REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1192448

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

for

The Bridge Church Retford

Wright Vigar Limited
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
Chancery Court
34 West Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6ES

The Bridge Church Retford

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The Bridge Church Retford

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objective of the Charity is the advancement of the Christian religion by the proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God. Our activities are evangelical, educational, practical and social.

These provide public benefit to existing Church members and their families, but also the wider community. We hold regular Church meetings open to the public and specialist groups for older people and young people at our Centre, and we continue to contribute to mission, and relief work abroad. Individual members, motivated by our objective, are involved in local projects to benefit the community, and relieve poverty.

Public benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity's Commission guidance on public benefit and this is taken into account when considering the charity's objectives. The Trustees believe that our work and current activities as illustrated in this document meet this guidance.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The coffee shop is closed as it needs upgrading to current standards. We are looking at potentially renovating this area so it can re-open as a Wellbeing coffee shop for the community. The bookshop space is also under review regarding how this could be used for community support.

At 26a Bridgegate the tenant is doing well and continues to provide income to the church.

Church membership and attendance have continued to show growth over the year with new people joining the church and contributing to our charitable objectives. This will also help with our plans to expand to reach into the community that are identified as social need areas.

Food bank

The Food bank runs every Tuesday morning and has proven to be very popular, especially in the current environment of both food and energy price increases. The food bank strongly relies upon donations and grants to sustain the high demand. Donations have dropped from local supermarkets recently, but this has been due to the increase in living costs generally. The foodbank, however, aims to maintain its support to the local community in this way.

Connect Groups

Connect groups meet every week on a Wednesday afternoon and evening. This has now expanded to another group starting on a Thursday evening. The model of the groups is for encouraging fellowship and spiritual growth in our church members and attendees. Group members share with one another, pray together, and study the bible together, encouraging one another in their journey. Connect groups are also our primary method of delivering front line pastoral care, with Connect Group leaders keeping in close contact with their group members and keeping the leadership team apprised of needs that require a higher-level response.

We currently have four groups running. Three on a Wednesday; one in the afternoon (called Encounter) and two in the evening. We also have one run on a Thursday evening.

The groups generally meet in homes. Where this is not possible the groups will meet in the church.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The fellowship's financial position is reviewed at a meeting of the Church Council who receive a full financial report from the Finance Officer. The meetings are planned throughout the year quarterly. Financial risks are mitigated by control of spending, stimulation of income, and good liquidity in our premises. The financial period is now in line with the tax year.

As noted in the report for the last financial year, due to the move to a CIO, the comparisons below have to be taken as an average comparing this financial year of 12 months to the previous financial year of 16 months.

A significant difference in the latest accounts is the completion of the sale of number 22-24 Bridgegate. Not only have we not received any rental income from the lease of number 22-24, but we have also still had to pay £5,653 for the rates on an empty property before the sale was concluded.

Following the professional advice from Wright Vigar, the £150,000 received for the sale of 22-24 cannot be classed as extra income and, along with an amount of £791 added to expenditure for the depreciation of the fixed assets, the £225,000 designated last financial year as 'investment property' has had to be removed.

Therefore, the accounts for this period show expenditure over income of £89,728

The amounts detailed as restricted, although the movements may differ, the trustees are committed to ensuring they are spent for the purpose in which they are given and monitor closely with the general reserve.

Significant differences in the financial years, other than the sale of 22-24 Bridgegate, including the rent and rates for that property are:
- 21/22 a furlough grant of £9,498 was received due to Covid-19 and not received 22/23
- 22/23 we received an unrestricted £1,000 grant called Missio (training for personnel from AOG) and a Big Lottery grant of £10,000 was received which is restricted to be spent for the community and has not been spent to date.
- Both of the above grants received in 22/23 were not received in 21/22

Although there have been changes in membership, the tithes and offerings remain consistent.

Comparison of salaries, year on year, also remain consistent due to the change in personnel.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves of the charity. This review encompassed the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The review concluded that to allow the charity to be managed effectively, a policy to ensure 3 months worth of expenditure is held within reserves will be introduced.

As at 31 March 2023, the charity had unrestricted funds of £431,000. The level of "free reserves" at the year end was £160,440 and this consisted of the total unrestricted funds less fixed assets, which is available to the charity to use in achieving its charitable objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

On 5th October 2020, the church transferred to a Charitable Incorporated Organization. This required the implementation of a new governing document based on the AoG new model deed. This process was completed on 20th November 2020.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are recruited and appointed from within the Church to form the Church Council. New Trustees are appointed to the Church Council by the Elders and approved by the existing full Church Council.

Elders are appointed by existing members of the Eldership, in accordance with the Church Constitution. Their appointment is then approved by the full Church Council at a properly convened Church Council meeting.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

Working from the CIO model the Trustees are responsible for the buildings and land of the Church. The Trustees look after the day-to-day management of the Church and 'The Bridge Church Centre' where most of our activities are based.

The Bridge Church Retford operates with the following structure: Senior Leadership Team (Who are Elders), and other Church Council members. The SLT are responsible for the Spiritual leadership of the Church, and they meet fortnightly. The Church Council are responsible for finances, staff and all other practical matters and they meet every 3 months. The Church Council can call additional meetings when required and with the approved notice. All members of the Church Council are Managing Trustees. There are numerous smaller groups within the Church, and each has its designated Team Leader.

Operational

Our governance structure ensures that the Leadership Team have continued to look after and guide the congregation. Richard Caswell, the Senior Pastor is supported by Jon Ginever, Nico & Becky Foulds-Hopkin, & Justine Caswell who serve as the present Elders of the Church.

The full Church Council comprises of Richard Caswell, Jonathan Ginever, Phil Bishop, Mark Cawston and Mike Roys

Health and Safety, Safeguarding, and Data Protection policies are in place and reviewed appropriately. Activities are risk assessed, and appropriate insurance is in place. The Data Protection Policy was rewritten in May 2018 and is reviewed annually. Areas of responsibility are allocated to individual members of the Church Council to help improve accountability.

External

External activities are risk assessed and insured as appropriate.

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustee induction and training takes place on appointment and as required thereafter. A Fit and Proper persons declaration is signed and agreed on commencement of the role. Training incorporates the main duties and responsibilities of a Trustee and any specific individual roles explained.

All trustees appointed have specific roles to fulfil and take responsibility for.

Affiliations

We are affiliated to the Assemblies of God churches in the UK and Ireland and abide by their decisions regarding national work and programs.

We are a member of the local Churches Together in Retford group who hold regular meetings and activities throughout the year.

We are also members of the Retford Faith Action network.

We also attend the AOG Local Leaders Hub network and annual AOG conference.

Risk management

The major risk areas faced by the Fellowship are financial, operational, and external. They are managed by the Managing trustees as and when required.

Safeguarding

Our existing safeguarding policy was overhauled in 2021 following advice and training from 31:8 (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service) regarding up-to-date best practice to ensure that Children and Adults at risk are adequately protected. This policy is reviewed annually and additionally as required following any incident. The church is committed to the continued training and development of the safeguarding officer and staff working with children and adults at risk.

As part of this policy, we operate a safer recruitment procedure and ensure that all staff and volunteers working with children and adults at risk complete a self-declaration and acquire a DBS check prior to commencement of their post.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Principal funding sources

Our principal funding comes from cash gifts from Church members and gift aid. Finance also comes from the rental of 26a Funeral Directors.

Investment Policy

Our finance is kept in a NatWest current account and is easily accessible for church purposes.

Volunteers

The Fellowship relies heavily on volunteers. They serve as Elders, members of the Church Council and ministry leaders and helpers. They are involved in almost every aspect of our ministry and function.

We have grievance and disciplinary procedures in place for paid staff, which are also accessible for our volunteers.

The Church operates a safe recruitment process for volunteers applying to work with children or vulnerable adults. This includes an interview process and a requirement to obtain a DBS check. Currently, Jonathan Ginever has responsibility as Safeguarding Coordinator and lead recruiter for facilitating DBS checks.

Volunteers are recruited by filling in an application form, attending an Interview and have their ministers support/approval.

Plans for future periods

Our plans are to see greater involvement of our members within the life of the fellowship and the local community in accordance with our aims. We have recently started a new group called 'Butterflies' aimed at women who need support and encouragement. This is also supported by the Local NHS Social prescriber. We are currently looking at how we can develop our facilities so that we can start Wellbeing groups for the community. 'Bags of help' has now expanded into a community store (Food bank) with continued support from Morrisons, Lidl and Asda supermarkets. We have accessed a number of grants which help in purchasing foodstuff that is particularly in high demand.

We aim to see our membership grow, and our financial situation strengthen. We also aim to expand our current Connect Groups as there are at capacity currently. We want to continue making them as accessible as possible and encouraging our members to engage with them.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1192448

Principal address

26 -32 Bridgegate
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6AA

Trustees

J Ginever
P Caswell
M Cawston
P J Bishop
M S Roys Trustee (appointed 14.3.23)

Independent Examiner

Wright Vigar Limited
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
Chancery Court
34 West Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6ES

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 1 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



P Caswell - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Bridge Church Retford

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Bridge Church Retford
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Bridge Church Retford (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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.

Neil Roberts

Neil Roberts (Nov 1, 2023 12:41 GMT)

Neil Roberts BA FCA

Wright Vigar Limited
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
Chancery Court
34 West Street
Retford
Nottinghamshire
DN22 6ES

1 November 2023

The Bridge Church Retford

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Year Ended 31.3.23 Total funds £	Period 20.11.20 to 31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	59,474	5,914	65,388	90,995
Charitable activities	4				
Evangelical		-	-	-	426,104
Investment income	3	6,579	-	6,579	11,311
Other income		2,169	10,000	12,169	9,598
Total		68,222	15,914	84,136	538,008
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	5	42,709	-	42,709	52,683
Charitable activities	6				
Evangelical		11,590	639	12,229	21,241
Practical		38,750	-	38,750	38,117
Social		612	4,564	5,176	4,371
Other		75,000	-	75,000	-
Total		168,661	5,203	173,864	116,412
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	117,724
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(100,439)	10,711	(89,728)	539,320
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		531,439	7,881	539,320	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		431,000	18,592	449,592	539,320

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Bridge Church Retford

Balance Sheet
31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	270,560	-	270,560	271,351
Investment property	11	-	-	-	225,000
		270,560	-	270,560	496,351
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	3,617	-	3,617	4,073
Cash at bank		160,063	18,592	178,655	40,834
		163,680	18,592	182,272	44,907
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,240)	-	(3,240)	(1,938)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		160,440	18,592	179,032	42,969
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		431,000	18,592	449,592	539,320
NET ASSETS		431,000	18,592	449,592	539,320
FUNDS	14				
Unrestricted funds				431,000	531,439
Restricted funds				18,592	7,881
TOTAL FUNDS				449,592	539,320

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 1 November 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



P Caswell - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	-	not provided
Fixtures and fittings	-	25% on reducing balance

Investment property
Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Year Ended 31.3.23	Period 20.11.20 to 31.3.22
	£	£
Tithes & offerings	48,623	67,839
Gift aid refunds	10,393	16,130
Designated gifts	6,372	7,026
	65,388	90,995

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3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year Ended 31.3.23	Period 20.11.20 to 31.3.22
	£	£
Rents received	6,579	11,311

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	Year Ended 31.3.23	Period 20.11.20 to 31.3.22
		£	£
Transfer from charity	Evangelical	-	426,104

5. RAISING FUNDS

Other trading activities

	Year Ended 31.3.23	Period 20.11.20 to 31.3.22
	£	£
Trustees' remuneration etc	42,709	52,683

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 7)	Totals
	£	£	£
Evangelical	12,229	-	12,229
Practical	34,672	4,078	38,750
Social	5,176	-	5,176
	52,077	4,078	56,155

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Finance
	£
Practical	4,078

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

	Year Ended 31.3.23	Period 20.11.20 to 31.3.22
	£	£
Trustees' salaries	40,675	50,657
Trustees' pension contributions to money purchase schemes	2,034	2,026
	42,709	52,683

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the period ended 31 March 2022.

continued...

9. STAFF COSTS

	Year Ended 31.3.23	Period 20.11.20 to 31.3.22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	45,556	61,922
Other pension costs	2,034	2,026
	47,590	63,948

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	Year Ended 31.3.23	Period 20.11.20 to 31.3.22

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property	Fixtures and fittings	Totals
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	268,189	4,216	272,405
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2022	-	1,054	1,054
Charge for year	-	791	791
At 31 March 2023	-	1,845	1,845
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	268,189	2,371	270,560
At 31 March 2022	268,189	3,162	271,351

11. INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	£
FAIR VALUE	
At 1 April 2022	225,000
Disposals	(225,000)
At 31 March 2023	-
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	-
At 31 March 2022	225,000

continued...

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	2,532	3,710
Prepayments	1,085	363
	3,617	4,073

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	3,240	1,938

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	531,439	(100,439)	431,000
Restricted funds			
Eat Lunch	5,924	941	6,865
Hospitality	1,957	(613)	1,344
Butterflies ministry	-	383	383
Community grant	-	10,000	10,000
	7,881	10,711	18,592
TOTAL FUNDS	539,320	(89,728)	449,592

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	68,222	(168,661)	(100,439)
Restricted funds			
Eat Lunch	4,287	(3,346)	941
Hospitality	605	(1,218)	(613)
Butterflies ministry	1,022	(639)	383
Community grant	10,000	-	10,000
	15,914	(5,203)	10,711
TOTAL FUNDS	84,136	(173,864)	(89,728)

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	518,449	12,990	531,439
Xcel - Men's conference	785	(785)	-
Dave Wade Gambia	250	(250)	-
Cherish - Womens conference	1,909	(1,909)	-
Bassetlaw DC Grant - Coffee shop	10,000	(10,000)	-
Freedom in Christ	46	(46)	-
	531,439	-	531,439
Restricted funds			
Eat Lunch	5,924	-	5,924
Hospitality	1,957	-	1,957
	7,881	-	7,881
TOTAL FUNDS	539,320	-	539,320

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	514,262	(113,537)	117,724	518,449
Xcel - Men's conference	1,030	(245)	-	785
Dave Wade Gambia	250	-	-	250
Cherish - Womens conference	2,125	(216)	-	1,909
Bassetlaw DC Grant - Coffee shop	10,000	-	-	10,000
Freedom in Christ	46	-	-	46
	527,713	(113,998)	117,724	531,439
Restricted funds				
Eat Lunch	8,036	(2,112)	-	5,924
Hospitality	2,259	(302)	-	1,957
	10,295	(2,414)	-	7,881
TOTAL FUNDS	538,008	(116,412)	117,724	539,320

continued...

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The Bridge Church Retford

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Year Ended 31.3.23 £	Period 20.11.2 to 31.3.22 £	0
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS			
Donations and legacies			
Tithes & offerings	48,623	67,839	
Gift aid refunds	10,393	16,130	
Designated gifts	6,372	7,026	
	65,388	90,995	
Investment income			
Rents received	6,579	11,311	
Charitable activities			
Transfer from charity	-	426,104	
Other income			
Grants	10,000	9,498	
Other income	2,169	100	
	12,169	9,598	
Total incoming resources	84,136	538,008	
EXPENDITURE			
Other trading activities			
Trustees' salaries	40,675	50,657	
Trustees' pension contributions	2,034	2,026	
	42,709	52,683	
Charitable activities			
Wages	4,881	11,265	
Rates and water	7,459	5,925	
Insurance	5,627	6,823	
Light and heat	9,122	9,465	
Telephone	443	516	
Printing, postage & stationery	190	250	
General expenses	1,844	3,097	
AOG fees & giving	3,623	3,838	
Repairs & maintenance	6,294	4,878	
Travelling & events	737	587	
Cleaning	2,216	2,722	
Tithes to external ministries	2,060	3,110	
Designated gifts	5,661	3,539	
Bank charges	-	14	
IT costs	1,129	2,120	
Fixtures and fittings	791	1,054	
	52,077	59,203	

The Bridge Church Retford

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Year Ended 31.3.23 £	Period 20.11.2 to 31.3.22 £	0
Charitable activities			
Other			
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	75,000	-	
Support costs			
Finance			
Professional fees	4,078	4,526	
Total resources expended	173,864	116,412	
Net (expenditure)/income	(89,728)	421,596	