

Bethesda Evangelical Church Hay on Wye

Charity Number 1182987

**Annual Return and Accounts
for the Year Ended 31st May 2023**

Bethesda Evangelical Church, Hay on Wye

Trustees Annual Report 2022/2023

Bethesda Evangelical Church, Hay on Wye

Trustees Annual Report 2022/2023

Charity Number 1182987

Charity Details

Trustees: , Rev Gordon J Bingham, Paul R Sweeting, Jonathan P Lewis, Idris S Illingsworth, Jane Dodds

Pastor: Rev Gordon J Bingham

Treasurer: Jonathan P Lewis

Secretary: Jane Dodds

Charitable Position: CIO - ASSOCIATION Registered 15 Apr 2019

Charity Registration number: 1182987

Bethesda Evangelical Church

Oxford Road

Hay on Wye

HR3 5AJ

Powys

Wales.

Independent Examiner:

Malcolm MacDonald

17 Park View Drive, Kidwelly, SA17 4UP

Bank accounts:

27 High Street, Brecon LD3 7LF

Current account: 52571939 sort code 53-50-31

Business Reserve: 52572501 sort code 53-50-31

Business Reserve: 52571947 sort code 53-50-31(Missionary Fund)

Name: Bethesda Evangelical Church, Hay on Wye.

Registered: 15 April 2019.

Organisation Type: Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Current membership: 17

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 Hay on Wye and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
2. such other charitable purposes as shall, in the opinion of the charity trustees, 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; the advancement of education; and the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of 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 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.

Regular Activities - in pursuant of purposes.

1. Public Sunday worship services:

Each Sunday both our morning and evening services are open to the public for Christian worship, which includes, praise, bible reading, children's address, bible teaching and fellowship. They happen each Sunday at 10.30pm and 6pm. Our evening service is at 6pm, and on the first and third Sunday evenings, Holy Communion is administered,

2. Weekly children's bible club (ages 4 – 11): Monday at 5.45 we hold a children's bible club which is open to any child of primary school age (called Energise) . We do games, crafts, quizzes, bible stories and refreshments. At 7pm, we continue with the 11 to 16 year olds with a youth group – again there is a Bible talk, games and crafts – this is called Ignite.
3. Midweek prayer meeting (alternate Wednesdays) : We meet as a local church for prayer and bible study, and then on the other Wednesday we meet in Home Groups.
4. Weekly toddler group: Each Thursday at 9.30am we hold a toddler group that is open to parents/ guardians who are responsible / caring for toddlers up to primary school age. We usually do refreshments and snacks along with storytelling, singing and crafts.

5. Hay Warm Welcome - every Thursday is a weekly meal served at the Church to anyone who needs a warm and nutritious meal. We offer takeaways and deliveries as well as an opportunity to sit in and eat a meal together. The food is provided by members of the community, and donations cover the fuel costs and any equipment.
6. Pastoral visiting (home and hospital visits): Providing care and pastoral support for church members and both regular and non-regular church goers. It is part of the weekly ministry of our church that people's spiritual needs and well-being is cared for through pastoral visits. The pastor usual conducts all pastoral visits with support from the elders.
7. Primary school assemblies in 2 local primary schools: The pastor conducts assemblies in 2 local primary schools (Hay on Wye C.P. School and Clyro Church of Wales School).
8. Hay and Brecon Foodbank: Our pastor is also a local representative for the Hay and Brecon Food bank which provides vital food essentials to those who are struggling to purchase food.
9. Sunday School: We have a Sunday School which takes place during the latter part of our morning worship.
10. Tea and Chat – fortnightly activity in the Church for people in Hay who come for activities and crafts.

Hay Festival outreach: In May, 2023, we had a refreshment tent and book display during the festival. We did this in partnership with other organisations, and held it over 4 days. We talked with people as they walked past to/from the festival, and offered tea and coffee. On the Sunday of the Festival, we held church services outside, which were open to anyone who wanted to join us. This year, we held an arts exhibition, and displayed poetry and crafts. Our outreach was supported financially by FIEC and Deo Gloria.

Holiday Bible Club: Over 2 days before Easter, we held our Holiday Bible Club with over 40 children attending on both days. We played games, read the Bible, told stories, did crafts and played outside in a local play space.

Cartref: holds Our pastor monthly service for elderly folk in the Cartref residential home.

Building: We own our own church building which was modernised about six years ago and it now contains all our needed facilities, including ramp access and a lift to the main assembly room upstairs. We use TVs to display words for songs, hymns, and videos.

We are thankful for many blessings in the past year with opportunities to share our faith. Attendances at worship services is around 30 to 35 in the morning services, and we have welcomed recently families and children to our services. We have held Christmas, Easter and Harvest services, as well as prize giving for the children. Additionally, we have taken children to Christian camps over the Summer months, and had our own Church camp in July at a local location.

Safeguarding: As specified in our Church Handbook, we operate a church safeguarding policy, which has just been revised and updated as of Spring 2022. All of the Trustees and Children's volunteers have been trained in the policy. All those involved in activities with children have to undergo a DBS check which we carry out every 3 years

Additional activities

- Two social events were held in January and February focused on food and fellowship with an attendance of around 30 at each
- A pizza evening was held where the young people made pizzas and raised money for their Summer camps

Financial Report

For the whole financial year we have operated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Staff and Trustees:

The charity has one employed member of staff, this being our Pastor, Gordon Bingham. Many activities are carried out by volunteers.

Gordon Bingham, who is also a trustee of this charity, received a salary and pension benefits of £X in his capacity as pastor of the church. This is permitted by section 6.1 of the Church Constitution approved by the Charity Commissioners.

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

Financial Review:

Financially we have faced another very challenging year. Whilst our general income remained static although other income of £5,455 towards the evangelistic outreach at the Hay festival. Our expenditure increased during the year following the re-commencing of activities following the removal of Covid-19 restrictions. Our deficit for the year increased to £6,749 as against £6,138 in 2021/22. Again, this has impacted our reserves, which at the end of the financial year stood at £7,585.

We no longer take up a collection at each service, but we do have a donation box in the vestibule. However, we would encourage those committed to our cause to set up a standing order and, if appropriate, to give using Gift Aid. Gift Aid continued to bring in over £5,000 for our funds again in 2022/23.

We have resumed our Missionary support, transferring 5% of our offerings to our Missionary Funds which we use to support Christian Charities.

We trust that in the Lord's providence we may see conversions in the coming year and an increase in giving to the Lord's work.



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Bethesda Evangelical Church Hay on Wye

On accounts for the year
ended

31 May 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1182987

Set out on pages

7 & 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/05/2023

**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 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:

M. MacDonald

Date:

30/10/2023

Name:

Malcolm MacDonald

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

Chartered member of the Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
Fellow of the association of Certified Accountants
Practitioner of the Institute of Internal Auditors

Address:

17 Park View Drive

Kidwelly

SA17 4UP

Bethesda Evangelical Church Hay-on-Wye
Charity Number 1182987

	Year to 31-May-23 £	Year to 31-May-22 £
<u>Income</u>		
Offerings	20,437	20,738
Donations	1,427	488
Gifts	135	0
Gifts for SGA -Ukraine	0	391
Gift aid	5,300	5,541
Business Reserve Interest Gross	63	4
Missionary account interest	3	0
Other	5,455	0
Refund Welsh Water	0	140
Total Income	32,820	27,302
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Pastor salary + related costs	26,329	25,937
Expenses	445	0
Employer's pension costs	603	584
Employment costs	27,377	26,521
Visiting preachers	745	605
electricity	691	346
Gas	104	247
Water	168	58
Phone/Broadband	463	337
Insurance	1,028	454
Church expenses	1,242	2,562
Office adm. /Intuit Quick books	557	511
Hay festival outreach	3,143	0
Children work	356	93
CCIW camps	585	0
Conferences	677	585
Events	1,230	0
ThirtyOne8 formerly CCPAS	145	230
Christian Copyright licence (CCLI)	233	222
SGA	300	469
Tear Funds	250	0
Mission other	155	0
FIEC	120	200
Expenditure	39,569	33,440
Deficit for year	6,749	6,138

Financial position at	31-May-23	31-May-22
	£	£
Opening balances	14,334	20,472
Deficit for year	6,749	6,138
	7,585	14,334
Represented by		
Current account	177	533
Business Reserve account	5,912	13,341
Business Reserve Missionary account	1,496	460
	7,585	14,334

