

Cornerstone Evangelical Church (Abergavenny)

Registered Charity – 1175258

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st March 2022

Charity Details

Name: CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH (Abergavenny)

Registered: 20 October 2017

Organisation Type: Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered purposes

The purposes of the Church are:

1. the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Abergavenny and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
2. such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church in general meeting, 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; and the advancement of education;

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.

Structure, governance and management

Cornerstone Evangelical Church is a CIO. Our governing document is the church constitution, which is approved by church members, and supported by further provisions in a church handbook, which specifies the percentage of the vote required to pass certain resolutions.

The trustees during 2021/22 were:

Andrew Cottom
Jonathan Thomas
Martin Brown
Timothy Beckingsale
Neil Holloman (elected trustee following members' vote in November 2021)

Trustees are elected by the membership of CEC, and voted upon at formally constituted members meetings. Trustees meet six times a year, with a planned structure in place to ensure appropriate governance of the charity's resources. These meetings ensure there are mechanisms in place to monitor all of our key areas of responsibility when it comes to overall management and administration of the charity, such as financial stewardship, risk management, safeguarding, data protection and health and safety.

Membership - at the start of April 2021 there were 85 formal members of CEC. Our members form the backbone of our activities, voluntarily giving up their time to serve in a number of different areas, such as bible teaching, children's work, catering, music and event planning. We hold 3-4 members meetings throughout the year, including an AGM, to keep members informed and up-to-date and to vote on relevant issues, according to the guidelines set out in our handbook.

A number of membership applications have been made in early 2022 which are going through the application process. In addition, the church continues to welcome and include a number of families and individuals in its activities who chose not to take up membership at the present time.

Staffing - To enable the church/charity to meet its purposes, it employed three members of staff for different periods during the year:-

- Pastor Jonathan Thomas – employed for the whole of the year on a full-time basis
- Teens & Twenties Worker – a part-time role, until the end of October 2021.
- Church Administrator – a part-time role, beginning November 2021.

Buildings – CEC (Abergavenny) does not own a building. The mains centres it uses are:-

- Deri View Primary School, Abergavenny – used during 2021/22 for our Sunday activities when regulations permitted. It is occupied under licence.
- Cornerstone Centre, 2/3 Horsingtons Yard, Lion Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5PN. This building is in the centre of Abergavenny and during the week is our main base for teaching, pastoral and community activities. The building is on lease to CEC (Abergavenny).

Objectives, activities and achievements

In 2021/22, the main activities through which we sought to pursue our purposes were

o **Preaching and teaching of God's word** – the Bible - to encouraging a deepening of our personal experience of God and a closer walk with Jesus as our King. At the start of the financial year, the preaching and teaching ministry of the church was conducted on-line due to the ongoing Covid situation, but as restrictions eased, there was a gradual return to in-person meetings and services. This included:-

- o Sunday morning congregational worship service as the centre point of CEC's ministry. The Cornerstone Centre proved to be a valuable resource for both the live and recorded programmes the church made during Covid restrictions, including pre-recorded music from Cornerstone musicians and singers. Sunday morning services returned to in-person from April 2021 onwards, with various safeguards in place in line with Covid legislation, such as facemasks, increased social distancing and advanced booking.
- o Sunday evening teaching service online – this has been provided as a pre-recorded service on YouTube, although halfway through the year, this service switched to Zoom, to provide a much-missed 'live' element and opportunities for interaction.
- o Community groups – these groups provide an opportunity to study God's word in small informal settings, and a chance to deepen friendships and create support networks. Some groups have chosen to remain on Zoom, while others have now returned to meeting in homes and at the Cornerstone Centre.
- o We continue to provide age-appropriate teaching of the Bible to children aged 0 to 14 at Sunday services through our crèche, Sunday School and Narnians group.
- o Daily and weekly devotionals – the pastor and various church members posted online devotionals during the spring to reach out and encourage members at home; while at Christmas we posted weekly Advent devotions.

o **Caring for each other**– the approach of the church is to encourage networks of care within its membership and attendees. These either happen naturally in an ad-hoc way from the social opportunities provided by meeting together for events and services, or in a more structured way through community groups. The Elders maintain an oversight of pastoral needs and meet twice a month. When Covid regulations allowed, pastoral visiting remained a main stay of pastoral care, either by the church pastor, Jonathan Thomas, or through other elders and church members who visit one another and regularly provide hospitality. Other events held throughout the year to provide this type of care and support included:

- o Men's walking event – a day-long hike in the Brecon Beacons in October 2021, followed by an overnight 'wild camp' to encourage fellowship and time enjoying God's creation.
- o A half-day women's retreat on the topic of 'rest', with time for prayer and reflection.
- o Community groups have the dual purpose of teaching and supporting one another.
- o A group of volunteers from our Welcome Team made phone calls during times of Covid restrictions to ensure people who were at home were supported and felt part of the church family.

o **Serve our local community.** In 2021/22, this was carried out through:-

- o Tiny Tunes – at the start of the year, this weekly session of singing rhymes and playing musical instruments for babies and pre-schoolers was provided online on YouTube.
- o Go Wild! – a monthly outdoor club for children aged 0-10, based in Castle Meadows, Abergavenny. This provided an outdoor, Covid-safe way of bringing together children from the church, their friends and visitors, accompanied by an adult, for a time of fun activities, followed by a short time of bible teaching related to the activity. At Christmas, we were also able to provide hot drinks and mince pies, and a time for conversation and socialising.
- o Due to the continuing Covid restrictions around Easter time, we made a half an hour online Easter programme which focused on the issue of how the ongoing pandemic had affected our mental health. With a very much local Abergavenny focus, the programme was designed to reach out to the local population and offer them hope and community at a difficult time.

- The Watering Hole – we hosted this monthly online Q&A programme on YouTube which looked at different topics every month that were relevant to current events or experiences that people were going through. For example, topics included anxiety, parenting, loneliness and alcoholism. Viewers were invited to submit questions for answering by an expert.
- Holiday bible club – In 2021 we were able to move our holiday bible club to in-person again. In the October half-term, we ran a half-day club at Pen y Pound football stadium for children aged 4-11, with a Tiny Tots for under 4s running concurrently at a different venue.
- Christmas nativity trail – This free, family-trail around Abergavenny was designed to tell people the Christmas story in a new and innovative way. The self-guided trail could be done at any time over the course of 10 days, and told the nativity story through hand-made decorated stars in homes and shop windows. A free pack, with chocolate, craft and a book, was available for every participant at the end of the trail.
- At Christmas we also produced another half-an-hour YouTube programme, with a strong Abergavenny focus, which aimed to reach out to those who would find it difficult to get to an in-person, traditional carol service, at a time when the Omicron strain of Covid was causing concern.
- Towards the end of the year in March 2022, we ran a series of events to reach out the local community with the hope and good news of Jesus. We held two events at a local pub, one on the search for happiness, and another on suffering. Each event was supported by live music, and were well-attended by church members and their invited guests.
- During 2021/22, we enhanced our teaching and support networks for young teens aged 10-14 through the expansion of our 'Narnians' group. They now have regular meet-ups over Friday night firepits in church members' gardens, or pizza at the Cornerstone Centre. They also took part in a fun organised overnight camp in September.

In planning these activities, the Trustees have applied the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Finance

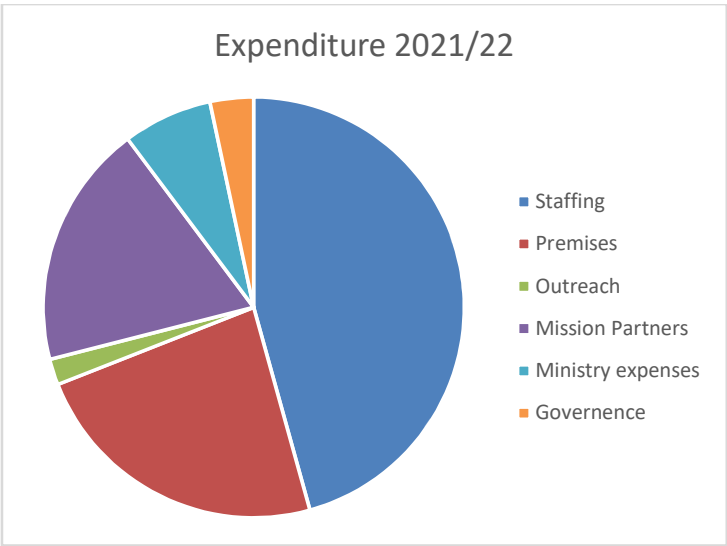
The Annual Accounts of CEC(Abergavenny) are included in this report together with the Independent Examiners Report of our accounts. The following table summarises our financial position:-

	2021/22	Previous Year
Income & Expenditure	£000's	£000's
Total Income	148	122
Total Spend	<u>125</u>	<u>128</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for year:-	23	(6)
Funds Available	31/03/22	31/03/21
	£000's	£000's
Fund Balances	138	115

Overall income was significantly up on last year due to the generous Ukraine appeal in February 2022 (10k) and some one-off gifts to the church (8k) as well as an increase in the monthly giving over the course of the year. This increase in the monthly giving has allowed the church to budget for the employment of a youth worker during the coming year.

The graph below gives an analysis of the main areas of spend demonstrating that staffing and accommodation including equipment, represents the majority of our costs. This is consistent with our purpose with staffing and accommodation being the main enablers of our purpose. Missionary giving is normally closer to 10% of income but has been skewed by the Ukraine Appeal.

GRAPH – Distribution of costs in 2021/22



There are no material liabilities recorded in the accounts.

This Report was approved by the Trustees on 14th September 2022

and is signed on their behalf by

Neil Holloman (Chair of Trustees)



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TO THE TRUSTEES OF CORNERSTONE EVANGELICALCHURCH

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. 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;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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.

Paul Burnell

Paul Burnell ACMI
For and on behalf of:
C Management Services (trading name of C Mgmt Services Ltd)
69 Velindre Road
Cardiff CF14 2TF

18th July 2022

CORNERSTONE EVANGELICALCHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
RECEIPTS					
<i>Receipts from generated funds</i>	2	147,601	-	147,601	121,543
<i>Receipts from charitable activities</i>	3	-	-	-	-
<i>Other receipts</i>	4	227	-	227	175
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Total Receipts		147,828	-	147,828	121,718
PAYMENTS					
Charitable activities	5	125,150	-	125,150	127,557
Governance costs		-	-	-	-
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Total payments		125,150	-	125,150	127,557
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Net Receipts/(Payments)		22,678	-	22,678	(5,839)
Transfers between funds					
Fund balances at 1 st April 2021		99,448	15,660	115,108	120,947
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Fund balances at 31 st March 2022		122,126	15,660	137,786	115,108
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The notes on pages 8-9 form part of these accounts.

CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

1. Fixed Assets

Insurance
Value 2022
£

The value of assets owned are:

Equipment	92,691
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2. Bank & Cash Balances


	2022 £	2021 £
Investments	69,414	69,345
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>68,372</u>	<u>45,763</u>
	137,786	115,108

3. Other Assets and Liabilities

	2022 £	2021 £
<i>Assets</i>		
Gift aid tax recovery not yet received	7,288	-
<i>Liabilitie</i>		
Unbilled fee for Independent Examination	350	350

The accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 14th September 2022.

Neil Holloman (Chair of Trustees)



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The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis with a statement of assets and liabilities

2. Voluntary receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Gift Aid donations	96,544	-	96,544	84,980
Other donations	29,369	-	29,369	14,837
Tax recovered	21,689	-	21,689	21,726
	<u>147,602</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>147,602</u>	<u>121,543</u>

3. Receipts from charitable activities

Conferences and events	-	-	-	-
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4. Other Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Grant received				-
Investment income	74	-	74	86
Other sundry receipts	153	-	153	89
	<u>227</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>227</u>	<u>175</u>

5. Charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Salaries, pensions and expenses	57,400	-	57,400	73,200
Foodbank	-	-	-	-
Outreach	3,138	-	3,138	1,985
Worship	596	-	596	-
Youth	-	-	-	-
Pulpit supply	1,625	-	1,625	575
Grants & donations (note 5c)	23,328	-	23,328	12,949
	<u>86,087</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,087</u>	<u>88,709</u>

b. Support and Administration

Printing, postage, stationery & equipment	4,324	-	4,324	6,245
Rent and other property bills	29,429	-	29,429	28,051
Catering	129	-	129	170
Insurance	2,155	-	2,155	1,757
Fees & subscriptions	1,766	-	1,766	1,396
Website & software	150	-	150	749
Miscellaneous	1,110	-	1,110	480
	<u>39,063</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,063</u>	<u>38,848</u>

Institutions	Individuals	2022	2021
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c. Grants
Organisations
Individuals

£	£	£	£
4,020	-	4,020	4,949
17,373	1,935	19,308	8,000
21,393	1,935	23,328	12,949

6. Staff and Trustees

The charity has two employed staff members, one of which is part-time and the other full-time. Its activities are generally carried out by volunteers. No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum.

The pastor, Jonathan Thomas received a salary of £38,166 in his capacity as pastor of the church.

No remuneration or trustee expenses were paid to any other trustee during the year, nor to any person connected to them.

7. Funds

The restricted funds represent amounts received for specific purposes and the movements in the year areas follows:

	Opening Balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers in the year £	Closing balance £
Building	15,274	-	-	-	15,274
Close Encounters	386	-	-	-	386
	15,660	-	-	-	15,660