

Eastney Evangelical Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2024

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Eastney Evangelical Church 21 Eastney Road Southsea PO4 9JA
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	CIO dated March 2021
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1193860
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Elizabeth Ogundele Gillian Rees Christopher Thomas Matthew Licence (appointed May 2023)
BANKERS	CAF Bank Ltd.
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Jaimée Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

INDEX

Page 2	Legal and Administrative Details
Pages 4-6	Trustees' Report
Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Pages 10-11	Notes to the Accounts

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2024.

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution and is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The charity's principal objects, as set out in its governing document, are:

- (1) the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Eastney and the surrounding neighbourhood; and
- (2) 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.

Review of the charity's main activities and achievements

Church Membership increased by one Full Member, and two Associate Members to 26 and 4 respectively. Trustees of the church were Pastor Chris Thomas (Elder), and Miss Gill Rees, Mrs Elizabeth Ogundele and Mr Matt Licence [from 3 May] (Deacons). Trustee training has included a special session on Fraud Prevention, and we completed the last of the Charity Commission '5 Minute Guides'.

The period saw steady numbers attending worship, and a most encouraging trickle of those reached by outreach coming in to worship. The period happily closed on Easter day (31 March 2024) with a baptism of a long-standing attendee.

- Word ministry expounded Scripture in the light of the church basis of Faith, two short series in Psalm 119 and in Luke ch1, and a major series began in January in the book of Jeremiah. We also observe the Christian calendar as well as other significant national and other events.
- It was a joy to join with Cornerstone Evangelical Church to share Christmas and New Year worship together.
- Explorers (Sunday school for 4-10s) has been blessed with a consistent 6-7 children each week: 18 months ago we just had one child benefitting from the high quality and sacrificial ministry of gifted teachers. Thank you Lord.
- Church lunches have continued to benefit the community life of the church.
- As we have continued to seek to be a 'Church for the Community', the "Eastney Roundabout Coffee Pot" has continued, and between December and Easter was extended to provide "Warm Space", with a simple lunch. All this is much appreciated by a consistent number of attendees. We received a visit by Rt Hon Stephen Morgan MP to 'Coffee Pot' on 15 March.

- The life and outreach of the church has continued in TeenScene, Women's Fellowship, D Groups, Messy Church, Home Outreach, Prayer Pulse, Sparks and Fusion as before, giving a rounded and full church program.
- We have been blessed by visits and deputation from many of our Mission Partners, and other Christian workers: including Igor Barbanel (Christian Mission to the Jewish People), Danny Yarker (Seafarers' Christian Friends Society), Josh Williamson (Open Air Mission).
- The 'Hope and Future' group comprising the Pastor, 2 Deacons and 2 Members continued to meet, reporting to Members' Meetings. The twin needs of rejuvenating the church's leadership, and seeking a relief Pastor over the next 5 years were identified and agreed as priorities. As a result in late 2023, Members resolved to seek an Assistant Pastor to meet both those needs. As the period closes, in God's kindness we anticipate a visit by a potential candidate. A 'Future Ministry Fund' has been set up to receive donations in support.
- Whilst there has been much to encourage in the life of the church, in common with many churches in the UK, very few attendees make the needful transition into church membership of any sort. There is also a trend for people to attend for a few months and then fade away. These are major concerns across UK evangelical churches, and we have held 2 'Welcome Aboard' sessions to help address this concerning need.
- Our links and fellowship with Mission Partners across the UK and the world have continued. The local and national ministry and leadership provided by the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC), to which the church remains in committed membership, has been most helpful. The Pastor and his wife attended the FIEC Leaders' Conference in November, and is active in the local FIEC fraternal.
- We have continued to lend preaching support and prayerful fellowship to the eldership of our sister church in Alverstoke. The Pastor also attends the One Body fellowship of Portsmouth churches. He remains a member of Portsmouth SACRE.

The church accounts have shown an end of year deficit of £470, which is less than the expected deficit of just over £17,000. This is a great kindness from the Lord: and in human terms has come from increased giving, and carefully controlled expenditure, but also £3,750 of delayed payment from the Missionary fund which will become an extra cost to FY 24/25. The end of year balance was just under £65,000. This is a significant decrease from the last financial period, but still well above the (revised) Reserve level of £20,000. Susan Licence has been Church Bookkeeper.

The church has known the Lord's help and blessing in a remarkable way over the past 12 months, but the spiritual and social needs of local people and across the globe have continued to touch our hearts. Several Restricted Funds have been active to meet those needs. In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Reserves policy

The Reserve level has been set at after a significant reappraisal of the Reserves' Policy. Trustees determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than £20,000 so that the charity could continue to operate should income and/or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of just under £63,200: well above the Reserves Policy level.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rests with the trustees who meet

regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. New trustees are recruited and appointed by a majority vote of the Church Members' Meeting. We have adopted a new Serious Incident Reporting Policy, updated Internal Financial Controls and Building Hire Guidelines, and are developing a Social Media Policy and new Support Fund Guidelines. Safeguarding procedures are closely monitored and implemented as necessary.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year. We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Chris Thomas

Date: 20 Sep 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Eastney Evangelical Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 on pages 8 to 11 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jaimée Young

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 23 September 2024

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	£	£	£
Income receipts						
Donations		52,307	-	4,141	56,448	51,077
Gift aid receipts		9,371	-	-	9,371	6,691
Rental Income		12,685	-	-	12,685	12,326
Hall Hire		1,543	-	-	1,543	1,715
Interest		1,431	-	6	1,437	476
Total receipts		77,336	-	4,146	81,483	72,286
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	66,967	-	249	67,216	61,671
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	11,750	-	2,986	14,736	17,165
Total payments		78,717	-	3,236	81,953	78,836
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		(1,381)	-	911	(470)	(6,549)
Transfers between funds	5	(633)	-	633	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,013)	-	1,543	(470)	(6,549)
Cash funds as at last year end		65,166	-	294	65,460	72,009
Cash funds at this year end	A	63,153	-	1,837	64,990	65,460

The notes on pages 10-11 form part of these accounts.

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>			Total 2024	Total 2023
	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	£	£
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access	6,295	-	319	6,614	602
Notice deposits	56,857	-	1,518	58,375	64,858
	<u>63,152</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,837</u>	<u>64,990</u>	<u>65,460</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Gift aid due to charity	10,655	-	-	10,655	9,371
Other debtors	270	-	-	270	218
Prepaid church insurance	1,856	-	-	1,856	1,817
	<u>12,781</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,781</u>	<u>11,405</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year:					
Taxes due	969	-	-	969	944
Independent examination fee	900	-	-	900	870
Missionary Fund	3,750	-	-	3,750	-
Retention for McCann remedial work	-	-	-	-	833
	<u>5,619</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,619</u>	<u>2,647</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use				Value 2024 £	Value 2023 £
Freehold property - church				721,327	691,972
Freehold property - manse				390,256	394,329
Contents and equipment				25,671	32,395
				<u>1,137,254</u>	<u>1,118,696</u>

Insurance values have been used for the freehold properties as the trustees are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values. Estimated replacement value has been used for contents and equipment.

E Guarantees and secured debts

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

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

by

date

Chris Thomas

20 Sep 2024

The notes on pages 10-11 form part of these accounts

EASTNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs	43,395	-	-	43,395	40,828
Utilities	6,066	-	-	6,066	4,167
Insurance	2,546	-	-	2,546	3,735
Administration and support services	4,419	-	-	4,419	4,065
Ministry and outreach activities	1,979	-	60	2,039	2,401
Building maintenance and equipment	7,066	-	-	7,066	3,807
Work among the young	590	-	90	680	550
Governance and legal fees	870	-	-	870	2,082
Support Fund	-	-	99	99	36
Other costs	35	-	-	35	-
	<u>66,967</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>67,216</u>	<u>61,671</u>

3 Grants and gifts paid to others

Organisations:					
OMF	2,750	-	-	2,750	3,500
STEP(UK)	2,750	-	100	2,850	3,600
Grace Church, Brighton	2,750	-	-	2,750	3,500
Barnabas Fund	800	-	40	840	800
London City Mission	-	-	-	-	600
Organisations < 1000	600	-	1,249	1,849	2,465
Individuals	2,100	-	1,598	3,698	2,700
	<u>11,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,986</u>	<u>14,736</u>	<u>17,165</u>

4 Transactions with related parties

Chris Thomas served as church leader and was paid £42,939 for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

The brother and sister-in-law of trustee Chris Thomas were paid a total of £2750, through OMF, in their role as missionaries. These payments are authorised by the charity's governing document.

Susan Licence, wife of trustee Matt Licence, served as church bookkeeper and was paid a total of £1882. These payments are authorised by the charity's governing document.

5 Movement of funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	65,166	77,336	(78,717)	(633)	63,153
	<u>65,166</u>	<u>77,336</u>	<u>(78,717)</u>	<u>(633)</u>	<u>63,153</u>
Restricted funds					
Church Restricted	-	60	(60)	-	-
Future Ministry Fund	-	1,256	-	263	1,518
Fusion Subs	-	114	(90)	-	24
Special appeals	-	2,616	(2,986)	370	-
Support Fund	294	100	(99)	-	295

	<u>294</u>	<u>4,146</u>	<u>(3,236)</u>	<u>633</u>	<u>1,837</u>
Total funds	<u>65,460</u>	<u>81,483</u>	<u>(81,953)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,990</u>

The Church Restricted fund is for income and expenditure used to purchase books for Women's Fellowship group and for members of that group to attend a conference

The Future Ministry Fund is to provide funding for the church in pursuit of it's ministry in the future

The Fusion Subs fund contains donations given by those who attend Fusion youth club, and thus any money taken is used for expenses from that club

Special appeals are money taken to charities or individuals as love gifts, Harvest or Christmas appeals, thank you gifts, or donations to charities made through church offerings

The Support Fund is used to help those in difficult circumstances