

Life Church

Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 December 2024

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

LIFE CHURCH
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Frederick Street Wigston LE18 1PJ
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution dated 12 December 2019
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1186922
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	John Allard (appointed 17 April 2023; resigned 29 January 2024) Mary Buckley (resigned 31 March 2025) Leon Cole Andrew Harrison (resigned 31 March 2025) Matthew Hill Curtis Quashie (resigned 16 October 2024) James Fox (appointed 07 April 2025) Jacob Lescott (appointed 11 December 2024) Sonia Haithcock (appointed 11 December 2024)
BANKERS	Barclays Bank PLC Kingdom Bank Limited
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Archie McDowall BA CA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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LIFE CHURCH
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and activities

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution and is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation.

The principal aim of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith and the worship of God. By upholding righteous values and beliefs it is the Trustees' conviction that a positive impact into the community can be achieved for the good of all. Activities include:

- A regular programme of meetings is provided in the main centre for worship, prayer and outreach.
- Children and youth work.
- Mid-week groups and activities including Life Groups.
- Teaching series, inspiration and online resources.
- Community outreach including partnering with local agencies to provide support to those in need.

Achievements and performance

The main achievements for the period were:

- Sunday services continued with many new individuals and families attending, and excellent teaching series to encourage and equip the church in God's word.
- We held several baptism services throughout the year, where participants shared their journey to faith in Jesus, and we also welcomed new people into church partnership.
- We supported mission and missionaries in Greece and Spain, and into central and eastern Europe and Africa via HaS Missions.
- We continued to fight modern day slavery via our partnership with Hope for Justice.
- Relationships with local community partners were extended, including the very successful provision of Easter and Christmas hampers for isolated and vulnerable members of the local community.
- The work amongst children and young people continued, focussing on spiritual development, including Life Kids, Arise Youth, Young Lifers and the Summer youth trip to the RockNations conference in Bradford.
- We held Stronger Team Sundays where ministry came from members of the church.

Achievements and performance (continued)

- Life Groups were held throughout the year in homes, online or via text, enabling relationship building, discipleship, outreach and leadership development.
- Encounter worship nights were held to provide a focus for going deeper with God in worship and in prayer
- Bible academy sessions were held to develop a deeper understanding of the Bible and how to apply it to our lives today.
- A programme of men's and women's events and activities were run, providing opportunity for relationship building and growing in faith.
- Leadership training and development continued, including through focused groups for emerging leaders and one-to-one coaching and mentoring.
- Leaders took part in Assemblies of God leadership events.
- We provided support and encouragement to other churches and ministers via Assemblies of God hubs, preaching engagements and mentoring.
- The paid roles of cleaner and building maintenance manager continued to be successful in providing excellent Life Church facilities for the church and local community.
- Work was carried out to enhance the church building, including the replacement of the church's heating system with new air conditioning units.

The activities are mainly achieved through the faithful work of many church members who act as unpaid volunteers, without whose contributions the aims and objectives could not all be met.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

The vast majority of the finances required to fund the activities are raised through donations from church members, supplemented by the refund of income tax from HM Revenue & Customs through the Gift Aid scheme.

During the year we gave £13,993 (2023: £21,160) to other Christian charities and missions who help us fulfil our charitable aims and objectives.

During the year income increased by £60,719, to £189,039, and expenditure increased by £76,783, to £194,580. As a result the cash held by the charity decreased by £5,541, to £67,589, of which £67,265 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Income and expenditure were significantly higher in 2024 than the previous year. This was mainly due to one-off matters including significant building maintenance, one-off donations, and the bank closing our account in error leading to income and expenditure for December 2023 taking place in January 2024.

Reserves policy

The Trustees' aim is to hold surplus funds of approximately 3 months of unrestricted expenditure which equates to £37,665. At this level, the Trustees feel that current activities of the charity would be able to continue in the event of a significant drop in offerings. At 31 December 2024 the unrestricted general fund balance was £67,265, representing 5.4 months expenditure.

Governance and management

New Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees. The Trustees are responsible for making the major decisions regarding the formulation and implementation of its aims and objectives, and for monitoring and controlling all of its financial resources. The Trustees formally meet at least four times a year, and report key issues and decisions to the church membership on a regular basis. Quarterly reports from the treasurer are received for discussion and necessary action. An Annual General Meeting is held each year to present to the church membership the management, departmental and Treasurer's reports.

In the pursuit of its charitable activities, the charity has been in fellowship with the Assemblies of God in the UK, and is a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

Risk statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Matthew Hill
Matthew Hill (Jul 28, 2025 14:19:47 GMT+1)

MATTHEW HILL (TRUSTEE)

Date: Jul 28, 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

LIFE CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Life Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 on pages 6 to 9 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. 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.

Archie McDowall

Archie McDowall (Jul 29, 2025 16:00:23 GMT+1)

Archie McDowall BA CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Jul 29, 2025

LIFE CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2024	2023
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations		146,493	-	3,891	150,384	116,118
Gift aid receipts		36,827	-	-	36,827	10,843
Income from events		700	-	-	700	645
Investment income		747	-	-	747	638
Other		380	-	-	380	76
Total receipts		185,147	-	3,891	189,039	128,320
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	177,771	-	2,796	180,567	96,329
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	12,887	-	1,126	14,013	21,468
		190,658	-	3,922	194,580	117,798
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
Total payments		190,658	-	3,922	194,580	117,798
Net of receipts / (payments) before		- 5,511	-	- 31	- 5,541	10,522
Transfers between funds	5	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		- 5,511	-	- 31	- 5,541	10,522
Cash funds as at last year end		72,776	-	355	73,130	62,608
Cash funds at this year end	A	67,265	-	324	67,589	73,130

The notes on pages 8 - 9 form part of these accounts.

LIFE CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted funds	2024	2023
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	28,187	-	324	28,511	29,799
Notice deposits	39,078	-	-	39,078	43,332
	<u>67,265</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>67,589</u>	<u>73,130</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	7,568	-	-	7,568	17,479
Other debtors	-	-	-	-	1,029
	<u>7,568</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,568</u>	<u>18,508</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
Trade creditors	1,004	-	-	1,004	4,254
Payroll and Tax	1,930	-	-	1,930	6,094
Fee for Independent Examination	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,170
Total	<u>4,134</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,134</u>	<u>11,518</u>

D Assets retained for charity's own use

	Fund to which asset belongs	Current value
		£
Land and buildings (give brief details)	General	1,460,175
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	General	126,007
		<u>1,586,182</u>

Current insurance values have not been quoted because reliable valuations are not available

F Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Matthew Hill
Matthew Hill (Jul 28, 2025 14:19:47 GMT+1)
 MATTHEW HILL (TRUSTEE)
 Date: Jul 28, 2025

The notes on pages 8 - 9 form part of these accounts.

LIFE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	2024	2023
	funds	funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs (see note 4)	74,235	-	-	74,235	51,470
Ministry expenses	15,784	-	-	15,784	6,597
Youth and children's work	5,104	-	1,463	6,567	3,379
Outreach activities	809	-	448	1,257	1,073
Events	865	-	-	865	1,048
Equipment	1,621	-	-	1,621	575
Maintenance of buildings & equipment	16,390	-	885	17,275	19,199
Upgrade of buildings & equipment	43,086	-	-	43,086	-
Utilities	7,951	-	-	7,951	5,676
Insurance	1,568	-	-	1,568	1,179
Office and support costs	10,358	-	-	10,358	6,133
Other costs	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>177,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,796</u>	<u>180,567</u>	<u>96,329</u>
3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others					
Grants for:					
Mission in the UK and overseas	12,867	-	1,126	13,993	21,260
Relief of poverty	20	-	-	20	208
	<u>12,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,126</u>	<u>14,013</u>	<u>21,468</u>
4 Transactions with related parties					

Mary Buckley and Matthew Hill served as church leaders and received employment benefits totalling £49,240 and £19,947 respectively (2023: £44,490 and £8,903) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as trustees; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

Beth Hill, who is closely related to Matthew Hill, who is a trustee, received financial support of £2,625 (2023: £875) towards theological education.

Payments were made to Tracey Harrison (wife of Trustee) for her role as a cleaner: £4,669 (2023: nil)

LIFE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	72,776	185,147	-190,658	-	67,265
Restricted funds					
Building Fund	140	745	-885	-	-
Missions Fund	215	1,684	-1,574	-	324
Youth Fund	-	1,463	-1,463	-	-
	<u>355</u>	<u>3,891</u>	<u>- 3,922</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324</u>
Total funds	<u>73,130</u>	<u>189,039</u>	<u>-194,580</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,589</u>

Building Fund: for building-related projects and expenditure
Missions Fund: local and global outreach and relief of poverty
Youth Fund: for youth ministry, events and conferences