



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	04	2022	To	31	03 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Pemberton Free Grace Church, Wigan		
Other names charity is known by			
Registered charity number (if any)	1179175		
Charity's principal address	Jireh Chapel, Chapel Street, Orrell Road, Orrell, Wigan		
Postcode	WN5 0AG		

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Matthew Gray	Pastor & Elder		General Members' Meeting
2	Richard Waller	Deacon & Church Secretary		General Members' Meeting
3	Raymond Trainer	Overseeing Elder		General Members' Meeting
4	Trevor Condry	Overseeing Elder		General Members' Meeting
5				
6				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable incorporated organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by General Members' Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

There have been no major incidents or accidents during the period covered by this report.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance the Christian faith in accordance with our Basis of Faith primarily within Pemberton, Wigan and the surrounding area.
This also can include other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the members of the Church, put into practice the Christian faith including 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 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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

This year was the first year for a few years where none of the months of the year, either at the beginning or towards the end, were affected by restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic. The church was therefore able to conduct its activities with a large degree of 'normality' again, for the first time in a good while.

Therefore as a church we have prioritised our efforts towards holding services of worship in our premises, which we did for all 52 Sundays of the year, holding services both on Sunday mornings at 10:45am and Sunday evenings at 6:00pm. This regular holding of services both morning and evening has been of benefit to many people every week, and at times ones who were not able to attend in the morning in a given week were instead able to attend on Sunday evening.

We also have held regular Wednesday evening meetings, for Bible study and prayer, and this is the time when many people who have expressed desire for us to pray for them, are prayed for by the church. This has been of particular importance to people who have been in physical or emotional need.

We continued to use Rehoboth chapel for our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening meetings, as it could more comfortably accommodate a larger congregation.

During this year we also invested considerable effort in maintaining our regular programme of activities, including our Oasis craft and coffee morning group on Tuesdays, and the English Club to help asylum seekers to learn English, on Fridays. We also held a number of regular 'Walk and Talk' events on Saturdays monthly, as part of our church programme, giving people opportunity for exercise and friendship whilst enjoying open countryside. All these activities have meant that we were able to cater more specifically for a wider number of people in our community.

For those who were more cautious, or unable to attend our meetings physically, we have continued to provide recordings of our Sunday morning service each week, either uploaded to our church website, or distributed locally door to door on CDs.

We have also advertised our worship to the general public via our website, as well as using social media, notice boards on the outside of the buildings, leaflets, fliers, and word of mouth. The Church advances Christian religion by the preaching of the Gospel, and dissemination of literature and word of mouth conversations, as well as information on our website and social media. On occasions throughout the summer we held a 'literature table' outreach near shops in the local community in Kitt Green.

The church has continued to provide pastoral support to persons and practical help to those with whom it has come into contact who are in need. Restrictions having been lifted, more of this has been face-to-face, although it has also continued on the telephone. Funerals were also conducted by the pastor physically. Our pastor was also able to go back into a local school more regularly in order to conduct assemblies, in the heart of the local community.

A number of special events and occasions have also been held, along with visiting speakers of interest travelling from further afield. Such events included a Passover Demonstration with visitor from Tel Aviv, Israel – as well as missionary presentations about work overseas in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Bible translation. The church has financially supported the work of Christian organisations that work in the UK and overseas.

Visiting preachers came from a good number of places, including Scotland, Yorkshire, Birmingham and Cumbria as well as more locally. And we also hosted a trainee minister from Reading, who came to participate in the work alongside our pastor, for 9 days during the year.

We have continued to play a very active role in a Lancashire region fellowship of churches, and have both hosted and attended combined church events and meetings of this regional fellowship.

When planning and carrying out our activities, the trustees confirm that they have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the guidance for charities which are primarily concerned with the advancement of religion.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Our activities are carried out by both those who are paid employees, and those within the church who (when they are able) act as volunteers. Our church in its covenant of membership encourages the involvement of members in the active support of the church in its aims and objectives, not just by giving financially but by their active personal involvement as volunteers. Those who are volunteers, where it is appropriate, will have had the necessary DBS checks and suitability for their roles is assessed, according to role descriptions in our Safeguarding policy.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The church has provided:

- A suitable place of worship for persons in our locality to physically attend, in every week of the year.
- Weekly Christian worship services and teaching meetings which are also open to the public.
- Services of worship and prayer, on both Sunday mornings and evening, as well as Wednesday evenings, for all who wished to attend, held at Rehoboth chapel.
- Information in the form of a letter, along with a Christian tract, distributed to over 2,000 homes in the local area around Easter 2022 and in the week leading up to Christmas, 2022.
- For those not able to attend our regular services, we made audio recordings of our services and distributed them either via CD in the local area to those who wanted them.
- We also made audio recordings of our weekly Sunday services, and uploaded audio recordings of our services each week to our church website, which is available to the general public.
- Additional posts and videos were made available to the general public, such as on our Facebook page.
- Other regular outreach activities to accommodate more particular groups, such as Ladies Meetings, or for those whose first language is not English.

Performance:

- Attendance at our worship services has been maintained at good levels, for much of the time we saw congregations at levels similar to or even exceeding the levels before the pandemic in 2019.
- At our services of worship, members of the public who are not currently members of the church have been regularly present. This we believe is important in the continuance of our work.
- We have also added to our membership throughout the year, with others also expressing an interest in joining, which is encouraging.
- The church has been reaching into the local community in a number of places and ways including local shopping areas, door to door, and in local schools, in addition to what is done on its own premises.
- We have continued to seek to maintain our premises to suitable standards, commissioning a survey of necessary repairs along with seeking plans from a contractor to quote for works to be done as soon as funding is available.
- Despite the increasing utility prices, we have been able to provide a warm space for people to meet in at all of the meetings of the church throughout the year, in all weathers, using our resources and the heating systems we have available.
- We have also done a review and implementation of our Fire Safety policy, in order to maintain standards in this area.
- This past year the overall income was at a surplus over expenditure. However, the financial position of the charity remains one where without a significant external grant being given, we would be operating at a deficit. Nevertheless, we have seen an increase in regular giving to the church over this year, and that is an encouraging sign.

Section E

Financial review

99

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our aim as a charity is to look to keep at least six months' income in our reserves (approx £13,500). At present, the level of our reserves is higher than this (circa £27,000). Although the church is currently operating at a small surplus, this surplus is due to an external grant being given, without which we would be in deficit. The reserves are therefore at a reasonable level, because they are required to meet our projected financial obligations in the coming year.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N / A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	M. T. Gray	R. M. Waller
Full name(s)	Matthew Tarus Gray	Richard Melvyn Waller
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Secretary
Date	20 th September 2023	

Pemberton Free Grace Church
Receipts and Payments Accounts
April 1st 2022 - March 31st 2023

A1 RECEIPTS

	Unrestricted Funds to the nearest £	Restricted Funds to the nearest £	Total to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<i>General Offering</i>	21,797		21,797	17,236
<i>Donations</i>	19,823	6,694	26,517	5,331
<i>Bank Interest</i>	146	7	153	18
<i>Refunds for Costs Incurred</i>	43		43	108
<i>Gift Aid Claim</i>	4,119		4,119	3,928
Donations to Fellowship Fund				37
Building Fund				196
GBM box		5		
Harvest Offering		371		139
Gifts for Earthquake relief		300		155
Income for LRBF		120		
<i>Total Earmarked Income</i>		796	796	528
<i>Total receipts</i>	45,928	7,497	53,426	27,149

A3 PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds to the nearest £	Restricted Funds to the nearest £	Total to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Salaries& pension	25,893			25,706
Office Expenses	460			572
Travelling Expenses	364			438
Conference Expenses	413			155
Other preachers	770			605
Miscellaneous expenses				43
<i>Total Ministry</i>	27,899		27,899	27,519
Utilities	3,813			1,656
Repairs and Maintenance	339			261
<i>Total Jireh Building</i>	4,152		4,152	1,916
Utilities	5,324			1,153
Repairs and Maintenance	2,462			6,288
<i>Total Rehoboth Building</i>	7,787		7,787	7,441
<i>Building Supplies</i>	54		54	246
<i>Buildings Project</i>	250	5,723	5,972	
<i>Evangelism</i>	580		580	604
Insurance	1,359			2,648
Other	1,454			1,548
<i>Total Other Expenses</i>	2,813		2,813	4,196
<i>Gifts to Missions</i>	1,940		1,940	2,250
Harvest gift		371		139
Gift to Barnabus Aid for Earthquake relief		300		155
Fellowship Fund		60		30
GBM		5		
LRBF		15		
<i>Total Earmarked Expenditure</i>		751		324
<i>Total Payments</i>	45,474	6,474	51,948	44,497
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	454	1,023	1,477	-17,348
A5 Transfers between Funds	-20	20		
A6 Fund balances last year end	24,594	1,105	25,699	43,047
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	25,028	2,148	27,176	25,699

Pemberton Free Grace Church
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash Funds	Unrestricted Funds to the nearest £	Restricted Funds to the nearest £
General Fund	25,028	0
Fellowship Fund	0	242
Building Fund	0	443
Ronovation Fund	0	971
LRBF holding Fund(Formerly WLRBF)	0	491
Total Cash Funds	25,028	2,148

B4 Assets retained for the charities own use

	Fund to which asset belongs
Fixtures and fittings	General
Office equipment	General
Kitchen equipment	General
Hymn books and bibles	General

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to relevant trusts) of the following properties,
the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee -

Grace Baptist Trust Corporation and The Trustees of Rehoboth Chapel, Pemberton.

Jireh Chapel	£	65,000	on 18/06/18
Rehoboth Chapel	£	120,000	on 29/10/18

The above valuations represent market value as assessed by Parkinson Real Estate on the dates shown

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
M. Gray	Matthew Gray	23/07/23
R. M. Waller	Richard Waller	23/07/23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of PEMBERTON	Charity Name PEMBERTON FREE GRACE CHURCH WIGAN		
On accounts for the year ended	31 MARCH 2023	Charity no (if any)	1179175
Set out on pages	7 & 8 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: W A Harrison Date: 15 AUGUST 2023

Name: WILLIAM ARCHIE HARRISON

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

Address: APARTMENT 37 BRUNLEES COURT
19-23 CAMBRIDGE ROAD
SOUTHPORT MERSEYSIDE PR9 9DH

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.