

Living Word Church

(Charity Number: 1013584)

Trustees Annual Report & Financial Statements for the year ended

5th April 2024

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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 2023 – 5 April 2024

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:

From the initial setting up of this charity in 1988, the Church has been 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 years' reports, but that is how faithfulness works, continuing to work with people and in an area to see hope and life flourish.

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 make connections as people finding fellowship and friendship in an increasingly separated society. 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 2023 to April 2024 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 to around 55 guests each week. The Riverside Centre was an official 'warm space' opening 3 days a week during the winter. This community resource has welcomed many people from the surrounding area, providing homemade food and high-quality hot drinks at 'not for profit' prices. This has also started the building of friendships with café customers, helping to reduce the isolation lots of people have felt.

It is estimated that we have spoken to and given emergency food to over 666 families through running one of the Trussell Trust foodbanks in connection with York Foodbank (this was 20% of the York Foodbank provision this 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 35 families coming every week. This year saw the continuation of the CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Life Skills course being run at the Riverside Centre. The second cohort of 3 people and 5 in the third cohort attended this course and learned how to budget and how to make ends meet on a very tight income.

During this year we worked with the Ark Church and the Elim Church to provide a very needed youth group. This space for fun and friendship has seen up to 22 young people each week. The Riverside Centre has also been opened as a welcoming place for international students in combination with Friends International with up to 10 students each session.

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.

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 make the Riverside Centre available to the international congregation of the York Elim Church. We work with other churches and the One Voice group across York to where it is beneficial.

Financial Review

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

The trustees have increased the reserves with a plan to have a couple of months' worth of essential outgoings. Income has increased particularly generous gifts from church members. The mortgage and energy cost have remained high this year, taking a high proportion of the income.

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

The new reserve fund, separate from the Seed Fund has been put aside to support the employment of the paid employees, leaving the Seed Fund 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 an increased combined reserves of £12,000 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.

The trustees will review the benefits and disbenefits of changing the charity constitution to be a charitable incorporated organisation.

Reference and Administration Details

Charity'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		
Jason George	Trustee		
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.

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 – 16th January 2025

Signature



Full Name – Amy Ellis
Position – Trustee
Date – 16th January 2025

I report on the accounts of: **Living Word Church**
for the year ended: **05 April 2024** 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

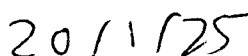
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 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)
Outsource independent examination services
24 First Avenue
York YO31 7YQ



Date:

Living Word Church
(Charity Number: 1013584)

Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended:	5th April 2024
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	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Tithes & offerings	128,237	-	128,237	99,137
Earmarked gifts & offerings	13,758	-	13,758	9,894
Contributions to events	23,744	-	23,744	13,956
Gift aid	24,984	-	24,984	23,008
Hub income	3,081	-	3,081	8,414
Interest	70	-	70	49
Other income	195	-	195	2,666
Total receipts	194,069	-	194,069	157,124
 Payments				
Tithe of income	12,716	-	12,716	8,258
Salaries and expenses	71,348	-	71,348	83,495
Conferences, training and travel	212	-	212	128
Seed fund spend	2,057	-	2,057	4,000
Building costs & refurbishment	875	-	875	8,767
Hospitality	213	-	213	185
Visiting ministry	1,140	-	1,140	1,500
Earmarked gifts	19,937	-	19,937	15,761
Sponsorship	371	-	371	560
Meeting costs	531	-	531	365
Outreach events & evangelism	385	-	385	180
Administration (inc utility costs)	28,100	-	28,100	25,631
Mortgage repayments	25,965	-	25,965	21,070
Total payments	163,850	-	163,850	169,900
Net of receipts/(payments)	30,219	-	30,219	(12,776)
Balance brought forward	13,017	-	13,017	25,793
Balance carried forward	43,236	-	43,236	13,017

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(Charity Number: 1013584)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at:	5th April 2024
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	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand				
Current bank account	37,451	-	37,451	5,168
Savings bank account	5,785	-	5,785	7,849
Tracker account	-	-	-	-
	43,236	-	43,236	13,017

	2024 £	2023 £
Assets retained for Charity's own use		
Building	325,000	325,000

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Liabilities				
Independent Examination fee	400	-	400	380
Mortgage for building	197,860	-	197,860	202,658
	198,260	-	198,260	203,038

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Notes to the Accounts for the year ended:	5th April 2024
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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 2024
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The report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held on: 16/1/2025
Date

Signed for and on behalf of the Trustees:



Signature

MATTHEW STAPLES

Name

LEAD TRUSTEE

Position (e.g. Chair etc)

16 January 2025.

Date



Signature

Amy ELLIS

Name

TRUSTEE

Position (e.g. Chair etc)

16th January 2025.

Date