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NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
5 APRIL 2024

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**The Trustees' Report and Accounts of  
New Life Church Bedfordshire Trust  
Charity No: 299289  
For the year ended 5 April 2024**

NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5 April 2024

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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.

# NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

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### Legal and Administration Details

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 Trustees on 7 March 1995 it was agreed that with effect from 6 April 1995 the Trust would be known as New Life Church Bedfordshire Trust.

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

### Trustees

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

Mr Graham Simpson      Trustee  
83 Pipers Croft  
Dunstable  
Beds  
LU6 3JZ

Ms Sian Rous              Trustee  
21 Highfield  
Leighton Buzzard  
Beds

Mr Andrew E Robertson      Trustee  
144 Pytchley Road  
Rugby  
Warwickshire  
CV22 5NG

Mr Paul Wilson              Trustee  
3 Bryant Road  
Toddington  
Bedfordshire  
LU5 6EX

### Bankers

HSBC Bank  
22 West Street  
Dunstable  
Beds

### Independent Examiner

Ruth Hayden

# NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

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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.

## NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

### 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

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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. Gifts were given to Foodbank clients for Christmas and Christmas boxes donated to Operation Christmas Child.

The church has been growing slowly. It met for Sunday morning worship on a weekly basis, including monthly brunch events. Smaller Life Groups met regularly for smaller group support and personal discipleship. Three people make up the senior leadership team who meet fortnightly to pray, plan and organise pastoral 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. Fortnightly prayer meetings and hospitality events were initiated. Men's and women's groups met and a Young Adults group started. Ministry to children and young people continued with a Sunday Kids Club and two youth groups.

A midweek weekly youth group served local youth who attended regularly and going on day trips together.

Tumbles toddler group continued to serve twenty or more families from the local community. The service is free and includes Christmas and summer parties.

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.

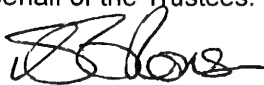
The church supported the Houghton Regis Carnival with two stalls with free offerings of crafts, giveaways and offering prayer. This year we had our first alternative to Halloween events on the streets where 200 gifts and free drinks were given away.

The donations received by the Trust are almost entirely through the giving of the people within the Church. The income of the trust was down 15% on the previous year primarily as a result of one of income towards the building renovations, and also a small reduction in tithes and offering income we think due to the cost of living crisis and not repaid one off contributions made in the previous year. This reduction was offset in part by a reduction in expenditure of 6.9% on the previous year.

The overall position reported is a deficit in income against expenditure of £11,070 but this will be offset by simialr rebate due back from HMRC in relation to the employers national insurance rebate due to the charity and expected to be in the early 2024-25 financil year.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

S Rous



G Simpson



Date

28/1/25

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 2024, 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* Date: 18-1-25

# NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE TRUST

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 April 2024

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>Total 2023-24</u>	<u>Total 2022-23</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	£	£	£	£
Income from Twinkle	0	0	0	0
Love Offerings received	0	0	0	2,479
Offerings	4,410	0	4,410	4,726
Other Income	200	7,789	7,789	16,075
Gift Aid tax refund	11,728	0	11,728	12,006
Tithes	45,996	0	45,996	47,666
Twinkle Playgroup Income	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£62,334</b>	<b>£7,789</b>	<b>£70,123</b>	<b>£82,952</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	£	£	£	£
Administration	1,173		1,173	787
Building expenses	27,741		27,741	28,788
Child sponsoring	0		0	0
Youth & children's work	389		389	319
Professional Fees paid	1,691		1,691	366
General Church	2,400		2,400	4,951
Love Gifts made		1,663	1,663	2,550
Ministry expenses	46,707		46,707	49,404
Depreciation	1,092		1,092	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>£81,193</b>	<b>£1,663</b>	<b>£81,193</b>	<b>£86,865</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

28/1/25

# NEW LIFE CHURCH BEDFORDSHIRE

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

### 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
<b>COST</b>			
As of 5 April 2023,	£114,661	£0	£114,661
Additions			-
Disposals			-
 As at 5 April 2023	 £114,661	 £0	 £114,661
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
As of 6 April 2023,	£37,772	£0	£37,772
Charge in the year	£ 2,698	£0	£ 2,698
Disposals	-	-	-
As of 5 April 2024,	£40,470	£0	£40,470
 Net book value at 5 April 2024	 £74,191	 £0	 £74,191
 Net book value at 5 April 2024	 £74,191	 £0	 £74,191

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

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 2024	£0	(2022 £0)
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### 4. Bank and Cash Balances

Bank balances at 5 April 2024	£2,345	(2023 £13,586)
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Cash float	£ nil	(2023 £ nil)
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### 5. Long Term Liabilities

Bank loan balance at 5 April 2024	£0	(2023 £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 £42,653 (2023 £44,955) 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.

