

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD:**  
**01.01.2023 TO: 31.12.2023**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Charity name:** Life Church Lichfield

**Charity address:** Netherstowe, Lichfield, WS13 6TS

**Charity registration number:** 1182297

**Names of the charity Trustees:**

Trustee Name	Office	Comment
Steve Speight	Chair	Trustee in 2023 and still today.
Wendy Williamson	Trustee	Trustee in 2023 and still today.
Mark Andrews	Finance	Trustee in 2023 and still today.
Juliet Smithson	Secretary	Trustee in 2023 and still today.
Leah Chilengwe		Trustees from 22 January 2024
James Terry		Trustee from 22 January 2024

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Type of governing document:** CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)  
Constitution adopted 01.07.2019.

**How the charity is constituted:** The CIO members are the Senior Leadership Team.

**Trustee Appointment:** New senior leaders are appointed by current senior leaders as per the constitution.

There is a safeguarding policy in place. DBS checks are carried out prior to commencement of employment, trusteeship or relevant volunteer work and renewed every three years. Life Church Lichfield is a member of Thirty One: Eight who provide support and guidance for safeguarding matters.

Life Church Lichfield is affiliated with The Pioneer Network of churches, who provide helpful advice, leadership and accountability.

Life Church Lichfield has a leadership structure, which includes Senior Leaders, Core Team Leaders, Team Leaders and a Church Manager to carry out the day to day requirements of the church.

Trustees of the charity give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits, with the exception of the Minister Steve Speight who is employed.

Bankers for the charity are The Co-operative Bank, PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document:** The Object of the Church is for the advancement of the Christian faith and for public benefit.

**Summary of the main activities in relation to those are identified in the accounts.** The overall programme of worship and community activity is shown below:

- Worship, communion, and family services for all continued during 2023 as we welcomed many new faces into the congregation.
- Programmes for children and young people continued to grow and empower the younger generation.
- Life Groups continue to be the real connecting point of Life Church as people gathered in homes around the city during the week. Currently 12 groups meet.
- Alpha continues as our introduction to faith of new people from the community and beyond.
- Lunch Club reached out once again to those who would normally eat alone, in the pursuit of reducing isolation.
  
- Specifically in 2023 the below was initiated or developed.
  - We celebrated everyone who serves in Life Church with a Celebration meal in April with 70 people attending
  - We held 3 'Love Life' Sundays to welcome people in and develop friendship with the church
  - Saltmine theatre company visited 2 schools with their presentation 'rhyming bible'
  - Saltmine also presented their Christmas play 'Peter Pan' with over 300 non church people attending.
  - Schools work rapidly expanded during the year under the leadership of Connor our youth worker.
  - We extended the hours of our Y&K worker and Church Manager
  - In May we organised a BIG Lunch to celebrate the Coronation.
  - In June we ran a Missions evening – with Release International
  - £70,000 was sent to further extend school building in Kenya
  - We did a number of small alterations on the building including our Led lighting extended.
  - Summer Coffee-Mornings were held on the car park to welcome the neighbourhood to us.
  - New 'one off' Worship Evenings were introduced in July & October
  - Two teenagers were sponsored to join a youth training programme called Amplify
  - Our annual Leadership retreat was held welcoming 30 people for the day.

- We ran Christmas events and handed out a number of Christmas hampers to local families.

**Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit:**

The church aims to continue to:

- Provide space for worship and connection.
- Contribute to the spiritual and moral education of children & young people.
- Contribute to a better society by the provision of a lunch club to reduce social isolation and a toddler group to promote social cohesion.
- Provide comfort to the bereaved.

**Contribution made by volunteers:** A great contribution is made by our partners and volunteers. We are grateful for the many hours which volunteers have spent to enable the charity to fulfil its purpose with all generations of our community. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise we would not have been able to achieve so much.

**Grant-making Policy:** The Trustees alongside the Finance Team decide upon individuals and organisations that are to receive financial support out of the charity's assets.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole:

- The Saltmine Theatre Company were in 2 schools with their presentation of the Rhyming bible.
- Alpha welcomed many new people to explore the Christian faith.
- Three Love Life Sundays held in January, June and September.
- Weekly Youth and Children's activities AND a weekend at Whitemoor Lakes.
- Lunch Club – weekly serving in excess of 40 local people.
- The building continues to be well utilised by outside organisations:  
For example: The model railway club, NHS, Foodbank, keep fit, U3A

Approximately 100 people are listed as serving on Church rotas during 2023

## **FUTURE PLANS**

We continue to aim our focus on discipleship and mission over the next years. This will be achieved primarily through our series of LIFE GROUPS. The plan is to be a church

that is not simply 'Sunday-centric' but develop faith and mission all week, through the Life Groups, which we are continuing to develop with more groups and greater connection. We will continue to invest time and training to the Life Groups and their hosts to see this develop and fulfil the vision of Life Church.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

**Reserves Policy:** This is the church's policy to hold a minimum equivalent to four month's expenditure and a maximum of eight month's expenditure, excluding any designated funds, so as to enable it to continue operating during a short-term downturn in its income, or to allow a period of restructuring should a longer-term downturn occur. However this is an Unrestricted Fund and can be accessed if deemed necessary.

This amounts to a min of an estimated £50,000 for the period of this report. Actual Unrestricted cash reserves held on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were £121,910.

**Investment Selection Policy:** The church currently only invests in cash deposits with UK banks.

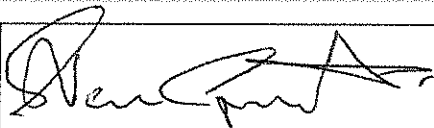

The charity's principal source of funds continues to be partner donations.

Details of any funds materially in deficit: Not applicable

## DECLARATION

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:		
Full Name:	Steve Speight	Mark Andrews
Position:	Chair of Trustees	Finance
Date:	12 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024	12 / 10 / 2024

# Life Church Lichfield

## Receipts & Payments Account: Year to 31/12/23

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts:	Note	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
<u>Donations and similar receipts</u>							
Offerings		89,561	37,537	127,099	108,210	48,004	156,214
Gift aid scheme		30,995	3,433	34,428	25,040	1,473	26,513
<u>Operating activities to further charity's objects</u>							
Children/youth activities		2,771	0	2,771	1,940	0	1,940
Luncheon club income		3,100	0	3,100	2,578	0	2,578
Event income		750	0	750	594	0	594
<u>Operating activities to generate funds</u>							
Hire of hall		0	5,634	5,634	0	7,316	7,316
<u>Investment income receipts</u>							
Deposit interest		1,403	0	1,403	356	0	356
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>128,581</b>	<b>46,604</b>	<b>175,185</b>	<b>138,718</b>	<b>56,793</b>	<b>195,511</b>
<u>Other receipts (not counting as 'gross income')</u>							
Other income		1,889	0	1,889	1,929	2,060	3,989
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>130,470</b>	<b>46,604</b>	<b>177,074</b>	<b>140,647</b>	<b>58,853</b>	<b>199,500</b>
<b>Payments:</b>							
<u>Charitable payments</u>							
<u>Grants paid</u>							
Mission expenditure		0	73,948	73,948	0	35,226	35,226
<u>Charitable activities</u>							
Salaries and national insurance	1	88,655	0	88,655	72,342	0	72,342
Ministry fees		3,950	0	3,950	3,304	0	3,304
Books & literature		60	0	60	129	0	129
Motor & travel expenses		891	0	891	346	0	346
Children/youth/group activities		11,049	0	11,049	9,798	0	9,798
Life Family		7,222	0	7,222	7,319	0	7,319
<u>Support costs</u>							
Administration expenses		10,337	0	10,337	10,209	0	10,209
Heating, lighting & water		11,043	0	11,043	5,110	0	5,110
Telephone		624	0	624	624	0	624
Insurance		2,450	0	2,450	1,989	0	1,989
Building maintenance		15,067	0	15,067	7,187	7,113	14,300
Miscellaneous	1	115	0	115	274	0	274
<u>Management &amp; administration</u>							
Independent examination		0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>151,462</b>	<b>73,948</b>	<b>225,410</b>	<b>118,631</b>	<b>42,339</b>	<b>160,970</b>
<u>Other Payments (not counting as 'expenditure')</u>							
Capital expenditure		0	7,588	7,588	2,055	4,984	7,039
Reallocations (see "Restricted Funds")					6,029	-6,029	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>151,462</b>	<b>81,536</b>	<b>232,998</b>	<b>126,715</b>	<b>41,294</b>	<b>168,009</b>
<b>Net receipts for the year</b>		<b>-20,992</b>	<b>-34,932</b>	<b>-55,924</b>	<b>13,933</b>	<b>17,559</b>	<b>31,491</b>
Cash & bank balances at 1st Jan		142,903	44,132	187,036	128,971	26,573	155,544
<b>Transfers in (see note 2)</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Cash & bank balances at 31st Dec		121,911	9,200	131,111	142,903	44,132	187,035

## LCL Current Liabilities

Inv Date	Supplier	£
	J Bell	475.33
	Citron Hygiene	163.97
		<u>639.30</u>

## LCL Restricted Funds Balance @ 31/12/23

	B/F	Movement	C/F
	£		
Mission Fund	41,787	-36,315	5,472
Building Fund	2,344	1,384	3,728
Youth & Kids	0	0	0
	<u>44,131</u>		<u>9,200</u>
General	139,488	-21,546	117,942
Events	3,416	554	3,970
	<u>142,904</u>		<u>121,911</u>
	187,035		131,111

## Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31/12/23

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>		
Petty cash	82	0
Current account	40,476	4,000
Deposit account	<u>81,353</u>	<u>5,200</u>
	<u>121,910</u>	<u>9,200</u>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
Gift aid claim	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Church building	Unrestricted	362,645
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Unrestricted	<u>51,897</u>
		<u>414,542</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount due</b>
Current liabilities - suppliers	Unrestricted	639
Taxation and social security	Unrestricted	<u>1863</u>
		<u>2,502</u>

## Notes to the accounts

### 1. Trustee salaries and expenses

Trustees salaries paid	£
Trustees expenses paid	43,644
	<u>4,779</u>
	<u>48,424</u>

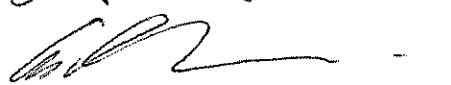
### 2. Trustee Ex Gratia Payment

None	£
	0

Signed on behalf of the trustees



S. Speight



M. Andrews

Date of approval

12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Life Church Lichfield  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 December 2023.

***Responsibilities and basis of report***

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act.  
In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act;  
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed



Date

12th October 2024

Ian Barnes FCA

39 Smiths Way

Water Orton

Birmingham

B46 1TW