

Clearspring Church

Report and Accounts

20 December 2022 to 31 December 2023

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

CLEARSPRING CHURCH
LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	48 Abbotswood Road BROCKWORTH GLOUCESTER GL3 4NZ
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution dated 13 December 2022
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1201405
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Paul Lyndon Burtwell Sarah Kathleen Burtwell Jay Jamie Wynn Daniel Barrie Cratchley Stephen Leslie Taylor (resigned January 2024) Corie Robinson (appointed 1 March 2024) Bradley Burtwell (appointed 1 March 2024) Daniel Cooney (appointed 1 March 2024) Finney Burtwell (appointed 1 March 2024) Stuart Taylor (appointed 1 March 2024) Kim Burtwell (appointed 1 March 2024)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Sarah Crispin ACA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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Clearspring Church

CIO reg no. 1201405

Trustees Report for the period ended 31 December 2023

Introduction

Clearspring church, based in Gloucestershire, operates as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The primary objective of our charity is, for the public benefit, the advancement of the Christian faith in Gloucestershire and other parts of the United Kingdom, as well as globally, as determined by the Charity Trustees. This year marks our first as an officially registered charity, which included the appointment of our inaugural board of trustees.

Objectives and Activities

Throughout the past year, our church has engaged in a variety of activities and services designed to advance the Christian faith in Gloucestershire and beyond. These activities include:

Regular Sunday Morning Services: We hold weekly Sunday morning worship services, which are open to everyone. These services provide an opportunity for communal worship, prayer, and the teaching of Christian principles.

Tuesday Evening Bible Studies: Every Tuesday evening, we host Bible study sessions that are open to all. These studies are aimed at deepening participants' understanding of the Bible and fostering a strong sense of community and spiritual growth.

Sunday School Classes: In addition to our main services, we also offer regular Sunday School classes for children. These classes provide age-appropriate Christian education, helping young members of our community to learn about the faith in an engaging and supportive environment.

God of Hope Outreach Events: We have organised and participated in the "God of Hope" outreach event, which took place across Gloucestershire and extended to other parts of the UK, including Bristol, Worcester, and Oxford. This event aimed to spread the message of hope and faith to a broader audience, engaging with various communities and encouraging new connections.

Social Media and Sermon Promotion: We have actively promoted our church and its activities on social media platforms. Additionally, we have created and shared Christian sermons through these channels to reach a wider audience and spread our message beyond our immediate community.

Achievements and Performance

In our first year as a registered charity, we have seen significant growth and positive outcomes as a result of our activities:

Increased Attendance: All of our regular services, including Sunday morning worship, Tuesday evening Bible studies, and Sunday School classes, have experienced steady growth in attendance. This indicates a growing interest in and commitment to the Christian faith within our community.

Positive Community Feedback: We have received numerous positive testimonials from the churches and communities we have visited and assisted through our outreach efforts, particularly during the “God of Hope” event. These testimonials reflect the meaningful impact of our work and the value it has brought to others.

Commitments of Faith: A particularly notable achievement this year is that over 100 individuals have made a commitment of faith to Jesus through our church’s activities. This milestone is a testament to the effectiveness of our efforts in advancing the Christian faith and supporting spiritual growth within the community.

Financial Review

In our first year as a registered charity, we have primarily relied on donations as our source of income. The following provides an overview of our financial position:

Income:

On 1st January the CIO began operating and received £37,946 from the previously unregistered church. Our total income for the first year as a CIO amounted to £53,205. All income was generated through donations, which were collected during our Sunday morning services and Tuesday evening Bible studies. Additionally, we received regular donations via standing orders and through a Stewardship account from committed givers.

Expenditure:

Our expenditures for the year totaled £45,999, which were allocated as follows:

Premises Rent: £3,730 for renting the community centre for Sunday services and Tuesday Bible studies.

Evangelism and Marketing: £5,322 spent on advertising the church and its activities online.

Pastor's Professional Fees: £26,838 for services rendered.

Children's Work Equipment: £20 spent on purchasing equipment for our Sunday School classes.

Technology and Software: £4,747 used for purchasing projectors, computers, and necessary software.

Financial Position:

As of the end of the year, the charity's financial position is as follows:

Reserves: We currently have unrestricted cash reserves of £35,544, which we aim to maintain to ensure the sustainability of our operations and to cover any unforeseen expenses.

Surplus/Deficit: Our financial activities resulted in a surplus of £7,205 for activities in the current year excluding the impact of the initial transfer in of £37,946.

Financial Challenges:

We managed our finances prudently during our first year and were able to cover all expenses. However, as we continue to grow, we anticipate that managing costs, particularly in expanding our outreach activities and supporting our ongoing operations, will require careful financial planning and potential fundraising efforts in the future.

Structure, Governance, and Management

Our charity operates with a clear governance structure to ensure effective oversight and administration:

Trustee Structure:

In our first year, the charity was governed by a board of five trustees. The trustees are responsible for overseeing the administration and ensuring that the charity's activities align with its objectives. We hold four trustee meetings each year to review progress, make decisions, and plan for the future.

Appointment of Trustees:

Apart from the initial Charity Trustees, all subsequent trustees are appointed through a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the Charity Trustees. When selecting new trustees, we carefully consider the skills,

knowledge, and experience required for the effective administration of the charity. Additionally, all Charity Trustees are required to subscribe to and adhere to the Statement of Faith, both in belief and lifestyle.

Spiritual and Administrative Governance:

The spiritual governance and leadership of the Church Fellowship, for which the CIO has been established, is maintained by the Spiritual Leadership. If the Charity Trustees are not synonymous with the Spiritual Leadership, their role is limited to the management and administration of the charity, always in accordance with the charity's constitution and with due regard to the Spiritual Leadership.

Key Management Personnel:

The day-to-day operations and spiritual guidance of the church are led by Pastor Paul Burtwell. His role is central to the spiritual and organisational life of the church, providing leadership both in worship and in the broader outreach activities of the charity.

Plans for the Future

As we look forward to the coming year, our church has several key objectives and initiatives that we plan to pursue to further our mission and accommodate our growth:

Expansion to a Larger Location:

Due to the continued growth in attendance at our services and events, we are actively searching for a larger venue within the Gloucestershire region. This will allow us to better serve our congregation and expand our capacity for outreach and community engagement.

Building Fund Initiative:

In addition to finding a new location, we have initiated a building fund with the long-term goal of securing our own permanent church building. This fund will be a critical component of our future development, enabling us to establish a dedicated space for worship, community activities, and outreach.

Growth of the “God of Hope” Outreach:

We plan to continue expanding the “God of Hope” outreach program, both geographically and in terms of impact. We aim to travel further afield, reaching more communities across the UK. Additionally, we are launching a regular newsletter to increase awareness of our activities, engage a broader audience, and share testimonies and updates from our outreach efforts.

Enhanced Community Engagement:

Through our social media channels, regular newsletter, and other communication efforts, we will work to deepen our engagement with the local community and beyond. By doing so, we hope to foster stronger relationships and encourage greater participation in our services and events.

Anticipated Challenges:

Venue Transition: One of the key challenges will be managing the transition to a larger venue, ensuring that we can maintain continuity in our services and activities during this period.

Fundraising for the Building Fund: Building a sufficient fund for a permanent church building will require ongoing fundraising efforts and careful financial planning.

Logistical Expansion: Expanding the “God of Hope” outreach to new areas will present logistical challenges, including coordinating travel, securing venues, and effectively promoting events in new communities.

Public Benefit Statement

Our church is committed to providing a public benefit through all of our activities, in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission:

Free Services and Events: All of our services, including Sunday worship, Tuesday evening Bible studies, Sunday School classes, and the “God of Hope” outreach events, are offered free of charge. We believe that everyone should have access to the message of the Christian faith without financial barriers.

Inclusivity: Our church welcomes everyone, regardless of their background, to attend and participate in our services and events. We strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment where all individuals feel valued and can explore and grow in their faith.

By providing these services and fostering a sense of community, we ensure that our activities offer a significant public benefit, contributing to the spiritual and social well-being of our local community and beyond.

Statement of the Trustees 'Responsibilities

Charity law requires us as 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.

Conclusion

The trustees are excited to reflect on the progress and growth our church has experienced in its first year as a registered charity. We have been encouraged to see not only an increase in numbers but also in the spiritual maturity and education of our congregation. The positive response to the "God of Hope" events has been particularly heartening, demonstrating the potential of our outreach efforts to make a meaningful impact.

As we look ahead, we are filled with anticipation for the future. We believe that our church has the potential to continue blessing both our local community and the wider country with the message of Jesus. We remain committed to our mission and look forward to what the coming year will bring.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:


SkBurtwell (Oct 28, 2024 14:28 GMT)

Name: Sarah Burtwell

Date: Oct 28, 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF

CLEARSPRING CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Clearspring Church ('the charity') for the period 20th December 2022 to 31 December 2023 on pages 9 to 11 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.

Sarah Crispin
Sarah Crispin (Oct 28, 2024 15:11 GMT)

Sarah Crispin ACA
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Oct 28, 2024

CLEARSPRING CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	2023
	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	£	£
<i>Income receipts</i>					
Transfer in from unregistered church		37,946	-	-	37,946
Donations		43,598	-	9,607	53,205
<i>Total receipts</i>		81,543	-	9,607	91,150
<i>Payments</i>					
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	42,716	-	-	42,716
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	236	-	-	236
		42,952	-	-	42,952
Purchase of fixed assets		2,447	-	-	2,447
Loans made		600	-	-	600
		3,047	-	-	3,047
<i>Total payments</i>		45,999	-	-	45,999
Net of receipts / (payments) before		35,544	-	9,607	45,151
Transfers between funds	4	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		35,544	-	9,607	45,151
Cash funds as at last year end		-	-	-	-
Cash funds at this year end	A	35,544	-	9,607	45,151

The notes on page 11 form part of these accounts.

CLEARSPRING CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted funds	2023
		General funds	Designated funds		
		£	£	£	£
A Cash funds					
Cash at bank with immediate access		34,859	-	9,607	44,466
Petty cash		685	-	-	685
		<u>35,544</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,607</u>	<u>45,151</u>
B Other monetary assets					
Loan		600	-	-	600
		<u>600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>600</u>
C Liabilities					
Falling due within one year					
Other creditors (credit card)		1,383	-	-	1,383
Fee for Independent Examination		900	-	-	900
		<u>2,283</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,283</u>
D Assets retained for charity's own use					
				Fund to which asset belongs	Cost
					£
Music and PA equipment					4,846
					<u>4,846</u>

E 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:


SkBurtwell (Oct 28, 2024 14:28 GMT)

Sarah Burtwell

Date: Oct 28, 2024

The notes on page 11 form part of these accounts.

CLEARSPRING CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

The CIO was registered with the Charity Commission on 20 December 2022 and began operating from 1 January 2023 when the assets from the unregistered church were transferred into the CIO. These accounts therefore include receipts and payments transactions from 1 January 2023.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	General funds	Designated funds		
	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly				
Payment for services (see note 3)	27,845	-	-	27,845
Ministry expenses	2,308	-	-	2,308
Evangelism/Marketing	5,322	-	-	5,322
Hall Hire	3,730	-	-	3,730
IT costs	2,571	-	-	2,571
Other running costs	257	-	-	257
Admin costs	273	-	-	273
Insurance	410	-	-	410
	<u>42,716</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,716</u>

3 Transactions with related parties

Paul Lyndon Burtwell served as a church leader and was paid £26,838 for serving in that capacity, not for serving as a trustee; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

4 Movement of funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	-	81,543	(45,999)	-	35,544
Restricted funds					
Worship Centre Fund	-	9,607	-	-	9,607
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,607</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,607</u>
Total funds	<u>-</u>	<u>91,150</u>	<u>(45,999)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,151</u>

The Worship Centre Fund is for the future purchase of a building for church activities.