

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 Eglwys Efengylaidd y Drenewydd

Registered Charity Number: 1193768

For the period beginning on 01/04/23 and ending on 31/03/24

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

Governance Documents: Constitution adopted by the Church Members on 17th February 2021 and approved and registered by the Charity Commission on 10th March 2021, and Church Handbook which was approved by the Church Members on 17th 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 (up to 30/10/23) 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 we have also provided a private live-stream of the services on our YouTube channel, so that those of our congregation who were prevented from attending because they are "housebound", or temporarily unable to attend, 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 books of Hebrews and Esther, had a series of sermons on the book of Ruth, continued our sermon series on Psalms, and started series on Isaiah's prophecy and John's gospel. We have been very grateful to have received faithful and helpful preaching

from visiting preachers. 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 twice monthly, and have, on occasion, celebrated it in the context of a meal -during our fellowship lunch.

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 meets twice a month. Groups to particularly help children aged 11-14 and young people aged 14-18 grow in their Christian faith have normally been held weekly.

We thank God that we have held two baptismal services at which a total of seven people were 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.
- One of our employed trustees, Lloyd Pritchard, went on paid leave from 30th October 2023, to give him opportunity to address personal matters which meant he wasn’t qualified to serve as an elder at that point. At this point he ceased to serve as an elder, and thus as a trustee. He was originally given three months paid leave (till the end of January 2024). This was subsequently extended by two months (to the end of March 2024). During those latter two months it became clear to him that he ought to hand in his written notice. This happened on 26th February 2024. (He ceased to be employed by the church on 14th April 24.)
- In seeking to train up potential future leaders, our two employed elders met regularly, during the first part of the year, with two young men – Joshua Edwin and Dave Owen – to engage in training. On 1st September 2023 Josh took up a two-year post at a church in North London as a “Cross Cultural Ministry Trainee”. The church supported him in his decision to further his training in this way. Dave Owen started work as a “Ministry Trainee” (which involves being employed by the church 12 hours a week, and part-time working as a volunteer) for two years beginning on 1st April 23. The training component of his work involves study on the Theological Training Course run by the Evangelical Movement of Wales, and also placements at other churches. This year Dave has had placements at churches in Abergavenny, Abersychan and Penrhyndeudraeth. He has also served in many ways in this church – leading services, preaching, helping lead a home group, doing pastoral work with young men and teenage boys, helping with our children’s and youth work, in particular.
- 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. “Coffee and Cake”, once a month on Fridays, has continued as have the two monthly outreach meetings for women on a Monday (“Craft and Chat” and “Getting to Know ...”). Occasional evangelistic events for women – aimed particularly at those who are not free for daytime meetings – have also continued, as have occasional evangelistic events for men. We have also run Hot Potato evenings, where speakers are 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 21st century

Wales, as well as equipping them to answer questions those outside the church might have. We have also run a “Christianity Explored” course, which aims to introduce people to the Christian faith.

- In seeking to strength the provision of pastoral care for members of the church, and also in seeking to support the work of the church in proclaiming the Christian faith to those who are not yet Christians we have employed Rob and Gill Burridge (both for 12 hours a week) starting on March 1st 2023 (for a fixed period of 18 months). They both help with the provision of pastoral care and, in Rob’s case, to help us with our evangelism.
- 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. We also organised a “Holiday Bible Club” for primary school aged children for five says in the summer holidays. 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, a Bible study for girls has 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. Studies with boys have been organised on a one-to-one basis as needed. Our Parents and Toddlers group (attended by as many as 80) 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, served the Lord in another country until June 2023. Another couple served in Cyprus particularly among two particularly disadvantaged communities until July 2023. Another couple are doing evangelistic work in south-west Shropshire – an area currently without a gospel proclaiming, Bible teaching church. Other members of the church have been to other countries for short periods to assist in the work of proclaiming the Christian faith there. 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 for children and young people, and on Beach Missions.
- 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.

Section 4: Policies

- Reserves policy: To have reserves amounting to approximately £60,000 which the managing trustees consider to be an appropriate level of general reserve, being sufficient to cover at least 8 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:

- they 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 & EXPENDITURE

	For the Year Ended 31.3.2024			Year Ended 31.3.2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
NOTES	£		£	£	£
1 e					
INCOME					
General Fund Donations (inc Gift Aid)	141,060			141,060	118,783
Unrestricted Designated New Build Fund		12,865		12,865	0
Restricted Funds Donations (inc Gift Aid)			34,283	34,283	68,814
Donations for use of premises	1,242			1,242	1,294
Bookstall	525			525	100
Insurance Claim	0			0	28,922
Interest Received	2,893			2,893	685
	<u>145,720</u>	<u>12,865</u>	<u>34,283</u>	<u>192,868</u>	<u>218,598</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Salary & Pension Costs	75,519			75,519	66,450
Travel and Conference Expenses	2,560			2,560	2,514
Visiting Preachers	1,465			1,465	1,879
Outreach (inc Young Peoples Work)	2,620			2,620	3,016
Literature	1,582			1,582	3,675
Total Ministry Costs	<u>83,746</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>83,746</u>	<u>77,533</u>
AWM / Missionary Support	6,790		1,726	8,516	13,333
Welshpool Community Church			31,698	31,698	27,640
Graingers			2,455	2,455	5,060
Mission Support	2,950			2,950	0
South Shropshire			683	683	738
Benevolent Fund			567	567	1,854
Camp			187	187	2,045
Barnabas Fund			631	631	0
FIEC & AECW	2,500			2,500	2,200
Ukraine House			3,144	3,144	500
Ukraine Camp	1,000		2,000	3,000	0
Poland			1,863	1,863	13,000
Various Missions				0	1,965
Total Mission Support	<u>13,240</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>44,954</u>	<u>58,194</u>	<u>68,335</u>
Insurance	3,027			3,027	2,846
Water Rates	858			858	393
Light and Heat	6,786			6,786	5,524
Repairs and Maintenance	8,879			8,879	16,368
Architects Fees	3,642			3,642	4,308
Cleaning	171			171	513
Grounds Expenses	93			93	89
Total Property Expenses	<u>23,456</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23,456</u>	<u>30,041</u>
A/V	1,717		200	1,917	1,900
Photocopying and Stationery	1,126			1,126	1,168
Communications	1,173			1,173	1,771
Subscriptions and Licences	1,790			1,790	1,824
Legal Fees	0			0	975
Independent Examination of Accounts	350			350	330
Bank Charges	80			80	120
Consumables	775			775	1,086
Total Office Costs	<u>7,010</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>7,210</u>	<u>9,174</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>127,453</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>45,154</u>	<u>172,606</u>	<u>185,083</u>
Net Income / (expenditure) for the Year	<u>18,267</u>	<u>12,865</u>	<u>-10,871</u>	<u>20,261</u>	<u>33,515</u>
<u>Reconciliation of Funds</u>					
Funds brought forward	99,062	0	36,846	135,908	102,393
Funds carried forward	<u>117,329</u>	<u>12,865</u>	<u>25,975</u>	<u>156,169</u>	<u>135,908</u>

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 31st March 2024, 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

Alan Woodbridge MIC

Date: 29th May 2024

Alan Woodbridge Limited

Cofrestredig yng Ngymru
Rhif Cofrestru Cwmni

4787064

Registered in Wales
Company Registration Number