

# Trustees' Annual Report

## Introduction:

The Trustees of the church are the elders. They have the responsibility to ensure that the church, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, fulfils the purposes laid down in its Constitution and in a way that is consistent with the Church Handbook. To that end the Trustees are required to produce an Annual Report to report on what activities the church has conducted in seeking to fulfil those objectives. This document is in the public domain.

## Section 1: Legal and Administrative Information

*Charity Name:* Newtown Evangelical Church or EglwysEfengylaidd y Drenewydd

*Registered Charity Number:* 1193768

For the period beginning on 01/04/22 and ending on 31/03/23

*Charity Address:* Newtown Evangelical Church, Llanidloes Road, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1HL

*Governance Documents:* Constitution adopted by the Church Members on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and approved and registered by the Charity Commission on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021, and Church Handbook which was approved by the Church Members on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

*Objects of the Charity:* According to the Constitution (Section 3), “The purposes of the Church are:

- the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Newtown, Powys 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 in accordance with the provisions of the Church Handbook.”

## Section 2: Trustees and Governance

Trustees consisting of

- Elders: Ben Christofides, Tim Gill, Owain Jones, Dan Owen, Lloyd Pritchard and Gareth Pugh.

## Section 3. Activities and Achievements

- According to our constitution the first purpose of the church is “the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Newtown, Powys and the surrounding neighbourhood”.
- Throughout the period we have met twice a week on a Sunday for corporate worship. Throughout the period when we have been holding services in the building we have provided a private live-stream of the services on our YouTube channel, so that those of our congregation who were prevented from attending because of concerns about the pandemic, or are otherwise “housebound” might benefit from the services. These meetings contain praise of God. At the centre of them has been the systematic exposition of Scripture. We have completed sermon series on the book of Acts and on the book of Daniel. Series on Esther and Hebrews have started and the (long-running!) series on Psalms has continued. We have been very grateful to have received faithful and helpful preaching from visiting preachers, particularly from those who came

during Tim's sabbatical. We have continued to give prayer a central place in those meetings, believing that the Christian faith can only be advanced through a prayerful dependence on God.

We have held weekly midweek meetings. Some of these meetings are held on the church premises on a Wednesday evening for prayer and Bible Study (or to hear reports of missions work). Twice monthly "Home Groups" have continued (except in late July, August and September). These "Home Groups" include both discussion about the teaching of the Bible and prayer for one another and for the work of the church. We have celebrated the Lord's Supper on a fortnightly basis. We have continued to hold two prayer meetings each week (online using Zoom), and one in the building, to pray specifically for the salvation of sinners and the restoration of backsliders and for the strengthening of those who are struggling in their faith. We have also held regular prayer meetings prior to our Sunday services to seek God's blessing on the services.

A Fellowship Meeting for Women in the church has been restarted (after the pandemic). This meets twice a month. We thank God that we have held a baptismal service at which one person was baptised.

- The Elders (trustees) have sought to consistently lead the church in such a way that all our teaching and practise is in accord with the Word of God. We do this through the regular preaching and teaching ministry, and through regular Elders' Meetings at which we seek to apply the teaching of the Bible to the issues facing the church. We have been supported in this by the Deacons who have been delegated the responsibility to oversee many practical areas of the life of the church. These decisions are subject to further scrutiny at Church Members' meetings which have been held throughout the year. By God's grace we believe that we are a church that is preserved from serious error, but recognise that we can never be complacent in this regard.

- In seeking to train up potential future leaders, our two employed elders have been meeting regularly with two young men – Joshua Edwin and Dave Owen – to engage in training. The church has recently approved the appointment of Dave Owen as a Ministry Trainee (which will involve being employed by the church part-time, and part-time working as a volunteer) for two years beginning on 01/04/23.

- In our endeavour to advance the Christian faith we have run a number of evangelistic events for young and old, for men and women – and some open to all. This year "Coffee and Cake" has restarted (after stopping during the pandemic), and a new monthly outreach for women on a Monday afternoon has started ("Getting to know ..."). The aim of this latter activity is particularly to build on the contacts we made during "Holiday@Home" held in July. Occasional evangelistic events for women – aimed particularly at those who are not free for daytime meetings – have also restarted. We have also run Hot Potato evenings, where speakers were invited to talk about a controversial subject with the aim both of defending the faith before those from outside the church and also of equipping members to live in a God-honouring way in 21<sup>st</sup> century Wales, as well as equipping them to answer questions those outside the church might have.

- One of the strengths of the church has been the work amongst children and young people. Classes for providing age-appropriate Bible teaching for children take place within our morning services. Suitable teaching for those aged 11-14 is arranged either on a small group basis, or on a one-to-one basis. On Friday evenings there are clubs for primary aged children and high school aged children. These have been very well attended throughout the period with any up to about 150 attending the two clubs. In this way we have had much opportunity to advance the Christian faith among these age groups. They all meet charitable purposes (our other aim) by providing leisure activities for youth which are greatly appreciated in our local community. Additionally, Bible studies for boys and girls have been run on a weekly basis so that those in the Youth Club who wish to find out more about the Christian faith can do so. Our Parents and Toddlers group (attended by as many as 60-70) also meets a need amongst parents of young children, and indeed for

the young children themselves. There is also some Christian teaching provided at a suitable level to these very young children.

- Our interest in advancing the Christian faith beyond our area has been widespread. Two of our members, together with their youngest child, have continued to serve in another country. Another couple have been serving in Cyprus particularly among two particularly disadvantaged communities. Another couple are doing evangelistic work in south-west Shropshire – an area currently without a gospel proclaiming, Bible teaching church. During the period we have also heard from speakers on a monthly basis who assist us in playing our part in the advancement of the Christian faith across the world. A number of our church members have served on Christian Easter and Summer camps, and on Beach Missions. We have continued a monthly prayer meeting specifically devoted to praying for the missionaries we have particular links with.
- We have expressed our co-operation, in the work of advancing the Christian faith, with other Churches who embrace the evangelical faith in a variety of ways. For example, at a national level we have continued to be linked to the Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales and the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches and through them with Affinity. These links arise from a desire to further partner with other churches in reaching Wales, England and Scotland with the gospel. We have continued to seek to express our fellowship with other Christians and churches who suffer persecution for their faith across the world in a variety of ways.
- A major development in the life of the church over these twelve months has been our involvement in supporting Christians who have left Ukraine as a result of the war there. Fourteen Ukrainians – from four families – all of whom are members of, or connected to, a church in the south-west of Ukraine, are now living with members of the church, or in housing organised by a member of the church, and are worshipping with us. This we believe is in accordance with our second purpose as a church according to our constitution as a charity. Being joined by these Christian brothers and sisters has been a great blessing to us as a church.

#### **Section 4: Policies**

- Reserves policy: To have reserves amounting to approximately £100,000 which the managing trustees consider to be an appropriate level of general reserve, being sufficient to cover at least 9 months expenditure.
- Grant-making policy: We do not make grants.
- Investments selection policy: The Managing Trustees have adopted a low risk approach to investments, as we require access to funds on a short term basis, so deposit accounts bearing the maximum interest with the minimum length of term commitment are used.

#### **Section 5: Signature and Declaration**

Declaration: I declare, in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

- the have approved the report above; and have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Gareth Pugh (Chairman of Trustees)

## Statement of Financial Activities

## INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE

	For the Year Ended 31.3.2023			3 months to 31.3.2022
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS £	TOTAL FUNDS £
<b>NOTES</b>				
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<b>INCOME</b>				
General Fund Donations (inc Gift Aid)	118,783		118,783	27,240
Restricted Funds Donations (inc Gift Aid)		68,814	68,814	11,151
Donations for use of premises	1,294		1,294	0
Bookstall	100		100	0
Insurance Claim	28,922		28,922	0
Interest Received	685		685	2
	<b>149,784</b>	<b>68,814</b>	<b>218,598</b>	<b>38,393</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Salary & Pension Costs	66,450		66,450	17,935
Travel and Conference Expenses	2,514		2,514	660
Visiting Preachers	1,879		1,879	720
Outreach (inc Young Peoples Work)	3,016		3,016	97
Literature	3,675		3,675	526
<b>Total Ministry Costs</b>	<b>77,533</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77,533</b>	<b>19,937</b>
AWM / Missionary Support	8,153	5,180	13,333	1,800
Welshpool Community Church		27,640	27,640	7,460
Graingers		5,060	5,060	298
South Shropshire		738	738	61
SAT7	230		230	125
Benevolent Fund		1,854	1,854	0
SGA	100		100	2,075
Camp		2,045	2,045	0
Open Doors	345	690	1,035	0
OM	200		200	0
UFM	200		200	0
Cardiff Met CU	200		200	0
FIEC & AECW	2,200		2,200	0
Ukraine House		500	500	0
Poland		13,000	13,000	0
<b>Total Mission Support</b>	<b>11,628</b>	<b>56,706</b>	<b>68,335</b>	<b>11,818</b>
Insurance	2,846		2,846	1,669
Water Rates	393		393	63
Light and Heat	5,524		5,524	1,192
Repairs and Maintenance	16,368		16,368	2,564
Architects Fees	4,308		4,308	0
Cleaning	513		513	0
Grounds Expenses	89		89	0
<b>Total Property Expenses</b>	<b>30,041</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,041</b>	<b>5,488</b>
A/V	1,650	250	1,900	3,039
Photocopying and Stationery	1,168		1,168	239
Communications	1,771		1,771	171
Subscriptions and Licences	1,824		1,824	136
Legal Fees	975		975	0
Independent Examination of Accounts	330		330	450
Bank Charges	120		120	9
Consumables	1,086		1,086	0
<b>Total Office Costs</b>	<b>8,923</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>9,174</b>	<b>4,043</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>128,126</b>	<b>56,957</b>	<b>185,083</b>	<b>41,287</b>
<b>Net Income / (expenditure) for the Year</b>	<b>21,658</b>	<b>11,857</b>	<b>33,515</b>	<b>-2,894</b>
<u>Reconciliation of Funds</u>				
Funds brought forward	77,404	24,988	102,393	105,287
Funds carried forward	<b>99,062</b>	<b>36,846</b>	<b>135,908</b>	<b>102,393</b>

## *Gwasanaethau Busnes Dolgellau* *Dolgellau Business Services*

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### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Newtown Evangelical Church CIO / Eglwys Efengylaidd y Drenewydd CIO, Charity Number 1193768.**

I report on the accounts of the Newtown Evangelical Church CIO / Eglwys Efengylaidd y Drenewydd CIO for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, which are set out on the following pages.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO'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.

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.



Alan Woodbridge MIC

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

#### **Alan Woodbridge Limited**

Cofrestredig yng Ngymru  
Rhif Cofrestru Cwmni

4787064

Registered in Wales  
Company Registration Number