

City Church Wolverhampton

Trustees Annual Report 2023

The trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Aims and Purposes of the Charity

As an independent, Bible-believing church, as per our statement of faith, City Church Wolverhampton's purposes are (as stated in the Church's Constitution) for the public benefit the advancement of the Christian faith in such ways as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

As a church, we are committed to spreading the Bible's message concerning Jesus, to develop people's knowledge of Him, and to encourage them to worship, trust and serve Him. We seek to encourage as many as possible to follow Jesus's example of love and compassion in serving each other and the wider community.

2023 was a year of growing pains. In July, Mr. Jonathan Maggs, a key church member, resigned as a trustee as a result of moving away from the area. Due to a variety of circumstances, we were no longer able to continue meeting at St. Peter's Collegiate School from November 2023. We are grateful to Penn Christian Centre for allowing us to meet in their building in the interim whilst the search for new premises continued. However, the activities of the church multiplied with several key developments detailed below.

Objectives and Activities

The Trustees have read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and are satisfied that the activities described below clearly demonstrate that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

To fulfil the aims and purposes of the Church as stated above, a variety of activities are provided for both the benefit of church members and for the benefit of members of the public. Our weekly Sunday services at 10.00 am meeting in rented space and a weekly gathering for prayer in somebody's home are central to our church life and are open to the whole community. They are advertised electronically via our Facebook page and literature distributed in the local communities as well as word-of-mouth.

We seek to encourage attendance by members of the wider community by making these gatherings friendly, informal and joyful occasions. These services are recorded and broadcast later in the week on the church's website, although we firmly believe that meeting in person is critical to the practice of our faith. During most Sunday morning services "Junior Church" is run, which is open to all children aged 3-8.

On Mondays we are regularly in the local community distributing Bibles, gospels and other Christian literature to those who are interested.

In August, we held our annual holiday Bible club during the summer in a local park, gaining the necessary permissions from the local council in regard to health and safety regulations, first aid precautions etc. This again was well received by the wider community, being advertised through Facebook and fliers in the area. We hosted a visiting team from another church which allowed us to see a greater number of children and their parents participated in activities in Bantock park.

We had the great joy of celebrating the baptisms of two young people who had trusted Jesus personally in September.

In the Autumn, a small group of young adults (20s & 30s) began meeting in the city centre at Tunwall's Café on Thursday evenings.

In November, we called on three other men to serve as elders in the church who assist in the spiritual and pastoral care of the church family.

We were invited back to the Mander Centre once again to hold a Christmas carol concert which was well received.

We have offered from time-to-time courses to all who are interested in finding out more about the Christian Faith.

Individual pastoral and spiritual advice is offered to people living in the church's locality, both to those who attend our meetings and to those making inquiries electronically.

We have informal relationships with several other churches in the Wolverhampton area (Hope City Church, St. Luke's, and local FIEC churches) to be supported and to support them in our mutual endeavours to advance the Christian faith.

The Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for all matters of the CIO, both the finance and work of those who are designated as holding positions of spiritual responsibility. We hold insurance for events that we might have both regular and time to time and for the work that is done by individuals as to the propagation of the Christian faith.

The Trustees reviewed and modified a safeguarding policy and it will continue to be reviewed annually. The Trustees meet four times a year. These meetings are formally recorded, and these records are available for inspection by the Charity Commission and the Independent Examiner.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its ministries mainly in numbers, including financial numbers, but in less tangible ways like growth of individuals in their Christian faith and in opportunities to share the Christian gospel with members of the community. Such "success" is difficult to measure, but the Trustees rejoice in another year when the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been shared with the city of Wolverhampton. This year we have provided free literature in the City Centre and in the area around Bantock Park. These include Bibles, booklets, and leaflets. These have proved popular, and hundreds of items have been taken. We are encouraged to find that they have not then been dropped in the street and have not contributed to littering.

Our morning attendance has risen to about 45 persons this year and includes people from multiple different ethnic backgrounds who live in the UK. Our mid-week gatherings would be anywhere from 4 – 10 persons

Much of the work of the church was carried out by a large number of volunteers who, amongst other ministries, serve as musicians, Sunday hosts, hosts for mid-week, children's workers, literature distributors, AV technicians, set and pack down teams, and so on. We give thanks to the Lord for their faithful and fruitful efforts. Our Pastor, Timothy D. Berry and part time associate Andrew L. Berry led the majority of services whilst Timothy D. Berry has done the majority of contacting those in need of pastoral support. Andrew L. Berry chaired the Trustees and the other decision-making meetings. His experience with other Boards is invaluable to the smooth running of the Church. Mr. Jonathan Maggs, also a Trustee, provided vital leadership in establishing the relationship with the St. Peter's Collegiate School where the church meets as well as supporting other ministries of the church such as our Men's Midweek Group and the distribution of literature. As noted above, Mr. Maggs resigned as a trustee midway through the year due to moving away. The trustees accepted his resignation during our meeting on the 7th of July, 2023 and gratefully recognized his contribution to the church. In his absence, Mr. Andrew Berry has taken over the duties of Safeguarding Officer until another suitable person can be found. We are equally grateful to another Trustee, who likewise has invaluable experience with other boards and is a qualified accountant, in dealing with the financial matters of the church: Mrs Lyn Towers. Mr Timothy Howard, with his experience as chief operating officer has proved equally invaluable in drawing up various documents and dealing with matters of insurance, risk registers and safety forms.

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st December 2023

Summary of the Year

By the end of the year a balance of £52,357 was held in the church's bank account, most of which was generated from offerings and donations and a grant of £15,000 IN 2022. The

expenditure of the church was minimal and hence the surplus funds available. This position has given the financial security as the work of the church continues to grow and develop in 2024, particularly with increased cost of building hire.

Other Causes

The Trustees have established the principle that City Church Wolverhampton will give proportionately and regularly to other organisations and people who are involved in Christian Gospel related programmes. During 2023 the church gave £1,695 to other causes which included support to another Christian charity involved in relief work in Turkey and Syria following the earthquakes in that region.

Reserves Policy

Our present reserve policy says that we shall keep £2000 in reserve. This policy is regularly reviewed, and we have that amount in reserve. The Charity Commission expects the Managing Trustees to decide, publish, implement and monitor their charity's reserve policy so that they can comply with their legal duties.

Conclusion

The Church enters 2024 in a financially stable position, having grown in size both numerically and in terms of its activities, positively impacted the local community, and fulfilled its purpose of seeing the Gospel of Jesus Christ shared in our local community and across the City of Wolverhampton.

Structure, Governance and Management

City Church Wolverhampton is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

As such it is solely run by its Trustees (presently 4), with the desire of having 'covenant partners'. Currently the church doesn't have a process for formally recognising these persons, so the body of believers is considered to be those who attend regularly and contribute to the financial needs of the church.

The church is recognised as a church plant with the goal of being affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) in due course. As such we adhere to their

doctrinal statement and to their other ethos statements which bring clarity to our life and ministry as part of that fellowship.

Administrative Information

City Church Wolverhampton has as its registered office at 11 Birches Barn Ave, Wolverhampton WV3 7BT and its website <http://www.citychurchwolverhampton.com>

City Church Wolverhampton's Charity Registration Number is 1193886.

The Trustees who have served during 2023 are as follows:

Andrew L. Berry (Chair)

Rev. Timothy D. Berry (Trustee)

Lyn D. Towers (Trustee & Treasurer)

Jonathan P. Maggs (Trustee) - resigned 7th July 2023

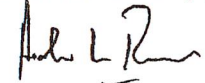
Timothy Howard (Trustee)

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the above report.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Andrew L. Berry (Chair)

 13 October 2024

Lyn D. Towers (Treasurer)

 13/10/2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

City Church Wolverhampton

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

J Swart

Date:

11/10/2024

Name:

Jacobus Johannes Swart

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

B.Com (Hons) Management Accountant

Address:

1 Lake View, Quinta, Oswestry

SY10 7LS

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

none



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

City Church Wolverhampton

1193885

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1st January 2023

To

31st December

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings & Donations	19,260	-	-	19,260	18,998
Gift Aid & Bank Interest	3,253	-	-	3,253	2,790
Other Income	1,998	-	-	1,998	2,182
Grants Received		-	-	-	15,000
		-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	24,511	-	-	24,511	38,970
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	24,511	-	-	24,511	38,970
A3 Payments					
Property Costs	791	-	-	791	933
Ministerial Travel & Other Expenses	228	-	-	228	-
Catering & Retreat Costs	561	-	-	561	3,256
Publicity & Outreach	1,664	-	-	1,664	1,891
Sunday School	-	-	-	-	23
Tech Equipment & Licences	1,439	-	-	1,439	2,328
Gifts to other causes	1,695	-	-	1,695	900
Visiting Speakers	-	-	-	-	303
General Expenses	187	-	-	187	310
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
Sub total	6,565	-	-	6,565	9,944
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,565	-	-	6,565	9,944
Net of receipts/(payments)	17,946	-	-	17,946	29,026
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,411	-	-	34,411	5,385
Cash funds this year end	52,357	-	-	52,357	34,411

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank - unrestricted	37,357	-	-
	Cash at bank - designated	15,000	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	52,357	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

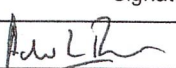
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Tech Equipment		275	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Andrew L. Berry	13-Oct-24
	LYN ANNE TOWLER	13/10/2024