

Grace Community Church Loftus

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 October 2022

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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| ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE | Grace Community Church Loftus Deepdale Road Loftus Saltburn-By-The-Sea TS13 4RS |
| GOVERNING DOCUMENT | CIO - registered 12 November 2021 |
| CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER | 1196546 |
| TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY | Robin Singleton Robert Partlett James Duff |
| BANKERS | Barclays Bank plc |
| INDEPENDENT EXAMINER | Allan Chandler |

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Grace Community Church Loftus

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2022. The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 12th November 2021 so this is the first report and the first set of annual accounts. The period covered is 12 November 2021 - 31 October 2022. The assets of the predecessor charity (Deepdale Pentecostal Church - 1052009) were transferred to Grace Community Church on 1 June 2022.

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a constitution and church handbook. The church is constituted as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The purposes of the Church are:

- 1) *The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the Basis of Faith primarily but not exclusively within Loftus, Saltburn by the Sea 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 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.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Summary of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

Sunday services

We meet weekly on Sunday mornings for corporate public worship. Since Christmas 2021 we have been utilising the newly refurbished church hall. The service includes praise, prayer and preaching/teaching. Regular attendance has risen to about 30-35 including children. After the service refreshments are served. Most people stay to enjoy this time of fellowship and also stay for a hot community meal that is provided every Sunday.

Mental Health Support Group

The Mental Health Support Group was established during the Covid-19 lockdown to provide support for those who were isolated and/or facing mental health problems. It has become apparent that the need for this group continues. The group is open to anyone in the community. They do not need to be Christians and the format is very informal but it does include Bible study and prayer.

Church Night

Most Thursday evenings we have a church family night. We meet at 6pm to enjoy a hot meal together and then between 7.00pm and 8.15pm we usually study the bible together and pray. The bible study is for all ages and usually takes an interactive form - working in small groups. We close by praying together. Occasionally we have visiting speakers - for example Ian Williamson came in March 2022 to speak to us about Medhurst Ministries. We also occasionally dedicate the whole time to pray together - for example for the work of Open Doors amongst persecuted Christians.

Cafe - Grace Brew House

In September 2022 Grace Brew House was opened in part of the church hall. This was the culmination of several years of preparation. The cafe opens 10.30am - 2pm Tuesday to Saturday every week. The appointment of a Cafe Manager was funded by an external donor for the trial period (until 31 Dec 2022). A team of committed volunteers work alongside the Cafe Manager. The purpose of the cafe is to provide a gateway for the community into the church and a gateway for the church into the community. It is part of the ministry of the church and we long and pray that through this outreach many will hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Trustees are pleased to report that the cafe has been well used by the local community and that a good reputation is being established.

Evangelism

The evangelistic strategy of the church is one of encouraging church members to witness to the people that they meet in their everyday lives. We do hold occasional evangelistic events, like the Christmas Carol Service, but the main focus is of being an 'everyday church'. The church also has an internet presence via its own website and YouTube Channel. The weekly sermons are also posted on the church Facebook Page.

World Mission

The church currently supports and receives updates from Open Doors and WorldShare. Open Doors supports persecuted Christians across the globe and WorldShare supports the work of indigenous Christians as they reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Affiliations

In September 2022 church members agreed to seek affiliation with Medhurst Ministries. This ministry aims to support, plant and revitalise churches in the forgotten places of England and Wales. The focus is on churches in deprived or 'hard' places. Several of our folk attended the first Medhurst weekend in June 2022. Robin enjoyed a Medhurst Pastors Retreat in September 2022 and also a Pastors Family Retreat in October 2022. There is a growing sense of partnership with the other Medhurst Churches, at least among the pastors. Over time we hope and pray that this will be shared more widely across the church.

In September we also made a formal application to become full members of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC). We had previously been recognised by the FIEC as a church plant.

Staff/Appointments

Robin Singleton is the Pastor of the church. He fulfills this role in a voluntary unpaid capacity at the moment but there are plans for this to change. Jonathan Reger was appointed as Cafe Manager, starting on 1 September 2022 with a fixed term contract until 31 December 2022.

Financial review

The charity had a zero balance and no transactions until the bank balances and assets were transferred from the predecessor church on 1 June 2022. At that time £24,162.20 was transferred from Deepdale Pentecostal Church (£7,500 designated and £16,662.20 was general funds). Between then and 31 October 2022 the total of the years general income including Gift Aid came to £7623.35 and general expenditure £12,068.78 leaving a deficit of general transactions of £4,445.43. This deficit was also enlarged by the set up costs of the cafe amounting to £2,324.06 making the total deficit of general funds £6,769.49. The church received one-off external designated gifts totaling £25,530.00 bringing the total income to £33,153.35. Designated expenditure totaled £3,413.66. The total of all expenditure was £18,036.50. The total balance on the year then was up £15,116.85 plus the transfer from Deepdale Pentecostal Church of £24,162.20. At the end of the year the charity held £39,279.05 of which £29,616.34 is designated and £9,662.71 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Reserves policy

The trustees do not currently have a reserves policy. The Trustees make judgments as necessary, balancing on the one hand the desire to have several months budgeted expenditure in reserves and on the other hand not wanting to sit on money that could be used for charitable purposes. On the whole the trustees will err on the side of caution so that the charity could continue to operate should income (including grant funding) and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £9,662.71.

Governance

Trustees meet together regularly to monitor activities of the charity. They present the results of such meetings at quarterly members' meetings. The trustees are responsible for ensuring the charitable purposes of the CIO are carried out in accordance with the church constitution and handbook

The trustees of the charity are all the persons appointed to the offices of Pastor, Elder or Deacon. In accordance with the charity constitution and handbook, trustees are appointed by a vote of the church membership. All trustees are members of the charity. There must always be at least three charity trustees. Presently there are three.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires 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:  Robin Singleton Date: 01/03/2023

Grace Community Church Loftus Financial Activities

12th November 2021 to 31st October 2022

| | Designated Funds | | Designated | Undesignated | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | Payroll | Pro Life | | | |
| Income | | | | | |
| Offering - box | | | - | 1,839.60 | 1,839.60 |
| Offering - to bank | | | - | 4,565.00 | 4,565.00 |
| Gift Aid | | | - | 1,218.75 | 1,218.75 |
| Total Income | - | - | - | 7,623.35 | 7,623.35 |
| Expenditures | | | | | |
| Church Catering and Supplies | | | - | 1,383.02 | 1,383.02 |
| Copyright Licence | | | - | 87.00 | 87.00 |
| Gas and Electric | | | - | 1,363.24 | 1,363.24 |
| General Building and Repairs | | | - | 7,103.13 | 7,103.13 |
| Insurances | | | - | 44.45 | 44.45 |
| Legal & professional fees | | | - | 378.30 | 378.30 |
| Mission Giving | | | - | 650.00 | 650.00 |
| Pastoral Gifts | | | - | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Payroll Expenses | 3,413.66 | | 3,413.66 | - | 3,413.66 |
| Preaching Fees | | | - | 260.00 | 260.00 |
| Printing, Postage and Stationery | | | - | 45.88 | 45.88 |
| Subs, Fees & Conferences | | | - | 364.25 | 364.25 |
| Water | | | - | 189.51 | 189.51 |
| Total Expenditures | 3,413.66 | - | 3,413.66 | 12,068.78 | 15,482.44 |
| Net Income/(Expenditure) | 3,413.66 | - | - | 4,445.43 | 7,859.09 |
| Grants and Donations | 25,000.00 | 530.00 | 25,530.00 | | 25,530.00 |
| Café Costs | | | | - 2,324.06 | - 2,324.06 |
| Transfer from Deepdale Pentecostal * | 7,500.00 | | 7,500.00 | 16,662.20 | 24,162.20 |
| | 29,086.34 | 530.00 | - | 9,892.71 | 39,509.05 |

* Bank balances and assets transferred from Deepdale Pentecostal Church on 1st June 2022

Grace Community Church Loftus

Statement of Assets

12th November 2021 to 31st October 2022

| | Total Oct 2022 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Cash Funds</u> | |
| Bank Current Account - Church | 38,211.46 |
| Cash Account | 97.46 |
| Bank Current Account - Café | 970.13 |
| | £ 39,279.05 |
| <u>Of which</u> | |
| General Funds | 9,662.71 |
| Designated - Payroll | 29,086.34 |
| Designated - Pro Life | 530.00 |
| | 39,279.05 |
| | - |
| <u>Fixed Assets</u> | |
| Building | TBC |
| Dough Mixer | 230.00 |
| | £ 230.00 |

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Grace Community Church Loftus

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Grace Community Church Loftus for the year ended 31 October 2022 which are attached to this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

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 the 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.

Name: Allan Chandler

Address: 2 Arlington Street, Loftus, Saltburn, TS13 4LA

Date: 23 February 2023

Signed: 