



Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
		Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	04	2023	To	31	03	2024

## 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
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### 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.

We have a Serious Incident Reporting Policy which was updated in May 2023.

We undertook some Fire Safety training for volunteers in May 2023.

We had two incidences of break-in and minor thefts in April and May 2023, which we reported to the police. In response we also increased our physical security by installing metal grilles onto some of the concealed windows. We also applied to an eligible government scheme for help with protective security, from which we are awaiting a reply.

We regularly reviewed and renewed our Safeguarding checks and awareness with volunteers and leaders, as well as our Safeguarding policy.

## 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, thankfully, was one in which we were able to carry out our activities as a church freely and without major hindrance.

As a church we continued to prioritise 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 has been of benefit to a good number of people throughout the year, and we saw a significant increase in attendance at our Sunday services particularly from around November 2023 onwards.

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

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.

Also beginning in April 2023, we commenced a children's after-school club for children aged 4-12 years, called Friday Club. This aims to provide a safe and happy environment in which children are able to do fun games and activities, as well as learn interesting and important lessons from the Bible together. This has benefitted a number of children (and parents!) from our local community. 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 are unable to easily get out and 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 by our pastor. This has been valuable contact and ministry to those who are reached by it.

We have also advertised our church, its activities and 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. On occasions throughout the summer we held a 'literature table' outreach around shops in the local community precincts.

The church has continued to provide pastoral support and practical help to those with whom it has come into contact, who are in need. In addition, to this, wedding services were conducted by the pastor for persons who wished to be married in our chapel, which is licensed for weddings.

Our pastor was also able to go into a local school regularly 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 missionary presentations about work overseas in Mongolia and Albania, a Gospel Church Day Conference with visiting speakers, as well as musical evenings with a singer/songwriter. We also held special fellowship lunches for our church anniversary weekend and Christmas carol service. The church has financially supported the work of Christian organisations that work in the UK and overseas.

Our premises at Rehoboth chapel are used regularly, and we commissioned some contractors to undertake some considerable vital maintenance work on the building, so that it remains safe and suitable for public use.

We have continued to play a very active role in a Lancashire regional 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.
- 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.
- Regular outreach in the form of the Oasis group, a drop-in coffee morning with craft and baby-toddler facilities, for anyone in the local community to attend freely.
- Commencing a regular children's after-school activity club on Fridays, for children in the local community.
- Other regular outreach activities to accommodate more particular groups, such as Ladies Meetings, or for those whose first language is not English.

Performance:

- Average attendance at our worship services has increased significantly during the year in question.
- 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 and in local schools, and on its website, in addition to what is done on its own premises.
- We have continued to maintain our premises to suitable standards, employing a contractor to undertake significant maintenance and repairs.
- 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 continued to review our policies and procedures during the year, updating a number of them.
- This past year the accounts showed a small deficit over the course of the year. The financial position of the charity remains one where, without significant external grants being given, we would be operating at a larger deficit. However, our resources do enable us to continue our operation – with the aim that our increased membership and ongoing efforts will see the work continue to be funded, and grow in the years to come.

## Section E

## Financial review

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### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our aim as a charity is to look to keep at least six months' general income in our reserves (approx £14,000). At present, the level of our reserves is higher than this (circa £26,000). However, the reserves are at a reasonable level, because given the running deficit, these reserves are not being spent quickly, as they required in order to meet our projected financial obligations into the foreseeable future.

### 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.

We received a considerable grant during the year, from the trustees of a former chapel in the North West of England, which had closed and was recently sold. These monies were specifically earmarked for the necessary repairs and maintenance of Rehoboth chapel.

## 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	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	

**Pemberton Free Grace Church**  
**Receipts and Payments Accounts**  
**April 1st 2023 - March 31st 2024**

**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>	23,360		23,360	21,797
<i>Donations</i>	14,790		14,790	26,517
<i>Donation for Renovation Project</i>		56,000	56,000	
<i>Bank Interest</i>	507	425	933	153
<i>Ladies Bible Study Books</i>	36		36	43
<i>Gift Aid Claim (2022-23)</i>	5,236		5,236	4,119
Donations to Fellowship Fund		186		
Grace Baptist Mission				5
Harvest Offering				371
Gifts for Earthquake Relief				300
Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship				120
<i>Total Earmarked Income</i>		186	186	796
<i>Total receipts</i>	43,929	56,611	100,540	53,426

**A3 PAYMENTS**

	Unrestricted Funds to the nearest £	Restricted Funds to the nearest £	Total to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
Salaries & pension	27,293			25,893
Office Expenses	450			460
Travelling Expenses	286			364
Conference Expenses	213			413
Other preachers	875			770
Miscellaneous expenses				
<i>Total Ministry</i>	29,117		29,117	27,899
Utilities	4,456			3,813
Repairs and Maintenance	483			339
<i>Total Jireh Building</i>	4,939		4,939	4,152
Utilities	6,561			5,324
Repairs and Maintenance	349			2,462
<i>Total Rehoboth Building</i>	6,910		6,910	7,787
<i>Rehoboth Renovation Project</i>		53,737	53,737	5,972
<i>Building Supplies</i>	90		90	54
<i>Evangelism</i>	293		293	580
Insurance	1,515			1,359
Other	2,348			1,454
<i>Total Other Expenses</i>	3,863		3,863	2,813
<i>Gifts to Missions</i>	2,600		2,600	1,940
Harvest gift				371
Gift to Barnabus Aid for Earthquake relief				300
Fellowship Fund				60
Grace Baptist Mission				5
Lancashire Reformed Baptist Fellowship		96		15
<i>Total Earmarked Expenditure</i>		96	96	751
<i>Total Payments</i>	47,812	53,833	101,645	51,948
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	-3,883	2,778	-1,105	1,477
<b>A5 Transfers between Funds</b>				
<b>A6 Fund balances last year end</b>	25,028	2,148	27,176	
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	21,145	4,926	26,071	

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

<b>B1 Cash Funds</b>	Unrestricted Funds to the nearest £	Restricted Funds to the nearest £
General Fund	21,146	0
Fellowship Fund	0	428
Building Fund	0	459
Renovation Fund	0	3,644
LRBF holding Fund (Formerly WLRBF)	0	395
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>21,146</b>	<b>4,926</b>

**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	18 / 08 / 2024
R. M. Waller	Richard Waller	18 / 08 / 2024





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Pemberton Free Grace Church CIO

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1179175

Set out on pages

7 and 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2024.

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 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.

Signed: W.A. Harrison

Date: 02 / 09 / 2024

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

No matters of concern.