

Living Word Church

(Charity Number: 1013584)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended

5th April 2023

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Charity Accounts Preparation &
Independent Examination Services

Living Word Church

(Charity Number: 1013584)

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Living Word Church

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 6 April 2022 – 5 April 2023

Charity's Full Name – **Living Word Church**

Registered Company Number – **None**

Registered Charity Number – **1013584**

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity set out in its governing document:

Proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God by every means possible concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Christian faith throughout the city of York and its environs.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts:

The Church continues to be inspired and motivated to use the gifts that God has given them to bless people and make their lives better. This includes the material demonstrations of unconditional love through acts of kindness and service. The Church gives to the poor and needy, both to people within the Church and those outside the Church. Many of the details in this report continue to be similar to the previous year's report, but that is how faithfulness works, continuing to work with people and in an area to see hope and life.

The Church's main goal is to enable as many people as possible to hear the Gospel and discover the joy and freedom that Jesus Christ has made available for all. The Riverside Centre is used as a Place of Worship; built initially as a public house, the building provides great spaces for the Church to worship and fellowship together and spaces for the wider community to meet and find friendship. This has been such a valuable space for the church and community to remake connections as people are still re-finding fellowship and friendship in the post-pandemic environment. The finances pay for the pastoral leader, hub manager and community worker, media creator and an administrator. These paid roles support the large number of volunteers that make the community of faith and the charitable work possible.

During the financial year April 2022 to April 2023 Living Word Church used the Riverside Centre to support people in the York area. The Centre remained a place of worship, prayer and fellowship for the church community and a base for the Christian outreach and charitable works particularly the increased requirement for the Foodbank services. The Hub Community Café opened 2 days a week, providing healthy, low cost and tasty meals in a warm, friendly environment. The Riverside Centre was an official 'warm space' opening 3 days a week during the winter. This community resource welcomes many people from the surrounding area, providing homemade food at 'not for profit' prices. This has also started the building of friendships with café customers, helping to reduce the isolation lots of people felt during the lockdowns.

It is estimated that we have spoken to and given emergency food to over 721 families through running one of the Trussell Trust foodbanks in connection with York Foodbank (an increase of 20% from the previous year). We work with volunteers from St Andrews and York Community Church in this project. This is a significant number of households being supported in the city from our centre and we praise our volunteer team for the additional work put in to support these families.

The Riverside Centre remained a base for outreach into the community around Huntington Road and the Bell Farm Estate. The Little Stars toddler and baby group continued this year providing a great place for parents/carers and their small children to socialise, fellowship and learn. There are usually 30 families coming every week. This year saw the start of the CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Life Skills course being run at the Riverside Centre. The first cohort of 5 people attended this course and learned how to budget and how to make ends meet on a very tight income.

The trustees consider that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Additional details of objectives and activities:

The vast majority of the Church's income is from gifts from members. These gifts are split between incomes related to tithes, general offerings and earmarked gifts (for specific purposes). Where Gift Aid is applicable this is added to any earmarked gifts before these are passed on. The rest of the Gift Aid is used for projects and outreach. We encourage all members who can work to find work and we support them in that aim. Specific gifts were earmarked by the givers to support those who are poor or needy in the local area and abroad. The Church was blessed by receiving gifts from the York Foodbank and York Elim to assist in refurbishing parts of the Riverside Centre.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole:
Details of the performance and achievements are included in the sections above.

We continue to work with the York based Christian charity Bundles of Joy to store their baby equipment, clothing and consumables in the second floor rooms of the Riverside Centre. They distribute a bundle of baby items to families in the York area who are having a baby and are in need. During this financial year the Besom Charity also continued using space in the Centre to supply furniture and white goods to households in need, as well as preparing many Christmas hampers for those in need.

The Church continues to be able to make the Riverside Centre available to the international congregation of the York Elim Church. We continue to work with other churches across York to combine resources where it is beneficial.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period:

The trustees have used some of the reserves to continue to employ the hub manager and community outreach worker to further develop the outreach programmes. The reserve has helped manage the cash flow during this period. The mortgage and energy cost increased dramatically this year, taking a higher proportion of the income.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held:

The reserve funds are held in the Seed Fund which is 10% of the tithe income put aside to support the employment of the paid employees, for gift for ministries to the Church and a fund to support those in need. Reserves are also kept ensuring liabilities can be met by easing the cashflow.

Amount of reserves held:

We ended the year with a reduced combined reserves of £2,600 in the Reserve Fund and Seed Fund.

Reasons for holding zero reserves:

N/A

Funds materially in deficit:

None

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern:

N/A

Additional Information:

None

Structure, Governance and Management**Description of the charity's trusts:**Type of governing document – **Trust Deed**How the charity is constituted – **Trust**Trustee selection methods – **Appointment by current trustees****Additional governance issues:**

If there is an even number of trustees and a decision is not unanimous then the lead trustee will vote twice and a simple majority will be adhered to.

If a trustee is related to any employee receiving a salary or benefit, that trustee cannot be involved in the decision-making process that affects the salary or benefit.

Reference and Administration DetailsCharity's full name – **Living Word Church**Other names the charity is known by – **None**Charity's principal address – **187-189 Huntington Road, York. YO319BP****Names of the trustees who manage the charity:**

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Matthew Staples	Lead Trustee		
Franklyn Allsup	Trustee	Up to 12 November 2022	
Jason George	Trustee	From 13 November 2022	
Richard Renier	Trustee	Up to 3 rd July 2021	
Amy Ellis	Trustee		

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved:

None

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity:

Trustee Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Matthew Staples	
Franklyn Allsup	Trustee up to 12 th November 2022, will be relinquishing this responsibility.
Richard Renier	Trustee up to 3 rd July 2021, will be relinquishing this responsibility.
Amy Ellis	To take on this responsibility once the transfer process is completed.

Jason George	To take on this responsibility once the transfer process is completed.
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Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others:

Description of the assets held in this capacity – **None**

Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects – **None**

Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets – **None**

Names and addresses of advisers – **None**

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members:

James Topliss (Lead Elder/Pastor – Employed by the Charity)

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature



Full Name – **Matthew Staples**
Position – **Lead Trustee**
Date – **22nd January 2023**

Signature



Full Name – **Amy Ellis**
Position – **Trustee**
Date – **22nd January 2023**

I report on the accounts of: **Living Word Church**
for the year ended: **05 April 2023** which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 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 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 respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Jeff Todd (FCA)

Date:

Outsource independent examination
services

The Hiscox Building
Peasholme Green
York YO1 7PR

Living Word Church
(Charity Number: 1013584)

Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended:	5th April 2023
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	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Tithes & offerings	99,137	-	99,137	108,921
Earmarked gifts & offerings	9,894	-	9,894	17,176
Contributions to events	13,956	-	13,956	12,008
Gift aid & other income	23,008	-	23,008	23,221
Hub income	8,414		8,414	
Interest	49	-	49	1
Other income	2,666	-	2,666	971
Total receipts	157,124	-	157,124	162,298
Payments				
Tithe of income	8,258	-	8,258	11,056
Salaries and expenses	83,495	-	83,495	79,349
Conferences, training and travel	128	-	128	327
Seed fund spend	4,000	-	4,000	2,833
Building costs & refurbishment	8,767	-	8,767	2,353
Hospitality	185	-	185	107
Visiting ministry	1,500	-	1,500	1,991
Earmarked gifts	15,761	-	15,761	18,125
Sponsorship	560	-	560	360
Meeting costs	365	-	365	2,900
Outreach events & evangelism	180	-	180	704
Administration (inc utility costs)	25,631	-	25,631	19,204
Mortgage repayments	21,070	-	21,070	20,304
Total payments	169,900	-	169,900	159,613
Net of receipts/(payments)	(12,776)	-	(12,776)	2,685
Balance brought forward	25,793	-	25,793	23,108
Balance carried forward	13,017	-	13,017	25,793

Living Word Church
(Charity Number: 1013584)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:		5th April 2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand				
Current bank account	5,168	-	5,168	10,456
Savings bank account	7,849	-	7,849	15,337
	<u>13,017</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,017</u>	<u>25,793</u>
Assets retained for Charity's own use			2023	2022
			£	£
Building			<u>325,000</u>	<u>325,000</u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Liabilities				
Independent Examination fee	380	-	380	380
Mortgage for building	202,658	-	202,658	203,271
	<u>203,038</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>203,038</u>	<u>203,651</u>

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(Charity Number: 1013584)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended:	5th April 2023
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The Trustees have taken advantage of section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

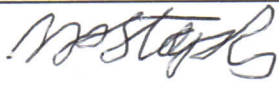
Approval of Accounts for the year ended:	5th April 2023
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The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held on:

22-1-24

Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees:



Signature

M. P. Staples


Name

Head Trustee

Position (e.g. Chair etc)

22-1-24

Date



Signature

A. Ellis

Name

Trustee

Position (e.g. Chair etc)

30-1-24

Date