

Richard Tearle (Pastor)  
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Address: Mickfield Evangelical Church, Stonham Rd, Suffolk, IP14 5LS  
Sunday Services: 11am and 6:30pm

**Mickfield Evangelical Church (MEC) Trustees Annual Report (TAR)**  
**(Financial year end 23rd May 2024)**

**For the period 01/01/23—23/2024**

**The legal structure of the charity known as ‘Mickfield Evangelical Church’ is:**  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with charity number: 1190791.

The CIO was formed on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 and first received funds 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**The address and principal office of the charity is:**

Mickfield Evangelical Church  
Stonham Road  
Mickfield  
Suffolk  
IP14 5LS

**The trustees are the following:**

Following registration of the CIO on 10/08/22, all of the following trustees were appointed with effect from 02/09/22.

Of these trustees, Mr Richard James Tearle is employed by the church as full-time pastor.

Chair/pastor/trustee: Richard James Tearle

Trustee: Kevin Catto

Trustee: Gareth James Hart

Trustee: Richard James Hart

Trustee/Secretary: David Felix Wilding

**The governing document of MEC CIO is:**

The CG3 Church Constitution as provided by Edward Connor Solicitors. The Church Handbook sits alongside the Church Constitution, is consistent with it, and sets out in more detail how the church functions. The Handbook includes our Basis of Faith, Doctrinal Distinctives and Ethical Statements.

**The purpose and objects of the charity are as found in the Church Constitution:**



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

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.

### **The work of the year:**

We had as a theme and focus for the year: the preciousness of Jesus. We have sought to see his preciousness more profoundly.

As noted in the TAR for 2022 we had begun thinking, praying and planning to build 'Gospel Gateways' as a church. The 'Mickfield Community Meal', a monthly 2-course hot dinner for local people, tackling loneliness and isolation, began in December 2022. The meal has continued since. We build relationships with local people (mainly but not exclusively retirement-aged) and we share the Christian gospel with them through a short 'thought for the day' talk and our conversations and invitations. The meal has seen great growth.

'Friends on Friday' followed in January 2023. This is a monthly drop-in coffee morning, a place for 'meeting old friends, and making new ones' based around coffee, cake and chat. This has also been an effective way to build bridges into our local community.

'Kids Club' followed on in February 2023. This is a primary school aged 1-hour teatime club, on a Friday. It is the younger counterpart of our longstanding (secondary school aged) Friday Club, youth group. We have seen many children, churched and unchurched, coming along, having fun and learning about Jesus.

A little later on in Autumn 2023 we began 'Mickfield Mini Music' which is a toddler group, serving local families. The numbers peak and trough but we've had lots of contact with people we wouldn't otherwise connect with, and some of our warmer local contacts too. The work of 'Friday Club' continues to be very effective in not only supporting our youth, but engaging their friends with Christianity and also much needed support during a tricky



season of life. Our youth work has developed to include a regular Saturday/Sunday afternoon ministry specifically for discipling the young people within the church.

The 'Open the Book' team continued to serve in Stonham Aspal primary school, and through this and many other means, not just our formal regular "Gospel Gateways" we make Jesus known. There has been a real growth in local community events in the village of Mickfield and the church has sought to engage with these wholeheartedly, as well as inviting locals to our events too.

During Autumn 2022 we trialled the 'Hope Explored' course in the pastor's home. We then ran the course in Spring 2023 for the whole church over 3 consecutive Thursday evenings. We also released a set of Easter videos online and started a new 10am Good Friday service.

Our Growth Groups continued to run during 2023 and a high proportion of our adult members are connected with and attend these. The groups continue to be the mid-week heartbeat of the church, drawing us together to do that New Testament 'one-anothering' which is harder to achieve on a busy Sunday morning in a packed building.

During 2023 we continued our 'Want Life?' series in John's Gospel. We also learnt about being 'Everyday Disciples' from Luke chs10-11. The 'Bubbles under the Sun' (Ecclesiastes) series was well received. In July we had the privilege of baptising a younger member. During the summer term we considered how we might be 'On the Move' from the book of Numbers, and what held God's people back then, and could hold us back too. We continued our 'Respectable Sins' series considering anger over two sessions and also gossip. We had a range of other speakers and studied 'None Besides You' a series on some of Asaph's psalms. We enjoyed our usual refreshing summer programme, including a lengthy interview with the hilarious and profound Marian Paish.

During the Autumn term we studied Romans 1-8 in the mornings, we thereby began our 'Best News Ever' series...the explosive good news contained in Romans has radically shaped the modern world and can be explosive in our lives too. Parallel to this, in the evenings we covered a wide range of topics around human sexuality and the teaching of the bible. At Christmas we listened to '5 Christmas Belters' – 5 songs from Luke's Gospel.

During this time, we also held the Michael Tinker kids concert, we responded to local flooding with hampers for those effected in Debenham. Our pastor attended the national leaders conference in Blackpool. After this we had our bi-annual church weekend away at Sizewell, our speaker was Simon Rowell who challenged us, from the book of Acts, about our 'Life Goals'. It was, as ever, a wonderful weekend of fun, fellowship and food. Immediately following this Mid-Suffolk District Council (MSDC) issued a Breach of Condition Notice (BCN) against some of our events and Gospel Gateways. This story



continues into 2024, thankfully the BCN was withdrawn after we issued a Pre-action Protocol (PAP) with the help of a barrister. Subsequently, (2024) we applied to MSDC for, and were issued with, a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development (CLEUD) and an accompanying Legal Memo which spelt out in no uncertain terms that our actions *were and are* well within the permissions applied to our building. They are the very normal missional/evangelistic/community-serving activities of a local church in modern Britain. We now feel free to continue with our work unhindered.

The above situation prompted us to address “trellis” structural issues in our church, to enable the spiritual “vine” to continue to grow. Up to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 we underwent a rigorous process in pursuit of an appropriate part-time administrator. We also worked hard to teach on, and develop our leadership (elders and deacons) and team structures, bringing clarity to the whole.

The work of the year, as above, is in accord with the requirement that our existence and activities be for the Public Benefit. We continue to serve the public, in the 2000-year-old Christian tradition, as we seek to reach Mickfield and Mid-Suffolk for Jesus.

**We seek to meet this Public Benefit requirement in the following way:**

There are three main identifiable benefits to the public or sections of the public that flow from the church fulfilling its purposes.

1. Those who come to know and continue in the love of God report that accepting the love of God in Jesus Christ was the best decision they ever made and that knowing this love gives them strength in their everyday life.

2. Advancing the Christian Faith promotes a moral framework. This framework is outlined in the Bible, the Old Testament being interpreted by the New Testament. A summary of the framework is the command for people to love God with their heart, soul, mind and strength and love one's neighbour as oneself. An exposition of the framework can be found in chapters 5-7 of the Gospel of Matthew. Church members are encouraged to live out their faith within the community and to put this moral framework into practice in their everyday lives with everyone they interact with and so this benefits the members of the public who interact with members of the congregation each day.

3. It is for the public good that the main beliefs of the Christian Faith are made known in society, even if people disagree with the Christian message, because this enables people to



make informed choices concerning religious belief and contributes towards a free society where different ideas and beliefs are widely known by the public.

In these ways, to name a few, our charitable objects and purposes promote and pursue human flourishing, the common good and the public benefit.

### **Financial Review**

The income of the church is made up the generous regular and spontaneous giving of church members and the Gift Aid which often accompanies this.

Again, we have seen God's generous provision for us. We've seen the regular online financial giving double (and more) and hold at that level. Having initiated a revitalisation work at Great Blakenham Baptist Church (GBBC) a number of years ago, we are partnered with GBBC in our shared gospel work. GBBC continue to contribute 75% of the total cost of Michael Lawrence, with MEC covering the other 25%. MEC continues to employ both Michael Lawrence and Richard Tearle. We are encouraged by the church finances.

### **Reserves Policy**

The church has a Building Fund. The church has typically not built-up major reserves. However, the trustees are committed to developing a Reserves Policy. Three areas seem particularly pertinent: 1) reserves to cover 3 months wages, 2) reserves towards the needs of our building, especially given our numerical growth, and 3) reserves towards the deployment of additional gospel workers.

Regarding this latter need we have decided to create a restricted 'Training Fund', within our savings account, to enable us to build a fund towards the employment of a gospel worker in a training role here at Mickfield in the future.

We hereby confirm that we, as trustees, have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and consider that our purposes and practices meet the requirements as above.

### **Trustees Approval and Signatures:**



Mr Richard James Tearle

(Trustee/Pastor/Chair)



Mr David Felix Wilding

(Trustee/Secretary)

# **Mickfield Evangelical Church**

Charity Number: 1190791

## **End of Year Report and Financial Statements**

**For the Period: 1st January 2023  
to 23rd May 2024 (First funds recieved  
24th May 2024)**

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# Legal and Administrative Information

**Address:** Stonham Road  
Mickfield  
Stowmarket  
IP14 5LS

**Trustees:** Richard James Tearle  
Kevin Catto  
Gareth James Hart  
Richard James Hart  
David Felix Wilding

**Bankers:** TSB



# Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Funds To the nearest £	Restricted Funds To the nearest £	Endowment Funds To the nearest £	Total Funds To the nearest £	Last Year To the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Standing orders	-	-	-	-	-
Cash	-	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-
Gift aid	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Payments</b>					
Children and youth	-	-	-	-	-
Books	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Telephone and internet	-	-	-	-	-
Licences and subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-
Wages and salaries	-	-	-	-	-
Visiting speakers	-	-	-	-	-
Online ministry/website	-	-	-	-	-
Church events	-	-	-	-	-
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	-	-
Water	-	-	-	-	-
Light and heat	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable donations	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	-

# Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted Funds To the nearest £	Restricted Funds To the nearest £	Endowment Funds To the nearest £	Last Year To the nearest £
<b>Assets</b>				
Land and buildings	-	-	-	-
Plant and machinery	-	-	-	-
Current account	-	-	-	-
Savings account	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Total assets</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>				
PAYE liability	-	-	-	-
Creditors	-	-	-	-
Net wages control	-	-	-	-
Pension liability	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>	-	-	-	-

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees:



Mr Richard James Tearle

(Trustee/Pastor/Chair)



Mr David Felix Wilding

(Trustee/Secretary)