

NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5 APRIL 2023

The Trustees' Report and Accounts of  
New Life Church Bedfordshire Trust  
Charity No: 299289  
For the year ended 5 April 2023

NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5 April 2023

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NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

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OBJECTS AND PURPOSES OF CHARITY

The objects of the Charity as stated in its Declaration of Trust are:-

The advancement of the Christian Faith in accordance with the doctrines set out on the following page and the worship of God in Bedfordshire and elsewhere by any means whatsoever including the preaching and proclamation of the Christian gospel and the teaching of Christian doctrine and principles and the pastoral care of Christian people and the printing and distribution of the Bible and Christian literature.

The relief of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress or who are aged or sick.

The advancement of education on the basis of Christian principles and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the provisions of such education in any educational establishment and if the Trustees so decide the provision of one or more charitable education establishments for the general education of children or adults on the basis of such Christian principle.

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Statement of Doctrine

The Unity of the Godhead and the divine co-equality of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit; the Sovereignty of God in creation, providence, and redemption.

The true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; his virgin birth; his real and perfect manhood; the authority of his teaching; the infallibility of all his utterances; his work of atonement for sinners of mankind by his vicarious sufferings, his death, bodily resurrection and ascension into Heaven; his priestly intercession for his people.

The full inspiration of the holy scriptures; their authority and efficiency as not only containing but being in themselves the word of God; the reliability of the new testament in its testimony to the character and authorship of the old testament; and the need of the preaching of the Holy Spirit to a true and spiritual understanding of the whole.

The reality of original sin in consequence of the fall and the necessity of regeneration.

The justification of the sinner solely by faith through the atoning merits of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in conversion and sanctification; also in ministry in worship and in the exercising of spiritual gifts through the body of believers.

Ruth Hayden

Independent Examiner

HSBC Bank  
22 West Street  
Dunstable  
Beds

Bankers

Mr Paul Wilson  
3 Bryant Road  
Toddbington  
Bedfordshire  
LU5 6EX

Trustee

CV22 5NG  
Warwickshire  
Rugby  
144 Pychley Road  
Mr Andrew E Robertson

Trustee

Beds  
Leighton Buzzard  
21 Highfield  
Ms Sian Rous

Trustee

LU6 3JZ  
Beds  
Dunstable  
83 Pipers Croft  
Mr Graham Simpson

Trustee

served as Trustees for the full financial year.  
At the end of the year the management of the Trust was undertaken by the following people who each

Trustees

spiritual leaders of the Church.  
Trustees are appointed by the elders of New Life Church Dunstable or if there be none by the recognised

New Life Church Bedfordshire Trust.  
Trustees on 7 March 1995 it was agreed that with effect from 6 April 1995 the Trust would be known as  
The Trust was formed as P.C.F. Trust on 6 April 1988 by a deed of the same date. By a resolution of the

Legal and Administration Details

5 April 2023

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NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST



## NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

### ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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#### Trust Policies and Procedures

##### Reserves Policy

The Trustees do not consider that the Trust should build up large reserves because the Trust aims to spend its income on the charitable work of the Trust and the other charities that it supports. However they believe that a minimum unrestricted reserve of £7,000 is required to effectively administer New Life Church Dunstable:-

- To ensure that all invoices and other payments due can be met promptly
- To allow for short term fluctuations in income
- To cover contractual and moral obligations
- To meet unforeseen needs.

##### Risk Assessment

The Trustees have considered the operational, financial, and strategic risks faced by the Charity. Management information is available to the Trustees to enable them to regularly monitor these risks and take appropriate mitigation measures. A church insurance policy covering material loss and damage and public and employers liability risks together with loss of income cover and personal accident insurance for employees is in force. Twinkle pre school management carry out regular detailed health and safety risk assessments which also satisfy Ofsted requirements.

##### Staff Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure

The Trust has a formal written staff disciplinary and grievance procedure in place.

##### Child Protection

The Trust subscribes to the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service to provide guidance and carry out Criminal Records Bureau checks on all staff and volunteers who work with children and young people. Written child protection and drugs policies are in force.

##### Data Protection

The Trust is registered with the Information Commissioner under the Data Protection Act 1998. Registration Number Z7796819.

##### Copyright

New Life Church Dunstable holds copyright licences issued by Christian Copyright Licensing International.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church and of its income for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the church will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5 April 2023

Trustees' Report

The Trust has provided financial support to Ewen Robertson and to Alan Scotland of the Lifelink network of churches, who provided spiritual oversight and leadership to the Church. Sian Rous continued to provide leadership to the church on a full time basis.

The Church continued to be part of the Lifelink Global network of associated churches that work together in the UK and overseas. The charitable work of Lifelink International (Registered Charity 1070770) continued to be financially supported. Charitable gifts were made to various good causes during the year. Funds were raised to support the Nyanga Children's Home, a humanitarian project of Lifelink Global in Zimbabwe. Funds were also raised, along with a Community Assets Grant from Central Beds Council to make improvements to the church facility, mainly increasing space for work with youth.

The church met for Sunday morning worship on a weekly basis, including monthly brunch events. Smaller Life Groups met at least monthly for smaller group support and personal discipleship. The leadership team was expanded to include four members who meet fortnightly to plan and provide mutual support. A wider core team of ten individuals met six weekly, providing a creative, support and planning forum. Monthly worship and prayer events were held. Men's and women's social groups were started. Ministry to children and young people continued with a Sunday Kids Club.

A weekly youth group served local youth and continued to reach 15-20 youth attending regularly and going on day trips together.

Tumbles toddler group continued to serve twenty or more families from the local community with 50 toddlers and their families invited to a Christmas party.

The church continues to support and contribute by way of personnel to the Dunstable Foodbank Charity where the building is also used as a distribution outlet.

The church supported the Houghton Regis Carnival with two stalls with crafts, giveaways and offering prayer.

The donations received by the Trust are almost entirely through the giving of the people within the Church, Tithes were up 5%, offerings up 3% and one off grant income and special offerings in relation to the church building works were £16.1K, increasing income year on year by c £20K. Expenditure was up from £61K to £86K primarily as a result of the building works, with increased building spend of c £20K. Ministry expenses were also up £3K resulting in a deficit of £3.8K for the year.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

S Rous



G Simpson



Date

2/2/24



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE  
TRUSTEES OF NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5 April 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 13

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As described on page 8, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, 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 Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**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 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 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.

*Ruth Hayden*

Ruth Hayden

PIIA

17-2-24

Date:



# NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5 April 2023

### Trustees' Report

During the year New Life Church Bedfordshire Trust has administered New Life Church Dunstable through which the objectives of the Trust are furthered.

The Trust has provided financial support to Ewen Robertson and to Alan Scotland of the Lifelink network of churches, who provided spiritual oversight and leadership to the Church. Stan Rous continued to provide leadership to the church on a full time basis.

Regular meetings for worship, prayer, and Bible teaching continued to be held in the Church building and in small housegroups. Several visiting speakers provided ministry to the Church during the year.

The Twinkle playgroup continued to serve the local community by providing high quality pre-school education, and part-time staff were employed to run this work. A considerable amount of time was spent during the year considering the future of Twinkle, and its place in the future work and ministry of the Church. The very difficult decision was taken to close the operation from the end of the 2020 educational year. The onset of the pandemic led the trustees and leadership to put back the date of closure to the end of the Autumn term of the 20-21 educational year. This was done to provide more time and support to the children and their families to find alternative places, and for the staff to secure new employment.

The Church continued to be part of the Lifelink network of associated churches that work together in the UK and overseas. The charitable work of Lifelink International (Registered Charity 1070770) continued to be financially supported. Charitable gifts were made to various good causes during the year.

Ministry to children and young people continued with a Sunday Kids Club. The Church again supported the Operation Christmas Child shoe box gift appeal. Funds were raised to support the Nyanga children orphanage project in Zimbabwe and the Popeye Orphanage also in Zimbabwe. Closer to home an Alpha course was run during the autumn and early winter, bringing a number of new local residents to the church and two to commit their lives to the Lord.

Connect groups for personal discipleship meets fortnightly and an eight week Prayer course was held. The church continues to support and contribute by way of personnel and financially to the Dunstable Foodbank Charity where the building is also used as a distribution outlet. The church also engages with activities with All Saints Academy, supports Houghton Regis Carnival and quarterly outreach into Dunstable town centre.

The donations received by the Trust are almost entirely through the giving of the people within the Church. The income of the trust was 6.7% higher than the previous year primarily as a result of an increase in Twinkle income (up 23%) offset by a slight drop in collection, tithe and gift aid income. The general church expenditure was 17% higher than the previous year, due primarily to an increase in Twinkle operational costs and increase in ministry expenses due to Stan Rous' appointment. The overall position reported is a small deficit in income against expenditure of £3,424. This is after a small trading profit within Twinkle of £3,187.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Stan Rous

G Simpson

Date

# NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 April 2023

	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u>	Restricted <u>funds</u>	Total <u>2022-23</u>	Total <u>2021-22</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	£	£	£	£
Income from Twinkle	0	0	0	0
Love Offerings received	0	2,479	2,479	2,236
Offerings	4,726	0	4,726	4,581
Other Income	0	16,075	16,075	0
Gift Aid tax refund	12,006	0	12,006	11,008
Tithes	47,666	0	47,666	45,154
Twinkle Playgroup Income	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£64,398</b>	<b>£18,554</b>	<b>£82,952</b>	<b>£62,979</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	£	£	£	£
Administration	787		787	671
Building expenses	28,788		28,788	8,041
Child sponsoring	0		0	0
Youth & children's work	319		319	337
Professional Fees paid	366		366	350
General Church	4,951		4,951	4,594
Love Gifts made		2,550	2,550	1,100
Ministry expenses	49,404		49,404	46,344
Twinkle Playgroup		0	0	0
Hall Hire	0		0	0
Tithe of Tithe	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0		0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>£84,315</b>	<b>£2,550</b>	<b>£86,865</b>	<b>£61,437</b>

We approve these accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

S Rous

G Simpson

Date



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 APRIL 20231. Principal Accounting PoliciesAccounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

Donations received are shown as income for the year in which they are received and are credited to either restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the terms of the donation.

Expenditure

Revenue expenditure is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred. Expenditure of a capital nature is included in fixed assets and is written off over its useful life as follows:

Office equipment      written off over 3 years.  
Fixtures and fittings      written off over 20 years.

All fixtures and fittings have been costed in full at the time they are incurred. The NBV has however reduced in line with the depreciation charge outlined above.

2. Fixed Assets

		Land and Buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
COST	As at 5 April 2022,	£152,383	£77,441	£229,824
	Additions	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	As at 5 April 2023	£152,383	£77,441	£229,824
DEPRECIATION	As at 5 April 2022,	£35,074	£77,441	£112,515
	Charge in the year	£2,698	£0	£2,698
	Disposals	-	-	-
	As at 5 April 2023,	£37,772	£77,441	£115,213
	Net book value at 5 April 2023	£114,611	£0	£114,611
	Net book value at 5 April 2023	£114,611	£0	£114,611

The charity acquired York House, 80a Houghton Road Dunstable on 29 February 2000. Historically the trustees have not charged depreciation and have left the asset in the accounts at cost. During



Tithe of Tithe	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0		0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>£84,315</b>	<b>£2,550</b>	<b>£86,865</b>	<b>£61,437</b>

We approve these accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

S Rous   
Date 2/2/24

G Simpson 

## NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 APRIL 2023

#### 1. Principal Accounting Policies

##### Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

##### Income

Donations received are shown as income for the year in which they are received and are credited to either restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the terms of the donation.

##### Expenditure

Revenue expenditure is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred. Expenditure of a capital nature is included in fixed assets and is written off over its useful life as follows:

Fixtures and Fittings	written off over 20 years.
Office equipment	written off over 3 years.

All fixtures and fittings have been costed in full at the time they are incurred. The NBV has however reduced in line with the depreciation charge outlined above.

#### 2. Fixed Assets

	Land and Buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
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COST



2009 the trust spent £26,975 on roof repairs and renovations to the property. These have been capitalised. The trustees have decided to depreciate the capitalised expenditure on a straight line basis over 10 years. An Estate agents 'view of value' was obtained prior to the renovation and repair works and a value of £249,995 given. This is confirmed by way of letter from Smith Estates (Luton) Ltd dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The trustees have not thought it appropriate to revalue the asset in line with this value.

### 3. Creditors & Debtors

Current Creditors at 05 April 2023	£0	(2022 £0)
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### 4. Bank and Cash Balances

Bank balances at 5 April 2023	£13,586	(2022 £17,603)
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Cash float	£ nil	(2021 £ nil)
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### 5. Long Term Liabilities

Bank loan balance at 5 April 2023	£0	(2022 £0)
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During 2009 the Trust restructured its Loan and took out additional funding of £10,000 to part fund the costs of the roof repairs and renovations. To achieve this a new loan of £35,000 was taken out over 10 years with Lloyds TSB. Interest is charged at 2.90% above bank base rate and is repayable by way of 120 repayments of capital and interest. The loan was repaid from surplus cash deposit during the 2018-19 financial year.

### 6. Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

Remuneration and expenses totalling £44,955 (2022 £40,470) was paid to Ewen Robertson for oversight of the church, Sian Rous for her full-time role as the leader of the church, Eleanor Hearing for her role as treasurer and Pam Shucker for her cleaning of the church. No other trustee received remuneration or expenses during the year.

