	-	-	45,524	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 501	-	-	- 501	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,526	-	-	10,526	-
Cash funds this year end	10,025	-	-	10,025	-

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	Bank Current Account	2,874	-	-
	Reserve Account	7,151	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,025	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				

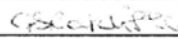
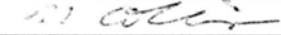
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	G.W. LATCHFORD	5/5/21
	NETH CORRIER	6/5/21

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship
Charity number: 1174952

On the accounts for the period ended
which are set out on pages

31 March 2021
1 to 2

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and
Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission;
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention
1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect
• to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
• to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records
have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

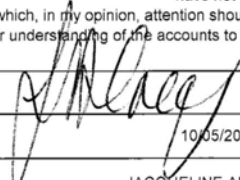
Signed:

Date:

Name:

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

Address:


10/05/2021
JACQUELINE ANN CREIG
FMAAT
PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING LTD, RIBBLE COURT, 1 MEAD WAY, PADIHAM, BB12 7NG