

Ebenezer Reformed Chapel, Luton

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 20th May 2021 to 26th March 2022

Charity name: Ebenezer Reformed Chapel, Luton

Charity registration number: 1194544

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) number: CE025182

Objectives

The objects of the CIO are:

(a) To advance the Christian religion in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs of Ebenezer Reformed Chapel in Luton and in other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the trustees from time to time think fit and to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the Trust.

(b) To relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship or who are aged or sick and to relieve the distress caused thereby in Luton and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

Activities

The CIO was incorporated and registered as a charity on 20th May 2021.

The financial year ending on 26th March 2022 was the first year of the CIO's existence and as such the activity involved preparing for the normal operation of the CIO. There were two main areas of activity: the early stages of gathering a core congregation for the new church, and preparing for the purchase of the Ebenezer Chapel buildings in south Luton that we hope will be the base for the church's activity.

In this preparatory work the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. They consider that the preparations have all been necessary to facilitating the activity of the CIO in the community in Luton and thereby to provide significant public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Significant progress was made during this year. A core group for the new church was gathered. Members of the Luton homegroup of ChristChurch Harpenden were invited to commit to form the core of the new church, with the encouragement of the elders there, and others from the local area began to make contact to indicate an interest. Garry Williams and Paul McEachran, trustees, spent time meeting with individuals and speaking to them about the new church, with a view to pre-launch meetings starting in the next year of activity.

We maintained good relationships and open communication with the current owners of Ebenezer Chapel, liaising with them about the progress of their application to the Charity Commission for a scheme enabling the sale of the buildings to us. We raised funds to enable the initial stages of costs relating to the purchase of the Ebenezer Chapel buildings and began to make contact with potential supporters further afield with a view to the eventual fundraising for the purchase and repair costs. Different inspections ascertained the extent of repair work needed on the buildings, and architects

were engaged to look at ways of improving the buildings for use, principally at the possibility of adding a kitchen with cooking facilities and disabled access bathrooms. All of this work was done with a view to gathering a group of people and providing a facility in which they can start the church's activities that will serve the public benefit.

Financial Review

The CIO had close to zero funds in the account at the end of the period. Money was raised and spent on surveying and inspecting the building in South Luton. This was the only requirement for reserves (£209 at the end of the period). No money is owed or in deficit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a CIO governed by its Constitution.

All of the trustees in the year 2021-2022 were its first trustees. Subsequent appointments will include such people as may from time to time be appointed as Elders of the Chapel in accordance with the provisions of the Ebenezer Reformed Chapel Book of Church Order. Charity trustees who are not Elders of Ebenezer Reformed Chapel but of another church and who uphold the Statement of Beliefs of Ebenezer Reformed Chapel may be appointed, provided that such appointment does not result in non-Elder trustees constituting 50% or more of the trustees. The Minister of Ebenezer Reformed Chapel for the time being shall automatically be a charity trustee.

Reference and Administrative details

Name: Ebenezer Reformed Chapel, Luton
Other names: Informally, 'Ebenezer Chapel'
Principal address: 125, Farley Hill, Luton, LU1 5EQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Benedict Bird (Secretary)
Paul McEachran (Treasurer)
James (Jonty) Rhodes
Garry Williams (Chair)

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:



Full name: Garry John Williams

Position: Chair

Date:

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A1 Receipts

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).

A3 Payments

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

[illegible]

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	PAUL MCEACHRAN	23/11/22

B5 Liabilities

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