



Registered Charity No. 1191260

TRURO EVANGELICAL CHURCH

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT, ACCOUNTS and INDEPENDENT
EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Truro Evangelical Church CIO
Charity number: 1191260

Trustees' Annual Report

From 1st January to 31st December 2023

Objectives and Activities

The main purpose of Truro Evangelical Church is the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the church's Basis of Faith, primarily within Truro and the surrounding neighbourhood. In addition, the church also aims to carry out other charitable purposes that put into practice the Christian faith.

The main activities that relate to the church's purposes are: two Sunday services of corporate worship (morning and afternoon), with a fellowship lunch in between; meetings for prayer and Bible study each Tuesday evening; Sunday school for children aged under 11; weekly evangelistic outreach in Truro city-centre to share the Christian faith; monthly men's and ladies' breakfasts for fellowship and Bible study; monthly ladies' prayer meetings; occasional outdoor evangelistic services during the summer; promotion of mission and matters of social concern through prayer, financial giving and monthly donations of food to Truro Food Bank; monthly evangelistic outreach in conjunction with the Free Church in St Just, Penwith; and occasional informal social gatherings.

The trustees have given consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and confirm that benefit has been provided for any members of the public who wish to avail themselves of the spiritual support provided by the Sunday worship services, and the emotional support and company provided by opportunities to join us for lunch on Sundays; all of which is freely open to all. Further spiritual help is offered to all in the public who will receive, through the distribution of Christian literature and one-to-one conversations in our weekly city-centre outreach; through the pre-Christmas distribution of Christian literature to the homes near where our services are held; and through our summer outdoor evangelistic services in a local park. In all this, the gospel of Jesus Christ is explained and freely offered: the good news that receiving Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Saviour can bring peace, joy, meaning and hope. The Bible teaches, and history affirms, that this gospel has the public benefit of being able to transform broken and troubled lives and communities.

Pastoral visiting for those in need is also available for any who wish to attend our services. Public benefit is also provided for those in financial need, through monthly donations to the Truro Food Bank. Finally, all may benefit from the Christian teaching that is provided freely in our Sunday services, or to children through our Sunday school. Members of the public unable to attend in person are able to benefit from subsequent free access to the sermons via the church's website.

Achievements and Performance

Sunday services

Our main ministry this year began by completing Peter's second epistle, with its reminder of Christ's certain return, and the call to holy living in the light of this. We then resumed the prophecy of Isaiah, having worked through the first 39 chapters on Sunday afternoons during the previous 2 years. We looked at chapters 40-50, with God's wonderful message of comfort to bring an end to his people's exile, with the focus on the supremacy of the LORD God over all other gods, and the promise of a redeemer, ultimately the Lord Jesus Christ. We also had a short break in the summer to consider a few psalms, for our encouragement. Our other elder, Patrick, preaching once a month, has brought us lessons of faith and of God's grace, as he led us through the life of Abraham, in the book of Genesis.

On Sunday afternoons we adopted an interactive Bible-study approach to our services, splitting into smaller groups for study, and using trusted material from various published authors. We began by working through the Sermon on the Mount, from Matthew 5-7. After this we used the Living Christianity course produced by the Christian Institute, to address how our faith is worked out in our communities, that we might be a greater blessing to the world at large. We then studied 'the path to godliness' in Paul's letter to Titus, and finally began working through the book of Acts, identifying the powerful work of Jesus by his Holy Spirit in the life of the early church.

We have also been blessed by the ministry of a few visitors: Mike Griffiths from Myanmar, Tim McShane from Open-Air Mission, and our local brother Matt Kuhlmann.

Through all this, we have been encouraged, corrected and challenged to live out the Christian faith with integrity and perseverance, rooted in a firm focus on the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have also put on a number of evangelistic guest services, for those seeking God and investigating the Christian faith, such as when it has been the 5th Sunday of the month, and for the coronation of King Charles. In addition, we were able to take the gospel out to the community as a whole church, when we had a couple of open-air services in Boscawen Park in June and July, with an encouraging number from the community listening in. We also heard encouraging personal testimonies at these services, of how God transforms lives for the good.

With the shift in focus of our Sunday afternoon services to interactive Bible studies, we have also moved our Sunday school for our children to the afternoon service, to help them develop their own relationship with God, led faithfully by Rosemary Griffiths, assisted by Ursula Hosking.

Our morning services have also been run with Zoom, and recorded onto DVDs, in particular, for the benefit of members unable to attend in person due to ill-health or immobility.

After 24 years of meeting at Tregolls Academy, that era finally came to an end in May, as the school no longer wanted external groups using their premises. We thank God for our time there, and also for faithfully providing us with Trelander Community Hall. This venue has proved a wonderful provision, having the entire premises to ourselves, and different rooms for separate study groups and for our weekly church lunch. It also places us much more visibly within a distinct community, to which we trust God will make us a great blessing.

Membership

It was a delight to welcome into membership both Robin van Wyk and Ian Leedham, who have both proved such an encouragement and asset to the church already. Sadly, we have had a few losses this year: Sid Crutchley resigned from membership in January. Then our dear sister Ruth

Jenkin was called home to glory in November, followed in December by our brother Doug Marsh. But we rejoice that they have finished their race and are safely with Christ in paradise. In addition, Ieuan and Alice Richards decided to move to Grace Church St Austell. So we end the year with 26 members, and give thanks to God for each precious brother and sister in Christ.

Evangelism

Our weekly evangelistic outreach (a book table) in the city-centre has run consistently since our last AGM. This year has seen a notable increase in hostility towards the work, and an apparent increase in contact with witches and Satanists. But we praise God that we've been able to give out around 8000 gospel tracts in that time (2000 more than in the previous year), and have nearly 700 (686) good gospel conversations, sharing the Christian faith. We had been joined by 2 enthusiastic evangelists from St Ives, but they decided to cease making the lengthy journey in March. They were always an encouragement, and we thank God for them and their efforts, but we have been joined by Ian's faithful presence. So our team of evangelists now comprises: Patrick, Priscilla, Ursula, Rosemary, Ian, Chris, Hugo and Nick, and we're grateful to God for all the open doors for the gospel, and for the inestimable privilege to proclaim the Saviour, Jesus Christ.

With a desire to take the gospel beyond Truro, and to help a strategically placed church, with whom we had personal links, we continued to transport our book table to St Just once a month, joining to help the Free Church there. We give out a different set of tracts, inviting people to the Free Church, joined faithfully by Jean and Fran China from the church there. This year we have had 150 good gospel conversations.

We also received some encouragement from Emmanuel Church, Leamington Spa (where our pastor was once a member), to engage in a week of evangelistic outreach at the end of June, as they sent down a couple of helpers. We began with a well-attended open-air service in Boscawen Park on the Sunday afternoon. Then, in addition to our St Just and Truro book tables, we focussed on visiting the entire Trelander estate, to which we had recently moved as a church, with door-to-door evangelism, to make ourselves known and invite to our services. We had 5 such sessions in an afternoon or evening. On Friday evening we concluded with a special event of testimony and gospel talk in the upper room of the Old Ale House, to which people had been invited; we were glad to see one visitor turn up to hear the gospel. Altogether, we were able to have almost 100 good gospel conversations in the course of the week, for which we praise God.

We also had two evangelistic meals at Epiphany House, in March and December, with low-key evangelistic epilogues respectively from Andrew Chapple (pastor of Redruth Baptist Church), and local evangelist, Marten Holmes, to bring the good news to our friends and colleagues. We were encouraged by a good number of visitors who heard the gospel message on those occasions. Finally, this year's carol service was a particular highlight, with the largest number of unbelievers we've ever had in attendance, to hear the good news of Jesus shining light into our darkness, in the context of a truly memorable evening.

The church website has also been updated to make it more evangelistic, including highlighting available talks and literature.

We also seek to bring gospel hope to those in need through involvement with two local initiatives:

(i) Southwest Community Chaplaincy assists in helping people discharged from prison to settle back into life after prison through support by mentors. Patrick Buckley, one of our elders, has been supporting someone in this position for the last 18 months. This involves regular meetings in a coffee shop to review how the person is getting on with employment and supporting agencies post-prison.

(ii) Jericho Road: this is a project run by the vicar of St John's Church, Truro to provide spiritual support for homeless people. Patrick and Priscilla Buckley assist with meeting at St John's church for a service and a chat.

We give God the thanks and praise for all the opportunities to speak about him and our wonderful Saviour Jesus, and pray that he would bring many of these people into a loving relationship with him, for the saving of their souls.

Pastoral care

The elders have continued to visit, or meet up with, both members and non-member regular attenders, as they have been able, for pastoral oversight. Informal pastoral visiting also occurs as members look out for one another, and visit one another as the need arises.

In addition, our church WhatsApp social group continues to keep members connected with one another with their current news and prayer needs, and proves a great blessing to a number.

The sense of loving community enjoyed by the church has also been fostered by informal get-togethers, including: an afternoon of fun and games in a nearby community centre in February and a pasty lunch and walk at Trelissick Gardens on Good Friday. Regular fellowship is enjoyed at our weekly Sunday lunches together.

The men have enjoyed meeting for men's breakfasts once a month. We meet at our pastors' home. The fellowship begins with a full English breakfast. After breakfast we have been looking at a Bible study series of the Life Builder series, thinking about Daniel and the Thessalonian epistles. These have been excellent, addressing all kinds of issues relating to accepting the will of God and prayer. There are usually 5-7 of us. As well as thinking about the Bible together, we had a Phillipino meal prepared by Joel: an excellent and tasty meal. Thanks to Nick for his hospitality and breakfast, and to all the men who have led our thoughts.

The ladies too enjoy mutual support and edification, both in monthly prayer meetings, and also in their monthly breakfasts, kindly provided by Priscilla and Leota, where they have recently begun a series of studies in contentment.

Safeguarding

Patrick Buckley: the trustee lead

Leota Morris: Safeguarding Officer

Christ Rotheray: assistant Safeguarding Officer

The Church Safeguarding team met twice in this past year. We are working on a system to ensure that information is stored safely and is easily accessible to those who are responsible for safeguarding. We have also devised principles for framing application forms which are required for safeguarding. Chris is in the process of ensuring that DBS checks are up to date. A training session for all those involved in teaching children and caring for vulnerable people has been arranged for March this year.

Thanks to Leota Morris and Chris Rotheray for their diligence and support in this area of the church life.

Trustees' meetings

The trustees have met quarterly to ensure the church is meeting our main purposes of the advancement of the Christian faith and other Christian charitable purposes (see Objectives and Activities).

We considered our charitable works, and identified the ways that several of our members individually give their time and efforts to do good in Truro or among their communities.

We considered the advancement of the faith within Truro and the surrounding neighbourhood, assessing how best to mark our move to the Trelander estate, and what opportunities should be taken. Leaflets were produced, and every house on the estate was visited during a week's mission in summer. We also considered how we might use the church's silver anniversary as a means of sharing the gospel, and a weekend of events was planned.

We also considered the advancement of the faith outside of Truro, by proposing that the church supports an outreach to a needy estate in St Ives, by prayer and regular financial giving. This was accepted by the membership, and duly commenced.

We considered the advancement of the faith through making disciples of our attenders, by reviewing our formal services and meetings, and by considering how to encourage informal, one-to-one discipleship among the members of the church.

Financial Review

For the period 1st January 2023 to the end of financial year 31st December 2023

Total income:	£ 56 477.30
Total expenditure:	£ 58 467.95
Total funds on 31 st December 2023:	£ 211 304.83

The church has a policy for holding reserves equivalent to 3 months of the pastor's salary and expenses, rental of the school hall where we meet for worship, plus our missionary giving and bookkeeping fees, as a safety net to ensure these prime responsibilities can be paid. This amounts to £12 800.

Structure, Governance and Management

Truro Evangelical Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The governing document for Truro Evangelical Church is the Constitution based on the Charity Commission Association Model for a CIO, as approved for independent churches, in conjunction with our Church Handbook.

Trustees are the elders of the church, as according to the Constitution. They are nominated by the other elders, and appointed by the vote of the membership at a members' meeting. In the event (as is current) where we have fewer than 3 elders, the third trustee is similarly nominated by the other trustees and appointed by the vote of the church members.

Most of the members volunteer their services to help in the life of the church, according to their ability. They are too many to name for personal thanks, and we do not wish to downplay the significance of those with limited physical capabilities, who are nonetheless stalwart pillars upholding the church by their faithful prayers. However, the trustees would like to give particular thanks to Priscilla Buckley for her diligent services as treasurer, and to Paul Sebuava for his faithful and tireless service in ensuring the practical functioning of our Sunday services.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Truro Evangelical Church CIO
Charity number: 1191260
Charity's principal address: 27 Navigator Way, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3GE

Independent Examiner: Rev. Michael Coles BSc. (Fully trained HMIT)
14 Pengarth Road Falmouth TR11 2TY

Bank: Lloyds Bank plc
Lewisham (309089) Branch
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Charity trustees

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Office:</i>
Patrick Buckley	Elder
Nick Fuller	Elder (pastor)
Robin Griffiths	Deacon

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signatures:



Position: Nick Fuller
Chair

Date: 24.3.24



Patrick Buckley
Trustee

24/3/24



Robin Griffiths
Trustee

24-03-24

TRURO EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1191260
CHARITY COMMISSION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES [INCLUDING INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT] FOR 12 MONTHS 1st January - 31st December 2023

	<u>Note</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		£	£	£
	1			
Regular Giving		46,994	799	47,793
One-off gift		4,000		4,000
Gift Aid & GASD claim		4,684		4,684
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>		£55,678	799	£56,477
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		£	£	£
Regular outgoing		55,568	799	56,367
One-off expenditure	2	2,101		2,101
<u>TOTAL OUTGOINGS</u>		£57,669	799	58,468

Balance in Bank @ 1st January 2023 £19,605.86
Balance in Bank @ 31st December 2023 £17,615.21

Note 1. The restricted gifts were towards the Evangelicals Now newspaper, a gift to support missionaries in Myanmar, and for the evangelistic meals held in Epiphany House in March and December.

The one-off anonymous gift was not restricted or designated.

Note 2. The one-off expenditure was for the purchase of an electric piano and accessories for the church.

Regular outgoing		£55,568	799	£56,367
Pastor				
Stipend		26,726		26,726
HMRC		6,563		6,563
Pension		1,957		1,957
				(= £35,246)
Ministry				
Pastor's expenses		592		592
Rent		6,700		6,700
Fees/Insurance		1,334		1,334
Conference expenses		815		815
Evangelism/books		703	719	1,422
Visiting preachers		350		350
AV Equipment		923		923
Printing/Office costs		733		733
Children's work		59		59
Refreshments/Sundries		731	30	761
Electric piano & accessories	2	2,101		2,101
Mission support total	3	7,382	50	7,432
TOTAL OUTGOING		£57,669	£799	£58,468

Note 3

Mission

Truro Evangelical Church regularly supports six mission organisations/individuals. Gifts are sent quarterly and over the year £4906 has been given to –
to Armond Anderyassian (Church evangelism in Arequipa, Peru). London City Mission (James Tredgett), GBM (Jason and Andrea Murfitt), Grace Partnership (Jyoti Chakravartty, India), International Mission to Jewish People, and the London Seminary.

We have given voluntary donations to Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches over the year of £1,056. We also support a small church in St. Ives with £100 per month. (£500 during 2023) and have given one-off gifts to missions and individuals when a need has arisen - totalling £970. These include the Open Air Mission, a Bible Fund Gift to the Murfitt's, and a gift for the support of a student in London Seminary.

Investment Funds

Truro Evangelical Church have four accounts in the COIF Charity Deposit Funds (CCLA Investment Management Ltd – a general account, a Church Building Fund account, a Benevolence Fund account, and a Training Fund account. Interest is added into the accounts and quarterly statements are sent. The accounts are designated but not restricted.

The Building Fund was set up save money for when/if a building became available for us to purchase as a church building. This is not a restricted fund and those asking for money to be credited to this account know that if we are not able to purchase a building it can be used for the work of the church or employment of additional staff.

The Benevolence Fund is for one-off special gifts to those experiencing difficulty, and is at the discretion of the Pastor and Elder.

Funds	1st January '23	Interest Jan-Oct 2 nd 23	Out	In	31st Dec '23
Lloyds Bank a/c Charities Deposit	19,605.86				17,615.21
General Fund	117,156.23	3,947.76			117,156.23
Building Fund	75,606.58	2,547.68			75,606.58
Benevolence Fund	926.81	31.24			926.81
Training Fund	nil				nil
<i>Total of Funds</i>	<i>£187,162.94</i>				<i>£193,689.62</i>
Totals	£206,054.35	£6,526.68			£211,304.83

Statement of assets and liabilities on 31 December 2023

The value of the assets owned are approx. £3,000.

The church does not own any property.

We do not have any debts or liabilities due to the church.

Serious incidents

We have not had any serious incidents in our charity over this period of 12 months.

Fundraising

We do not raise funds from the public.

Grant making/receiving

We do not have any grants or receive income from other contracts with central government or local authorities.

We do not receive income from outside the UK.

Employees

The church has one employee whose remuneration and expenses were not in excess of £60,000.

Our Pastor is a trustee and receives remuneration but not for work as a trustee. No remuneration or trustee expenses were paid to any other trustee during the year nor to any person connected to them other than refunds of legitimate trustee expenses.

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

Signed: 

Priscilla Buckley

Treasurer

Date: 26th March 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Truro Evangelical Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Truro Evangelical Church for the year ended 31 December 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 all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Coles', with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Name: Michael C Coles

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): Fully Trained HMIT

Address: 14 Pengarth Road Falmouth Cornwall TR11 2TY

Date: 7th March 2024