

## **Annual Report 2024**

Since our last AGM so much has happened – the church has continued to grow both in terms of numbers attending and depth of faith and relationship, with a wonderful sense of God’s presence. We have 30 -40 people attending each Sunday and we’re so pleased to have welcomed new members who are lending their support and help in incredible ways. There is a wonderful atmosphere in church services and at all the other events and activities — one of joy and hope, friendliness and warmth.

Of course, there have been some great challenges and sadness as well — especially as we mourn the loss of Gill, Brian, Steve, Ruth Roberts and Geoff Hubbard — who all passed away in the last year. They were dearly loved members and friends of this church who contributed in so many ways to enrich the lives of all of us and this church. They will not be forgotten and although we feel their loss deeply we know that each of them was a Christian and so have been promoted to glory and we will see them again one day.

**Growth Track and Connect Groups** – launched this year with 2 connect groups starting in September.

### **Children’s Church**

On a Sunday, the children have had great fun acting out bible stories, doing bible related arts and crafts, looking at themes with up to 12 attending – thanks to all those who help out.

### **Youth Club**

Run every Tuesday during term time — up to 25 unchurched children age 7-11years with a talk, basketball arts and crafts and food activity from pizza to donut making and cake decorating.

### **Wreath making**

This was a three-day event seeing over 100 people enjoying making advent wreathes at the end of November.

**Coffee Morning** – was relaunched this year and is well attended.

**Little Seedlings (Baby and Toddler Group)** – started in 2014 and it's very popular and has grown — each Friday a lot of parents that come from Northway, Ashchurch and other local places as well attend with up to 24

children. It's mostly toddlers and some of those parents are now attending other things like art club and the youth club and are enjoying the events that we put on throughout the year.

**Family Fun event at Christmas** was once again very popular with local families as were the Christmas services.

We've had a great Alpha course with people coming closer to faith and growing in their faith – wonderful catering and service.

Prayer meetings on Monday evenings have been very powerful times of worship, prayer, and fellowship.

The stewarding team has done a great job, and the welcome has been amazing. There's also been some great socials and the sense of family is growing. A huge thanks to the leading preaching team we have here who give so much time and energy to ensuring we are well fed. Also to those who help lead the sung worship — has been such a blessing.

Also we have a new heating system — we're gonna be nice and toasty this coming winter – it was bought and installed for £10,000 – thank you to all those who contributed!

So much to be grateful for.

**To the Trustees of Trust Property Held in Connection with Sycamore Chapel  
(Independent Evangelical Church) (Charity)**

I report on the attached accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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



Signature  
ROGER FRANK DOWNES FCA  
for & on behalf of BK Plus Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants

03 May 2024  
Date

Professional designation(s)

Address: 6 Manor Park Business Centre, Mackenzie Way, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,  
GL51 9TX



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trust Property Held in Connection with Sycamore  
Chapel (Independent Evangelical Church)

280833

CC16a

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2023		31/12/2023

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	48,076	-	-	48,076	44,813
Legacy	-	-	-	-	4
Other income - Gift Aid	5,272	-	-	5,272	2,377
Standard Earned Income	-	-	-	-	-
Collections	3,562	-	-	3,562	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>56,910</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,910</b>	<b>47,195</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Investment income	13	-	-	13	1
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>56,923</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,923</b>	<b>47,196</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Support Costs - Heat, Light and Power	3,854	-	-	3,854	1,940
Support Costs - Printing and Stationery	47	-	-	47	5,825
Support Costs - Telephone and Computer	1,423	-	-	1,423	420
Support Costs - Equipment Hire and Rental	-	-	-	-	832
Support Costs - Maintenance	3,974	-	-	3,974	3,586
Support Costs - General Expenses	8,350	-	-	8,350	4,807
Management & Admin - Bank Charges	69	-	-	69	63
Management & Admin - Gross Wages	38,322	-	-	38,322	31,499
Charitable Giving	1,920	-	-	1,920	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>57,958</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,958</b>	<b>48,972</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>57,958</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,958</b>	<b>48,972</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 1,035</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 1,035</b>	<b>- 1,776</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>7,778</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,778</b>	<b>9,554</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>7,778</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Current account	6,713	-	-
	Bank Deposit account	30	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>6,743</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	

**To the Trustees of Trust Property Held in Connection with Sycamore Chapel  
(Independent Evangelical Church) (Charity)**

I report on the attached accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
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- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

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ROGER FRANK DOWNES FCA  
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03 May 2024  
Date

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Address: 6 Manor Park Business Centre, Mackenzie Way, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,  
GL51 9TX



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	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
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		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
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			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	