

Centre Church Droitwich

Report and Accounts

Period ended 31 March 2024

Stewardship 
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1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
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CENTRE CHURCH DROITWICH
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Centre Church Droitwich c/o 10, Oakland Avenue DROITWICH WR9 7DD
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution dated 22 May 2022
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1199135
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Benjamin Putt Stephen Marshall Peter Barham
BANK	The Co-operative Bank - Business PO Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Archie McDowall BA CA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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Report of the Managing Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2024

The Managing Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Trust Deed.

1 LEGAL and ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

1.1 Church Address

Centre Church Droitwich
c/o 10, Oakland Avenue
DROITWICH
WR9 7DD

1.2 Governing Documents

Church Constitution adopted by the members of Centre Church, Droitwich on 22nd May 2022 and approved by the Charity Commission on 30th May 2022. The church is registered as a CIO-Association, (Number 1199135) and is affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, FIEC. (Registered Charity 1132700)

1.3 Charity Trustees

Benjamin Putt, Pastor (Salaried)
Stephen Marshall (Non-salaried)
Peter Barham (Non-salaried)

1.4 Independent Examiner

Archie McDowall
Stewardship Services (UKET)
1, Lamb's Passage
London
EC1Y 8AB

1.5 Principal Banker

The Co-operative Bank – Business
PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT

2.1 Trustees and organisational structure

The Government of the Church is vested in a Body of Elders who are the Charity Trustees of the charity. There are currently three Elders, one of whom is a paid Pastor. Elders are nominated for appointment or re-appointment by the other Elders and 67% of Church Members must vote in favour for the individual to be appointed.

Elders, except the paid Elder serve for a term of three years and may then be re-appointed. The Charity Trustees who held office during the financial year are shown in 1.3 above. When new Charity Trustees are appointed, they will be given an introduction to the work of the Trustees.

Current Elders will generally oversee a particular area of church life, working with appointed Team Leaders and the active involvement of all members in the life of the church is encouraged by holding bimonthly members meetings. There were 39 members in March 2024.

2.2 Remuneration of Charity Trustees

Extract from Church Constitution, paragraph 6 entitled 'Scope and powers permitting trustees' or connected persons' benefits'. Dependent on stated provisos:

"A charity trustee or connected person may receive compensation (including the provision of accommodation) for acting as an employee of the Church under a contract of employment".

In addition, all Charity Trustees are entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the Church or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Church.

2.3 Responsibilities of Charity Trustees

Under the Charities Act 2011, the Charity Trustees are required to prepare a statement of accounts for each accounting year which gives a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the church.

They are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed;
4. Prepare the financial statements on an ongoing basis.

Charity Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and they must ensure that such accounts and records comply with the Charities Act 2011.

They also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to detect fraud or other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurances that:

1. The church is operating efficiently and effectively;
2. Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
3. Proper records are kept and that financial information used within the church and for publication is reliable;
4. The church complies with relevant laws and regulations.

2.4 Risk Management

All activities undertaken by the Church are subject to a review as part of the risk management. Risk Assessments are reviewed and agreed annually by the Charity Trustees at a meeting of the Elders.

3 OBJECTIVES and ACTIVITIES

Mission statement:

"As a Church we are committed to following Jesus, loving one another, and seeing lives changed in Droitwich".

Value statements:

- We are RELIANT on God because we are all broken and imperfect. We believe that God speaks to us in the Bible, revealing His plan to rescue us through His Son. The Good News

of Jesus is therefore central to all we do because it is only through turning to Him that lives can be renewed and transformed for the better, both now and in the life to come.

- We seek to be **RELATIONAL** in everything that we do. Our desire is to be welcoming and hospitable to everyone, and to cultivate deep friendships with one another. We are a family that wants to show love, compassion and humility as we face the joys and sorrows of everyday life together.
- We aim to be **RELEVANT** in the way that we do things as a Church because the Good News of Jesus is timeless and will always be what the world needs to hear. We want to make our Church as accessible as possible and speak truth that brings hope into the community around us.

Activities and Achievements

Centre Church Droitwich was a church planted with the support of Woodgreen Evangelical Church Worcester and had its first service using the premises of Droitwich Baptist Church in September 2021. It became independent in May 2022 when it was registered as a CIO-ASSOCIATION with the Charity Commission therefore this report is a testimony to God's grace towards us in our second year.

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

- **"Following Jesus"**

The teaching and preaching of unchanging Biblical truths is foundational to being disciples of Jesus at Centre Church. We believe in the inspiration and authority of all Scripture which means that relevant exposition and explanation of Biblical truths is a key aspect of all our activities across all ages.

We seek to worship God in our Sunday services in a contemporary way and preaching from the Bible is an indispensable part of our corporate worship. Our pastor has provided a majority of the preaching at Sunday services with their themes derived from sequential exposition of books of the Bible. We believe that relevant and faithful preaching is essential not only for building up Christian disciples into mature believers, but also to point unbelievers to Jesus Christ.

We encourage children of all ages to be actively involved in our Sunday services and during the Bible talk for adults, children in reception and school year one will have their own session learning from the same Bible passage as the adults.

Older children and young people have their own activity on Monday evenings which includes discussion of the Bible talk the previous day.

We recognise that Jesus prayed. And unless God blesses all we do as a church, our labour will be in vain, so we show our reliance on him through times of prayer. Our bi-monthly members meeting includes prayer for agenda items and after the second Sunday in a month we meet together for lunch followed by a time of prayer.

- **"Loving one another"**

We have continued our main objective to establish a 'church family' that provides mutual support and encouragement as we live in today's world. To this extent our aspirational Membership Covenant, which individuals agree to when becoming members, speaks of intentionally creating deep and meaningful relationships with each other putting others needs ahead of our own.

Mid-week, inter-generational 'Side-by-Side' groups for church members are our focus in meeting this objective. Group leaders are tasked with creating their own way of developing those relationships throughout the week.

- **"Seeing lives changed in Droitwich"**

Centre Church was not planted to just be a place for Christians to enjoy mutual support as we seek to follow Jesus. The church was planted in order to share the timeless good news of Jesus within the community. We have therefore kept the 'church programme' to a minimum and members have spent time building meaningful friendships with people in Droitwich community groups including voluntary work in the local Food Bank.

4 FINANCIAL REVIEW

We end the year with cash reserves of £21,890 which more than meets the amounts required of our reserve policy. Expenditure in 23/24 was £80,464.47 which was less than the budgeted expenditure of £81,689.92. Income in the financial year was lower than expected due to a delayed gift aid payment of £7,106.25 which was received after the financial year end.

Looking ahead to FY 24-25 we anticipate a small rise in income through giving and we have agreed a budget of around £87k which includes maintaining our gifts to mission partners and setting aside about £4000 to support future ministry costs in a non-restricted fund. We would expect reserves to be sufficient to cover any deficit.

5 INVESTMENT POLICY

The Managing Trustees have power to invest in such assets as they see fit for the furtherance of the aims and objectives that are agreed by the Trustees and supported by the Church Membership.

6 RESERVES POLICY

The Managing Trustees have an agreed Reserves Policy whereby a contingency is held of at least two months' expenditure. This year we have started to use our funds to establish long term partnerships with other Christian ministries outside of our local community and our cash reserves are still in excess of the targeted level.

7 GRANT MAKING POLICY

In the past financial year grants have been made to mission partners and we anticipate a similar level of circa £10k being made available this year. These grants are made following recommendations of our supporting mission team and agreed by trustees as set out in our Financial Management Policy.

8 FUTURE PLANS

After a short time Centre Church is still learning about the people in our community and how best to serve them. Beyond their fortnightly meetings the Charity Trustees take an 'advance' once a year to prayerfully and strategically look forward at where God is leading us in the years ahead. A key outcome has been to begin the process of identifying and appointing new Trustees in 2025.

It has been agreed that our employed Pastor should take a three month sabbatical in the 2024 summer which will include times of refreshment, reflection and investigation of future commitments in line with our overall mission statement and values. During 2024/25 we will establish a new budget line for 'Future Ministry' in anticipation of long term opportunities.

Approved by the Managing Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Benjamin Putt, Pastor

Benjamin Putt

25 November 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
CENTRE CHURCH DROITWICH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Centre Church Droitwich ('the charity') for the period ended 31 March 2024 on pages 7 to 10 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.

Archie McDowall

Archie McDowall BA, CA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 4 December 2024

CENTRE CHURCH DROITWICH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Income receipts						
Donations		71,306	-	-	71,306	41,762
Gift aid receipts		8,134	-	-	8,134	-
Other grants		-	-	-	-	5,000
Other		-	-	-	-	50
Total receipts		79,440	-	-	79,440	46,812
Payments						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	62,878	-	-	62,878	23,898
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	17,586	-	-	17,586	-
Total payments		80,464	-	-	80,464	23,898
Net of receipts / (payments) before	-	1,024	-	-	1,024	22,914
Transfers between funds	-	4,085	4,085	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	-	5,109	4,085	-	1,024	22,914
Cash funds as at last year end		22,914	-	-	22,914	-
Cash funds at this year end	A	17,805	4,085	-	21,890	22,914

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

CENTRE CHURCH DROITWICH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted funds	2024	2023
		General funds	Designated funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
A Cash funds						
Cash at bank with immediate access		17,806	4,085	-	21,890	22,914
		17,806	4,085	-	21,890	22,914
B Other monetary assets						
Gift aid due to charity		7,106	-	-	7,106	4,920
		7,106	-	-	7,106	4,920
C Liabilities						
Falling due within one year						
Taxes due		2,731	-	-	2,731	2,638
Fee for Independent Examination		520	-	-	520	480
		3,251	-	-	3,251	3,118

D 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:

Stephen Marshall

Stephen Marshall, Trustee

Date: 25 November 2024

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

CENTRE CHURCH DROITWICH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD 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>			Total	Total
	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly					
Employment costs (see note 4)	45,275	-	-	45,275	18,754
Ministry expenses	3,407	-	-	3,407	2,113
Outreach activities	330	-	-	330	174
Small equipment	2,883	-	-	2,883	-
Rent	6,110	-	-	6,110	2,870
Insurance	375	-	-	375	-
Independent examination	480	-	-	480	-
Office costs	1,244	-	-	1,244	222
Conferences and Training	2,156	-	-	2,156	-
Other costs	618	-	-	618	818
	<u>62,878</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,878</u>	<u>23,898</u>

3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others

Grants for:					
Woodgreen Evangelical Church, Worcester	Mission	6,250		6,250	
FIEC	Mission	1,300		1,300	
Beach Camp	Mission	746		746	
Other small grants to organisations	Mission	350		350	
Grants to individuals	Mission	8,940		8,940	
		<u>17,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,586</u>	<u>-</u>

CENTRE CHURCH DROITWICH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Transactions with related parties

Benjamin Putt served as pastor and was paid £42,707 for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

The church also contributed £2,568 to a personal pension plan for Benjamin Putt.

4 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	22,914	79,440	- 80,464	- 4,085	17,805
Designated funds					
Future Ministry	-	-	-	4,085	4,085
	-	-	-	4,085	4,085
Total funds	<u>22,914</u>	<u>79,440</u>	<u>- 80,464</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,890</u>