

## **Annual Report for the Financial Year ending 31 August 2024**

### **LEASIDE CHURCH WARE - 1181223**

**Leaside Walk, East Street, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9BT**

#### **Trustees at 31 August 2024**

Ernest Bossé, Stephen Brazier, Wendy Cooper, Gill Davis, Christine Edwards, Julia Gristwood, Tony Gubb, Pauline Pickering, Elizabeth Stockdale, Graham Watson.

#### **Structure**

The charity structure reflects the two Christian denominations comprising Leaside Church (the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church). Trustees are the members of the Church Council which meets bi-monthly. Each is elected by Church Meeting to serve for three years, after which they may stand down or be eligible for re-election. Church Meeting of all members is held three times a year, one of which is the AGM when Trustees are appointed.

#### **Activities, achievements and performance**

Leaside has a reputation as a welcoming and caring church. Throughout the year, it continued to advance the Christian faith, living out discipleship in worship, teaching and mission. It endeavoured to ensure its charitable purpose was carried out in new, inclusive and relevant ways. Leaside works closely with other churches in Ware and participates in united services, including for the Week of Christian Unity, Good Friday, World Day of Prayer, and Remembrance Sunday.

#### *Enabling the celebration of public worship, open to all*

The church was open for public worship throughout the year with the option to join by Zoom remaining. Existing audio-visual facilities were upgraded. Services continued to be varied and well supported, with an increasing number attending regularly.

#### *Giving pastoral support to the congregation, those on the fringes of the church family and others in the wider community as needs are made known*

Throughout the year, the minister and group of pastoral carers ensured regular contact, especially with those in the congregation in particular need, and more widely. The minister and pastoral carers met together regularly.

#### *Providing facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, particularly through the weekly community drop-in, including bereavement support*

An increasing variety and number of groups continued to use the premises during the week, including the Kindergarten.

Particularly appreciated was the very popular weekly community drop-in, with refreshments, bric-a-brac, and 'The Listening Place' for those in need of bereavement support. Regular visitors included a group of special needs young adults with their carers. It remained a very well supported and worthwhile part of the church's outreach to the community. We appreciated the concern shown by the Police Community Support Officer who visits regularly.

Basic safety measures were kept in place for all users of the premises.

*Involvement of members in a number of different outreach activities in the town including Street Pastors, Ware Food Bank, and Fairtrade Town.*

Supported by the church, members of the congregation continued to be very actively involved during the year, particularly with the increasing need for the Food Bank.

*Holding community fundraising events*

In December we hosted the Ware Christmas Tree Festival, with a wide variety of community groups, including schools, and a range of organisations, bringing a tree to display. The Prayer Tree gave visitors opportunity to add their concerns.

During Ware Carnival in July we held our popular Strawberry Tea.

Charitable donations were received on both occasions.

*Enabling support to other charities in the UK, including local initiatives, and overseas.*

Collections for charity were taken during the monthly Holy Communion services and on other occasions as appropriate.

### **Future plans**

The church will seek the guidance and support of Synod staff as it considers where its future mission is leading.

Consideration will be given to employing a caretaker, and a Mission Enabler, with funding support from the wider Ecumenical Area.

## Leaside Church Meeting 17.03.2024

### Minutes

**Present:** Graham Watson; Wendy Cooper; Christine Edwards; Julia Gristwood; Gill Davis; Stephen Brazier, Chris Tilbury, Heather Twidle, Ed O'Connor, Mary Pick, Christine Davison, Rosemary Stannard, John Seager, Pam Pentney, Tony Gubb, Keith Street, Jennifer Cameron, Marion Darville, Doreen Green, Rev Jo Clare-Young, Pauline Pickering (Minutes and chair)

**Apologies:** Elizabeth Stockdale, Rev. Ernie Bossé, John Amos, Robyn Bossé, Chris Winney, Alison Brazier.

**Opening Devotions:** Pauline led in a prayer for guidance.

**Minutes of meeting 05.11.2023.** Accepted

#### **Matters Arising and notice of AOB:**

None

*(the focus of the meeting is Mission and Purpose so the usual agenda will not apply)*

**Welcome Rev. Jo Clare-Young:** Jo introduced herself as a URC minister who is currently responsible for Training and Mission at URC Synod. She is currently visiting all the Churches in the region to talk about mission and going forward. She used the Bible story from John 21 'cast your net on the other side'.

Jo asked the Church to concentrate on firstly what is working well and not to fall into the trap of doing what we've always done. She stressed that individuals can't do this alone, that we are a team.

Jo then asked the meeting to focus on what we are currently good at:

Tuesday mornings for coffee, bereavement support and Bric a Brac.

Very friendly

Supportive

We are a family

Good buildings in a good location

High usage and broad networks

Charitable

Community events – Christmas Tree Festival, Strawberry Tea.

Part of the community

Commitment to worship

Solid worship team

Zoom

Rev Ernie Bossé and his wife Robyn

Jo then asked us to think about what we can do more of to utilize the talents we have, what can we build on? What are we enthusiastic about?

God and sharing God's Love

Less talking and more doing and being

Our organist

What is currently happening in our town? We need to go out into the deep waters which is going to be scary. Over the next few weeks we need to look around and sharpen our awareness of what would benefit our town. Prayer is a good place to start.

In the John reading the disciples called in the other boats to help them with the catch. What are other Churches doing and doing well. How can we complement each other.

Perhaps smaller groups could get together to map the town and identify where we can be of service.

God will provide Time, Money and Personnel.

Perhaps a permanent prayer tree in the town?

Practical help for people. Mobile Laundrette?

Jo asked if we had three wishes as a church:

A caretaker

Enthusiasm

More people

Possibly employ someone for mission and outreach

Time for God offers opportunities to gap year students – this might be something to look into.

Someone to liaise with local groups

Talk to people.

Closer links with Leaside Under Fives Kindergarten.

We need to hear the voice on the beach, and to allow ourselves to stop and admire the view, then get together with ideas. It is suggested that smaller groups are formed to look at the way forward in more specific detail.

Meeting closed at 12.45 with a vote of thanks to Jo.

Next Meeting: April 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm Council.

# **Leaside Church**

## **End of Year Financial Statements**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

• **Statement of Financial Activities**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations	1,877	—	—	1,877	586
Investments	5,394	—	—	5,394	240,789
Other income	19,359	9,530	—	28,889	12,380
Offerings	31,429	—	—	31,429	29,980
Manse	346	—	—	346	32,572
Lettings	33,657	—	—	33,657	32,436
Development Scheme	—	—	—	—	—
Spec Collections	—	430	—	430	838
Fund Raising	3,258	—	—	3,258	3,384
Communion Fund	—	971	—	971	467
<b>Total income</b>	<b>95,323</b>	<b>10,932</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>106,255</b>	<b>353,434</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Other expenditure	4,634	5,000	—	9,634	3,243
Ministry	21,000	—	—	21,000	18,000
Manse	346	—	—	346	23,620
Mission	382	—	—	382	893
Church	—	—	—	—	—
Halls	—	—	—	—	—
Development Scheme	—	12,384	—	12,384	6,349
Building Maintenance	27,245	—	—	27,245	24,540
Worship	367	—	—	367	2,088
Communion Fund	—	833	—	833	426
Utilities	22,196	—	—	22,196	14,598
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>76,172</b>	<b>18,217</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>94,390</b>	<b>93,759</b>
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>19,150</b>	<b>(7,285)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11,865</b>	<b>259,675</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>					
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>19,150</b>	<b>(7,285)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11,865</b>	<b>259,675</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>171,111</b>	<b>(215,815)</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>195,296</b>	<b>(64,379)</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>190,262</b>	<b>(223,100)</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>207,161</b>	<b>195,296</b>
<b>Represented by</b>					
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General fund	74,961	—	—	74,961	65,811
<b>Designated</b>					
Building Contingency	5,000	—	—	5,000	5,000
Development	100,300	—	—	100,300	100,300
Legacy	10,000	—	—	10,000	—
Petty Cash	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Restricted</b>					
Communion Fund	—	178	—	178	41
Development Fund	—	(248,760)	—	(248,760)	(236,376)
IA TRUST	—	15,948	—	15,948	11,418
Manse Fund	—	8,952	—	8,952	8,952
Special Collections	—	580	—	580	149
<b>Endowment</b>					
Isabel Adams transfer	—	—	240,000	240,000	240,000

## Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
<b>Current assets</b>			
5000	HSBC Current Account	18,733	24,478
5025	Cash in Hand	—	—
5050	Barclays Current Account	—	2,184
5100	CFB Deposit Account	188,427	168,633
5150	Petty Cash	—	—
	<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>207,161</b>	<b>195,296</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
8000	Eastern Synod loan	—	—
8100	HAEBEA Loan	—	—
8200	Congregation Loans - 1 year	—	—
8300	Congregation Loans - 2 years	—	—
8400	Congregation Loans - 3 years	—	—
8500	Congregation Loans - 5 years	—	—
8600	Congregation Loans - 10 years	—	—
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
	<b>Net Asset surplus(deficit)</b>	<b>207,161</b>	<b>195,296</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	11,865	259,675
Z01	Starting balances	195,296	(64,379)
	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>207,161</b>	<b>195,296</b>
	<b>Represented by funds</b>		
	Unrestricted	74,961	65,811
	Designated	115,300	105,300
	Restricted	(223,100)	(215,815)
	Endowment	240,000	240,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>207,161</b>	<b>195,296</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
<b>Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand</b>						
HSBC Current Account -	35,509	(150)	(16,625)	—	18,733	24,478
Barclays Current Account -	—	—	—	—	—	2,184
CFB Deposit Account -	39,602	115,300	33,524	—	188,427	168,633
Petty Cash -	(150)	150	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>74,961</b>	<b>115,300</b>	<b>16,899</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>207,161</b>	<b>195,296</b>
<b>Liabilities - Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year</b>						
Eastern Synod loan -	—	—	240,000	(240,000)	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>(240,000)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>74,961</b>	<b>115,300</b>	<b>(223,100)</b>	<b>240,000</b>	<b>207,161</b>	<b>195,296</b>

Note1 IA TRUST restricted fund is allocated to Ware Food Bank





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Leaside Church

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1181223

Set out on pages

(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 31/08/2023

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:

C. J. Errington

Date:

OCT. 16th 2023

Name:

CHRISTOPHER ERRINGTON.

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

NONE

Address:

86, STANSTEAD ROAD

HERTFORD

SG13 7HY



## 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.

Report to the trustees members of		On accounts for the year ended	Set out on pages
Leaside Church		31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	
Charity no. (if any)	1181223		
<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (the Trust) for the year ended 31/08/2023.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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(2)(b) of the Act.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the accounts do not accord with the accounting records</li> <li>the accounts do not accord with the accounting records</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</p>			
Signed:		Name:	
C. J. E. A.		CHRISTOPHER EPHRAIM	
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):		None	
Address:		86, STANSTED ROAD HEPTON S17 2JY	