



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1	January	2023		31	December	2023

Charity name

Besson Street Chapel and Sunday School (the "CIO")

Other names charity is known by

New Cross Christian Centre; Hatcham Evangelical Free Church

Registered charity number (if any)

1186931

Charity's principal address

Besson Street Chapel & Sunday School

Besson Street

London

Postcode

SE14 5AS

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	Rev. Esther Arnold	Trustee		Trustees themselves
2	Pastor Charlotte-Catherine Hope-Rivers	Trustee		Trustees themselves
3	Pastor John Ballantyne	Trustee		Trustees themselves
4	Pastor Susan Akello	Trustee		Trustees themselves
5	Rev. Edward Nsubuga	Trustee	01/01/2023 - 01/11/2023	Trustees themselves
6	Pastor Paulo da Silva	Trustee	09/05/2023 - To date	Trustees themselves
7	Pastor Graciele Daleprane	Trustee	09/05/2023 -To date	Trustees themselves

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 (CIO)

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by the existing trustees from the church membership.

Additional governance issues (Optional information) - overleaf

Besson Street Chapel and Sunday School CIO is a Free Evangelical Church in Great Britain.

The church's organisational structure, policies and procedures were re-confirmed in the pre-Incorporated meeting held on the 1st December 2019 with the pre-existing trustees. Pastor Charlotte-Catherine Hope-Rivers volunteered to oversee the incorporation into a charity through Pastor Chuks Ajuka of Freshfire Organization.

Besson Street Chapel and Sunday School was registered on 12th December 2019 as Charity Number 1186931. The work of the CIO is overseen by the Trustees in accordance with the provisions of the CIO's constitution adopted by a meeting on the 16th December 2019. The CIO's constitution was prepared by Pastor Chuks Ajuka using the agreed objectives.

The CIO's work focuses upon the needs of local young people and families. The trustees seek to ensure that the needs of this group are appropriately reflected through the diversity of the trustee body. Skills in business, medicine, creative arts, childcare, pedagogy, theology, construction, management and STEM subjects are well represented in the board of trustees. In the event of a resignation or death of a trustee, individuals with the lost set of skills are to be approached to offer themselves for election to the committee.

All Trustee meetings are to discuss the financial administration of the CIO, the care and the maintenance of the premises where the CIO meets. Meetings of the ministerial teams give general guidance on the life and work of the CIO.

The board of trustees are the minister in pastoral charge and up to 5 other members of the CIO. There is no maximum number of charity trustees that may be appointed to the CIO. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for the term of three years and retire by rotation. A charity trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.

The board of trustees currently has 6 members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Secretary also sits on the board. A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of the services rests with the Chair along with Secretary. The Trustees are responsible for the financial administration of the Church and the care and maintenance of Church premises, as well as for the oversight and development of working practices in line with good practice.

The church buildings both the Chapel and Sunday School Hall are vested in The Fellowship Property Trust who have legal ownership of these premises as trustees and held for the benefit of Besson Street Chapel and Sunday School in accordance with the 1908 trust applicable to the site.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The CIO's purposes are set out in the objects contained in the CIO's Constitution which are to: advance the Christian Faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs by the holding of prayer meetings, lectures, public celebration of religious festivals, producing and/or distributing literature on Christianity to enlighten others about the Christian faith as the trustees from time to time may think fit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

When planning our activities for the year the trustees have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and have regard to it in the administration of the CIO. The board of trustees believes that the CIO provides benefit to the public by providing a space for:

- Worship and prayer, educating people about the Gospel.
- Provision of pastoral care for the local community, which includes providing resources and facilities for spiritual, moral and intellectual development.
- The promotion of Christian values and service for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.
- Life skills training for young adults.
- Music lessons for both the youth and adults.
- Christian themed cultural events with free catering for the community.
- Women and Men's Christian events and support groups.
- Concerts and musical renditions presentations.
- Conferences for the local community.
- Book launches from local authors.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Worship and Prayer

The CIO has continued to foster relationships with the local community and offer opportunities for the local community to have Christian prayer meetings, baptisms, clubs and events and more lively worship activities, which all ages have been able to enjoy. Our website has also continued to be an invaluable source of communication, extending our reach to communities worldwide and has proved especially popular at special dates in the Liturgical calendar such as: Christmas and Easter.

The Church Centre

Cosmetic updates to the Sanctuary have continued to keep the Sanctuary current and a useful resource for functions, events and it serves particularly well for online events. The women's events held at the church have been particularly colourful and successful with many women being empowered by the events. Youthwork at the church has been a stunning success, with the youth taking their faith very seriously and leading their own events, as well as leading other youth, encouraging them in their faith. Lastly, we managed to host ten new events in addition to the usual events, which highlights the progressive use of the premises for the community.

Ecumenical Relationships

The trustees of the CIO have continued to grow relationships with local Christian groups and have brought on two new trustees stemming from these Christian groups, to further strengthen the relationships.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Ideally, the trustees wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 3 months regular expenditure, which has been budgeted for as £1,300.00 to cover any emergency situations that may arise from time to time. The balance of £3,355.00 is surplus in excess of the charity's annual expenditure. We are still in a firm and decisively positive financial recovery since COVID and moving forward we will continue to build reserves through planned operating surpluses and increasing donations.

Section F Other optional information

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) C C Hope-Rivers

Full name(s) Charlotte-Catherine Hope-Rivers

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) Chair

Date 01/10/2024

**BESSON STREET CHAPEL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED CHARITY ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**BESSON STREET CHAPEL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED CHARITY ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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BESSON STREET CHAPEL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover	28,703	29,539
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets	(20,207)	(27,027)
Other charges	(5,141)	(9,951)
Profit/(loss)	<u>3,355</u>	<u>(7,439)</u>

BESSON STREET CHAPEL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed assets	60,810	81,080
Current assets	3,661	306
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(52,906)	(73,176)
Net current liabilities	(49,245)	(72,870)
Total assets less current liabilities	11,565	8,210
Net assets	11,565	8,210
Reserves	11,565	8,210

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Statutory information

Besson Street Chapel and Sunday School is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registration number CE019988. The registered office is Besson Street Chapel, Besson Street, London, SE14 5AS, United Kingdom.

2 Average number of employees

During the year the average number of employees was 0 (2022: 0).

For the year ending 31 December 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The director acknowledges her responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and FRS 105, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-entities Regime.

Approved by the board on 1 August 2024

Charlotte-Catherine Hope-Rivers
Director

Company Registration No. CE019988

BESSON STREET CHAPEL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

This schedule does not form part of the statutory accounts.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover		
Sales	27,820	23,539
Fees	883	6,000
	<hr/> 28,703	<hr/> 29,539
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets		
Depreciation	20,207	27,027
Other		
Light and heat	2,105	4,175
Telephone and fax	132	96
Internet	417	409
Subscriptions	-	87
Bank charges	1	138
Insurance	1,307	2,185
Equipment expensed	-	212
Software	-	333
Sundry expenses	-	910
Accountancy fees	400	200
Advertising and PR	301	344
Other legal and professional	478	862
	<hr/> 5,141	<hr/> 9,951
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation	<hr/> <hr/> 3,355	<hr/> <hr/> (7,439)

Independent Examiner's Statement for 31 December 2023 YE

The Independent Examiner

Name: Craig Alexander

Job Title: Accountant & Tax Consultant

Company: The XCG

Date of report: 26th October 2024

The Charity

I report on the accounts of Besson Street Chapel and Sunday School (Charitable Incorporated Organisation - No: CE019988), also known as New Cross Christian Centre or Hatcham Evangelical Free Church, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner's

The trustees are responsible for preparing the accounts following the Charities Act 2011, while the independent examiner reviews the accounts to ensure they align with records and standards. This examination, based on Charity Commission guidelines, is less detailed than an audit, focusing only on identifying any inconsistencies in the financial reporting.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In my opinion:

1. Accounting Records: The trustees of *Besson Street Chapel and Sunday School* have kept proper accounting records, ensuring accuracy and traceability in line with charity regulations.
2. Compliance of Financial Statements: The financial statements comply with the applicable accounting requirements, presenting an accurate record of the charity's financial activities and position for the year ending 31 December 2023. The statements are in agreement with the underlying records and prepared in compliance with the Charities Act 2011.