

## Annual Trustees Report - October 2024

*This report is prepared for the church AGM (2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024) as part of our obligations as a CIO. An anonymised version will be submitted to the Charity Commission.*

### Introduction

The Trustees (Church Officers) have pleasure in presenting this report for the past year, to October 2024.

As a CIO, the aims of Hamilton Road Evangelical Church are:

- *The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Whistable and the surrounding neighbourhood;*
- *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 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;*

### Report

During the past year we have held regular Sunday worship services morning and evening, as well as prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings. These are usually led by our Pastor, although visiting speakers or members of the church lead occasionally.) Attendance has increased, with new adults and families attending. These meetings are open to the public and guests are warmly welcomed. Average attendance in the morning would be around 35-40 adults, with 9-15 children approximately. Evening attendance is generally lower.

Regular ministries within the church have all seen encouragements. Below are brief summaries. ***(Separate written reports were submitted to the AGM)***

- Junior Church continues to grow, with typically 9-10 children, occasionally more.
- Our Thursday morning toddler group (now, "Little Oysters") has met regularly, with breaks coinciding with typical school holidays. There are usually around 12-15 children in the group.
- Our Tuesday Bethany Lunch Club has met regularly through the past 12 months, with breaks coinciding with typical school holidays. Bethany continues to be very popular and attendance has grown slightly, with 30-35 now being typical.
- We recently held the first of our monthly Sunday afternoon youth group meetings. This is for the benefit of our 11-18 year olds (currently 5 young people).
- The monthly women's breakfast and bible study has resumed again (see Appendix 2), and a new women's book group has also begun in the last year.

We have held other outreach events through the year, including Christmas Carol Services, Easter Service (with breakfast), Harvest Thanksgiving (with hot food) and our Easter Family Fun day. All were well attended and provided opportunities for gospel outreach. We have also held a number of "social," events, including the bonfire event and church BBQ. These fellowship events are good ways of fostering deeper friendship and love within the church.

We have gained 8 new members and lost one (deceased). **Our current membership now stands at 31** (with 4 of these being associate members).

Our church officers currently consist of one Elder (our Pastor) and 4 deacons. We rejoice at the appointment of an additional deacon. All church officers automatically become trustees of the CIO, with Pastor being Chair

of Trustees. Trustees must oversee the CIO and ensure it is well managed, in line with our charitable aims. Some areas that we have focused on this year include: updating our Safeguarding Policy (and assorted documents), our Fire Risk Assessment, our Doctrinal Basis and Distinctives. All these things help the church to function, “decently and in order.”

We have seen a number of improvements to the fabric of the building. These projects include the redecoration of the Junior Church room, the reworking of the pulpit area, the new front doors and the renewed fire doors and storage cupboard in the rear hall.

### Pastors final thoughts

The past year, like the one before, has generally been one of consolidation, growth and encouragement. We are thankful for the ongoing spirit of love and unity, as well as growing numbers. We give all the glory to the Lord.

By the Lord’s grace and mercy, we look to him to continue to bless and strengthen the work. In line with this, we suggest the following areas require our ongoing (or renewed) prayerful attention:

- **Evangelism.** We need to be encouraged and equipped both in personal and corporate evangelism. We should consider some training sessions and seasons of prayer in this vital area. We want to see members increasingly enthused in their own personal evangelism.
- **Eldership.** The need for elders and deacons remains. In particular, eldership to share the pastoral and leadership responsibilities. At present, we are maintaining the regular weekly ministry and planning, but the pressures of time restrict the amount of “important but not necessarily urgent,” matters that also require attention. The biblical pattern for local churches should be a plurality of both elders and deacons. We pray the Lord will raise up suitable men.
- **Service and involvement.** We rejoice at the number of people actively using their gifts in service already. We are encouraged to see more people leading in public prayer, reading the Scriptures, giving testimony, etc. We hope to promote more of this as we go forward.
- **Prayer.** The growth in attendance at prayer meeting is a wonderful encouragement and I trust shows our increasing awareness that, “unless the Lord builds the house,” we labour in vain. Without the blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ, nothing we attempt will have lasting significance. We must together as a church all give priority to prayer together and individually.
- **Unity & Fellowship.** As already stated, we rejoice in the loving spirit that exists amongst us. We have been blessed with many new faces in the past year. We must prioritize welcoming new people, and help them to settle into the fellowship, with a view to joining as members (in the Lord’s time.) We can also listen and learn from new perspectives on church life – we must be open to fresh ideas about how we function as a church. Our prayer is that together “new faces,” and “long-standing regulars,” will grow together into one new church family in Christ. Pastor will soon begin a Sunday morning series of sermons, looking at the, “One Another,” commands in the New Testament, which provides some valuable teaching on our shared church life together in Christ.

This report was accepted at the Annual General Meeting of Hamilton Road Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024.

Signed: 

(ADAM LAUGHTON Chair of Trustees) 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2024

# Income & Expenditure 2023-24

From 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024 (in GB Pounds)

Category (Income)	
Bank Interest	648.17
Bethany Lunches	3,952.50
General	34,336.89
Gift Received	1,098.58
Manse Rent	12,000.00
Refunds	982.06
Tax Reclaimed - HMRC	5,065.01
Total Income	58,083.21

Category (Expense)	
Accounts Inspection	-450.00
Advertising and Publicity	-715.46
Bethany	-2,912.32
Caretaking	-231.60
Catering	-213.60
Charitable contributions	-122.08
Church Utilities: Electricity	-2,060.68
Church Utilities: Gas	-7,804.43
Church Utilities: Phone & Wifi	-632.34
Church Utilities: Water	-345.13
Category Total:	-10,842.58
Equipment	-1,653.07
FIEC Subscription	-300.00
Insurance	-2,802.59
Literature	-712.83
Maintenance: Church	-17,134.04
Ministry: Bethany	-200.00
Ministry: Lord's Day	-960.00
Ministry: Missionary	-590.00
Category Total:	-1,750.00
Misc Exp	-577.63

Pastor: Accommodation	-10,587.53
Pastor: Conference expenses	-310.00
Pastor: Pension	-3,824.00
Pastor: Salary	-27,352.60
Pastor: Travel	-35.20
Category Total:	-42,109.33
Stationery	-163.69
Sunday School	-102.70
Training	-22.00
Total Expenses	-
	82,815.52

Total: -24,732.31

## Account Balance 2023-24 at 31.3.24

Account: All Accounts

Net Worth at: 31/03/2024 (in GB Pounds)

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Bank	
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Cash	20.00
Current	2,114.09
Reserve	42,217.42
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Bank Tot al	44,351.51
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

HAMILTON RD EVANGELICAL CHURCH WHITSTABLE

On accounts for the year  
ended

MARCH 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

C10 Reg No.  
1189 551

Set out on pages

1 + 2 and summary SHEETS A, B, C + D

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

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~ N/A

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~\*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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 a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

R. J. Hutton

Date:

26/9/24

Name:

ROBERT JOHN HUTTON

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body

N/A



(if any):

Address:

62 BEACON RD

BLOOMSTARS

KENT

CT10 3D9

## Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

# Hamilton Road Evangelical Church

CIO Registered No: 1189551

## Year 2023-24

### Balances

Opening 01 April 2023	£69,083.82
Current Account	£2,114.09
Reserve Account	£42,217.42
Cash Account	£20.00
<b>Closing Balance 31 March 2024</b>	<b>£44,351.51</b> ✓

Opening Balances@1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023	£69,083.82
Income	£58,083.21
Expenditure	£-82,815.52
<b>Closing Balance 31 March 24</b>	<b>£44,351.51</b> ✓

RJM



## Account Balance 2023-24 at 31.3.24

B

Account: All Accounts

Net Worth at: 31/03/2024 (in GB Pounds)

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<hr/>	
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R M

# Income and Expense by Category

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RJA