

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, by the Charity Commission, 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 01/04/24 and ending on 31/03/25

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 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 a sermon series on the books of John, had a series of sermons on the book of 1 John, continued our sermon series on Psalms and on Isaiah’s prophecy, and have started a series of sermons on the subject of Spiritual Disciplines. We have been very grateful to have received faithful and helpful preaching from visiting preachers. Separate Bible teaching is given for children aged 4-11 during the morning service, and a creche for pre-school aged children is run, so that all those attending can hear

teaching that they are capable of understanding. 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 Sundays 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 during the year, at which a total of three people were baptised.
- The Elders (trustees) have sought to consistently lead the church in such a way that all our teaching and practice 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, we have continued to support Josh Edwin in his two-year post at a church in North London as a “Cross Cultural Ministry Trainee”. Dave Owen has completed his second year of work as a “Ministry Trainee” (which involved being employed by the church 12 hours a week, and part-time working as a volunteer). The training component of his work involved 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 Penrhyndeudraeth and also in Bordeaux in France. 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.
- Recognising that it would be good to employ a second pastor to strengthen our ability to preach and teach God’s word faithfully, from the pulpit and to small groups and in pastorally visiting individuals or couples, the church has agreed to employ Andy Christiofides as Assistant Pastor for two years. He will be starting work for the church on 1st April 2025.
- 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 strengthen 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). Rob was employed by the church until the end of January 2025, and Gill was employed throughout the year. They have both helped with the provision of pastoral care and, in our evangelism.
- One of the strengths of the church has been the work amongst children and young people. As mentioned earlier, 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 days 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. Bible Studies with boys have also been organised. Our Parents and Toddlers group (attended by as many as 80) also meets a need amongst parents of young children, and 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. One couple are doing evangelistic work in south-west Shropshire – an area that has been 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. We have continued to have strong links with churches in Ukraine and Poland, and have sought to support the work of these two churches.
- 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 6 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 as chair of the charity trustees, 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 31.3.2025			Year Ended 31.3.2024	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS £	TOTAL FUNDS £
NOTES					
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INCOME					
General Fund Donations (inc Gift Aid)	118,572			118,572	141,060
Unrestricted Designated New Build Fund		13,777		13,777	12,865
Restricted Funds Donations (inc Gift Aid)			33,300	33,300	34,283
Donations for use of premises	2,112			2,112	1,242
Bookstall	239			239	525
Interest Received	3,897			3,897	2,893
	<u>124,819</u>	<u>13,777</u>	<u>33,300</u>	<u>171,896</u>	<u>192,868</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Salary & Pension Costs	57,640			57,640	75,519
Travel and Conference Expenses	3,164			3,164	2,560
Visiting Preachers	1,423			1,423	1,465
Outreach (inc Young Peoples Work)	2,697			2,697	2,620
Literature	1,289			1,289	1,582
Total Ministry Costs	<u>66,214</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>66,214</u>	<u>83,746</u>
AWM / Missionary Support				0	8,516
Welshpool Community Church			31,686	31,686	31,698
Graingers			240	240	2,455
Mission Support	7,901			7,901	2,950
South Shropshire			584	584	683
Benevolent Fund			2,250	2,250	567
Camp			420	420	187
Barnabas Fund			674	674	631
FIEC & AECW	2,700			2,700	2,500
Ukraine House			2,861	2,861	3,144
Ukraine Camp				0	3,000
Ukraine			675	675	0
Poland				0	1,863
Total Mission Support	<u>10,601</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>39,389</u>	<u>49,990</u>	<u>58,194</u>
Insurance	3,039			3,039	3,027
Water Rates	1,170			1,170	858
Light and Heat	6,109			6,109	6,786
Repairs and Maintenance	45,135			45,135	8,879
Architects Fees		2,820		2,820	3,642
Cleaning	219			219	171
Grounds Expenses	3,963			3,963	93
Total Property Expenses	<u>59,635</u>	<u>2,820</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>62,455</u>	<u>23,456</u>
A/V	268		236	504	1,917
Photocopying and Stationery	1,022			1,022	1,126
Communications	1,538			1,538	1,173
Subscriptions and Licences	2,247			2,247	1,790
Independent Examination of Accounts	375			375	350
Bank Charges	65			65	80
Consumables	1,803			1,803	775
Total Office Costs	<u>7,318</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>7,555</u>	<u>7,210</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>143,768</u>	<u>2,820</u>	<u>39,626</u>	<u>186,213</u>	<u>172,606</u>
Net Income / (expenditure) for the Year	<u>-18,948</u>	<u>10,957</u>	<u>-6,326</u>	<u>-14,317</u>	<u>20,261</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Funds brought forward	117,329	12,865	25,975	156,169	135,908
Funds carried forward	<u>98,381</u>	<u>23,822</u>	<u>19,649</u>	<u>141,852</u>	<u>156,169</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 2025, 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').

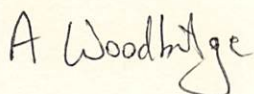
I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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: 21st May 2025

Alan Woodbridge Limited

Cofrestredig yng Ngymru
Rhif Cofrestru Cwmni

4787064

Registered in Wales
Company Registration Number