



Michael Church

**THE MICHAEL CHURCH OF THE GENERAL CHURCH OF
THE NEW JERUSALEM**

Registered Charity Number: 1198712

**Trustees' Annual Report for the
financial year end: 31st December 2024**

THE MICHAEL CHURCH OF THE GENERAL CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

ADDRESS: 131 Burton Road, Stockwell, London, SW9 6TG

Objectives and Activities

The Michael Church of the General Church of the New Jerusalem (the ‘Society’) is committed to the advancement of the Christian religion of the New Jerusalem according to the acknowledged Word of the Lord and according to The Order and Organization of the General Church of the New Jerusalem. It aims to advance education in accordance to its religious principles.

The Society has regard to the Commission’s guidance on public benefit. It strives to connect God and spiritual life to people’s daily life and decisions by teaching the acknowledged three-fold Word of the Lord (the Old and New Testaments and the Theological Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg) and supporting individual spiritual growth by connecting people with others on their spiritual journeys. This is achieved through worship, learning about the three-fold Word, provision of pastoral care and outreach work.

To facilitate these uses, the Society aims to maintain and develop the fabric of the Michael Church building on Burton Road in London.

Achievements and Performance

The Society was registered as a Charity in April 2022.

We hold weekly in-person worship services at Michael Church and live-stream these services of worship for the wider community and those who are unable to attend church in person. A new camera to improve this service was purchased and installed during the year and the audio-visual team are always looking for ways to improve live-streaming services. As ever, the contribution of the musicians to these worship services is vital and deeply appreciated.

This year we hosted two weddings, two child baptisms, two adult baptisms and one memorial service. The Feast and Friendship worship services, which take place once a month, continue to prove successful. The Pastor and his wife provide some food and encourage participants to bring their own so as to eat a meal together after worship and serve the local community.

The Pastor holds classes for reading groups regularly and is able to reach people otherwise isolated by holding these via Zoom. They are small groups but provide a sense of community and share the sphere of the Word and church.

The Board meets regularly and, as part of its business, has been focusing on strategic planning. The Pastor in Colchester will be leaving in the next year or two which will leave the Pastor at

Michael Church as the sole Pastor in the UK. We are planning to help our Pastor balance his commitment to the Michael Church Society alongside his role in supporting the wider church community across the UK.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the General Church Council is a member of the Society and liaises with '31:8' (a reference to a verse in Proverbs), an organisation which specifically serves churches. She processed two new DBS checks this year to support our education functions and our work with young people. She and her deputy have also updated risk assessments to support our activities and use overseas checks for guest teachers at BASS. She emphasises at all times that it is up to all of us, each member, to keep in mind the safeguarding of the young people and vulnerable adults at our church and reminds us to bring her or her deputy any concerns we may have.

The Young People's Weekends, All Age Weekends and the annual British Academy Summer School (BASS) continue to serve young people and adults across the world, educating them in the three-fold Word and encouraging them in their individual spiritual journeys.

Having added a new category of *Online friends 21 and over* last year, a thorough review of our lists of people connected to Michael Church was undertaken and refreshed to reflect recent attendance at church and contact with the Pastor. The membership and friends of the Society are recorded as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Membership Roll	24	24	24
Friends/Young People 21 and over	27	46	39
Online Friends 21 and over	16	14	
Young people 15-20	2	4	4
Children	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	77	95	75

Financial Review

The Charity is in a good financial position at the end of 2024, despite a small deficit £485.97 related to maintenance expenses which will be recovered from our parent body in 2025. Michael Church has assets of £899,777 including cash reserves of £122,140.

Reserves are held in order to balance variations in operating expenses, particularly related to occasional building renovations. The current level of reserves is further inflated due to a soon-to-be initiated major building refurbishment program estimated to cost £50,000.

Michael Church has only two funds, a General fund with £90,975 cash reserves and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (a restricted fund for social/evangelisation purposes) with £31,164 which are both in credit.

There are no financial reasons why the Charity cannot maintain its uses and purposes for many years to come.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Michael Church of the General Church of the New Jerusalem (the ‘Society’) has as its governing document, its Constitution.

Society Membership:

There is a Roll of Members maintained by the Secretary.

- a) Any Member of the General Church of the New Jerusalem may become a member of the Society by applying to the Pastor, and on acceptance, signing the Roll of Members.
- b) Membership is for life unless a person:
 - resigns from the Society,
 - is removed from the Roll of the Society by special resolution at a General Meeting of the Society, or,
 - resigns or is removed from Membership in the General Church of the New Jerusalem

Composition of the Finance Board:

- a) The Finance Board shall consist of the Pastor, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and six other members of the Society nominated from the floor and elected at the Annual General Meeting.
 - b) The Finance Board shall have power to co-opt not more than two (2) Members to serve on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.
 - c) No person shall be entitled to act as a trustee of the Finance Board whether on a first or any subsequent entry into office until after signing a declaration of acceptance and of a willingness to act in the interests of the Society.
- D. The proceedings of the Finance Board shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualification of a trustee.

Determination of membership of Finance Board:

A trustee of the Finance Board shall cease to hold office if he or she:

- is disqualified from acting as a trustee of the Finance Board by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
- becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
- is absent without good reason from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the Finance Board resolve that his or her office be vacated; or
- notifies in writing to the Pastor, or in his absence, to the Society Secretary, a wish to resign (but only if at least a quorum will remain in office when the Notice of Resignation is to take effect).

Reference and Administrative details

THE MICHAEL CHURCH OF THE GENERAL CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

Registered Charity Number: 1198712

131 Burton Road, Stockwell, London, SW9 6TG

The Board of the Society meets at least three times per year. The Pastor of the Society is an ex officio member of the Board and presides at all meetings of the Board or appoints a member of the board as chair.

The membership of the Board is as follows:

Name	Role	Date of appointment
Rev Grant Odhner	Ex Officio, Chair	30 June 2021
Oula Williams	Trustee	20 April 2023
Nancy Warwick	Trustee	15 March 2016
Gweirydd Williams	Trustee	15 March 2015
Rev Fred Elphick	Trustee	12 March 2015
Andrew Bruell	Trustee, Treasurer	22 March 2002
Stephen Elphick	Trustee, Secretary	14 March 1999
Greg Warwick	Trustee, Maintenance Inspector	12 March 1996
Mark Wiltshire	Trustee	13 March 2024



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from

1st January 2024

To

31st December 2024

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					
Subscriptions, Donations & Offerings	11,777	-	-	11,777	11,230
Interest, Dividends & Refunds	37,627	-	-	37,627	36,927
Refunds of Tax (Gift Aid etc.)	1,478	-	-	1,478	1,707
Bank Interest	879	-	-	879	66
Guildenham Fund Interest	3,348	-	-	3,348	3,285
Property Maintenance Fund Grant	-	-	-	-	709
General Church Council (Open Road Contributions)	14,000	-	-	14,000	14,600
General Church Council (Pastoral Grant)	8,600	-	-	8,600	8,600
General Church - Payments Received	8,730	-	-	8,730	8,730
Pub Night Fund (Social Donations)	-	4,545	-	4,545	4,634
Council Tax Contributions (Michael Church Flat)	975	-	-	975	830
	68,210	4,545	-	92,755	90,228
Sub total (Gross income for A1)					
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table)					
Sub total					
Total receipts	68,210	4,545	-	92,755	90,228
A3 Payments					
Contributions to Pastoral Office	74,335	-	-	74,335	67,634
Grants to Pastoral Expenses	833	-	-	833	238
Michael Church Building Expenses					
Gas	867	-	-	867	664
Electricity	1,376	-	-	1,376	6,713
Water	714	-	-	714	647
Telephone	681	-	-	681	119
Insurance	1,984	-	-	1,984	1,681
Council Tax (Flat)	1,237	-	-	1,237	952
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	4,071
Facilities Improvements	-	-	-	-	2,420
Maintenance	6,258	-	-	6,258	218
Church Materials	-	-	-	-	-
Other Uses	-	-	-	-	-
Gifts (June 19th etc)	-	-	-	-	-
Pub Night Fund Expenses	-	1,475	-	1,475	1,482
Professional Fees	431	-	-	431	1,423
Manse Expenses					
Insurance	687	-	-	687	533
Council Tax	-	-	-	-	-
Phone	784	-	-	784	301
Maintenance & Improvements	2,611	-	-	2,611	6,493
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	91,766	1,475	-	93,241	97,179
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Sub total					
Total payments	91,766	1,475	-	93,241	97,179
Not of receipts/payments					
	3,556	3,070	-	458	6,951
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	3,556	3,070	-	N/A	6,951

Ward
5/3/25

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

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
B1 Cash funds			
Natwest Current Account	35,140	-	-
Natwest Current Account (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)	-	31,164	-
Saffron Building Society Savings	65,836	-	-
Total cash funds	90,976	31,164	-
B2 Other monetary assets			
None	-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			
a) Charity Equity Fund	General Fund	136,326	279,108
b) M&G Charbond Unit Trusts	General Fund	38,871	33,901
c) Sarasin Alpha CIF units	General Fund	106,667	84,749
d) Premier Global Infrastructure	General Fund	140,000	121,673
e) Mayfair Property ITC	General Fund	205,038	170,191
f) Edenree Responsible European	General Fund	168,776	172,582
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			
Michael Church Building	General Fund	-	-
1/3 share of Manse	General Fund	-	-
B5 Liabilities			
None	-	-	-



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THE MICHAEL CHURCH SOCIETY OF THE GENERAL CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Please find below the report by L J Rose Accounting on the account of the society for the year ended 31st December 2024.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Charities trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charities trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2)) of the Charities Act 1993 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a)) of the 1993 Act to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the charities commissioners (under section 43(7)(b)) of the 1993 Act to state whether any matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

L J Rose Accounting's examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the charities commissioners. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented within the records. This included consideration of any usual items of disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from trustees concerning these potential matters. These procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that it would require an audit. Consequently, we do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

In connection with the examination of accounts undertaken no matters have come to our attention.

This gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act and:

To prepare accounts which are in line with and comply with the accounting records and:

To comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have been met or:

To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Lisa Rose

L J Rose Accounting Ltd

9 Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham, Essex CO4 5WR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LJ Rose', is written over a horizontal line.