

Registered number  
514539

New Life Church Congleton  
Report and Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended  
31 December 2024

## **New Life Church Congleton**

### **Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
Reference and administrative information	1
Report of the Trustees	2
Independent Examiner's Report	13
Statement of Financial Activities	14
Balance Sheet	15
Statement of Cashflows	16
Notes to the Financial Statements	17

## **New Life Church Congleton**

### **Reference and administrative information**

#### **TRUSTEES**

Stephen Neil Hodgkinson MBE	
Peter Martin	Resigned 4 February 2024
Giles Osborn Chapman	Resigned 4 February 2024
George Hurlstone	
Susan Sparks	
Michael Burgess	
Linda Hurlstone	
Rachel Mellor	
Peter Minshull	Resigned 4 February 2024
Reuben Oliver Gittings	Appointed 4 February 2024
Jeff Lewis	Appointed 4 February 2024 and resigned 23 September 2024

#### **TRUST ADDRESS**

Danesford Community Centre  
West Road  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 4EY

#### **LEGAL STATUS**

The charity was formed as a trust under a trust deed dated 21 October 1983  
(With Deeds of Variation dated 8th April 2000, 13th December 2010 and 19th January 2021)  
Registered with the Charity Commission - Registration Number 514539  
The charity was formerly known as New Life Christian Fellowship

#### **BANKERS**

The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC  
Drummond House (GE) Branch, Edinburgh

#### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

K Salt (FCCA)  
BK Plus Audit Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Adventure Place  
Hanley  
Stoke on Trent  
ST1 3AF

#### **ANNUAL REPORT**

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the trustees' annual report which is published on the same date as these accounts.



Danesford Community Centre  
West Road, Congleton  
Cheshire, CW12 4EY

---

## **Trustees Report**

---

*as at 31st December 2024*

---

### **New Life Church, Congleton.**

Registered Charity No. 514539

**Bankers:**

Royal Bank of Scotland,  
Drummond House (GE) Branch, Edinburgh

**Independent Examiner:**

K Salt (FCCA)  
BK Plus Limited (formerly Walletts)  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Adventure Place, Hanley, Stoke on Trent

**Solicitors:**

Fiona Bruce & Co  
Justice House, Stockton Heath  
Warrington

## **History**

***The church was founded in 1983 and operates as a Charitable Trust under its Trust Deed dated 21st October 1983, which also contains the Statement of Doctrines, and by which the church life and business is conducted.***

A subsequent Deed of Variation dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2000 was registered with the Charity Commissioners.

Further Deeds of Variation dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 authorised the change of name from New Life Christian Fellowship, Congleton to New Life Church, Congleton and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 clarifying conflicts of interest procedures of Trustee meetings.

The church began as a small house fellowship, often referred to as a 'House Church'. As it grew and expanded, the church needed larger premises to hold its Sunday Services and to develop other ministries in the local community.

The church acquired the freehold on the premises known as Danesford Community Centre from NCH Action for Children, from whom the premises were previously rented, during the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2000. The cost was £185,000.

Major improvements and refurbishments have taken place and continue to take place as the trustees seek to maintain the facility to a high standard and ensure compliance with all health and safety and hygiene regulations and standards.

A major first floor extension was completed in 2015 and provides four additional rooms and a tea bar. All rooms are being used extensively and are proving a great asset to the community centre, which is recognised as a **Community Hub**.

During 2022, discussions have begun with Cheshire East Council with regard to being included as part of the **Family Hub** network which would release some level of funding Provided by HM Government to support Family Hubs. Fiona Bruce MP is being supportive.

Whilst we are connected and directly involved with Cheshire East Council in this respect it would appear no funds from the £1,000,000 grant from Central Government will be coming our way! This was a great disappointment to both ourselves and Fiona Bruce MP who had worked so hard on our behalf.

### **Review of centre facilities**

The extension to the renamed Family Room which was completed in the summer of 2017 has proved to be a great addition to our centre facilities.

The church's involvement in the community has continued to expand during the year with numerous voluntary organisations, clubs, societies, fundraising bodies, especially those involving children and young people, using the centre. The centre also has a specially designated **Counselling Room** where people with difficult personal issues, including addictions are helped.

New Life Church provides spaces on the car park to house the two Congleton Community Partnership Minibuses and their hire/usage diary and fuel is managed through the church office.

New Life Church is a member of The Evangelical Alliance, Churches Together in Congleton, Congleton Bible Week and closely associated with various local government community partnerships, including the CVS (Council for Voluntary Service Cheshire East), and active member of East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise.

## ***Aims and Objectives***

The charity's objectives are as follows:

1. The advancement of the Christian faith.
2. The relief of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress or who are aged or sick.
3. The provision of instruction in the principles of the Christian faith at any educational establishment.
4. To promote and support such other charitable schemes or projects as may be established to benefit the public and in particular the provision of facilities for a community centre in Congleton for the use and benefit of local residents.

**We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.**

## ***Elders***

The governance of the church is under an appointed Eldership, which is responsible for sound doctrine in accordance with scripture, and for the overall vision and direction of the church.

Elders serving during the year under review were:

Stephen Hodgkinson MBE

Peter Martin—(Peter has taken the role of 'Elder Statesman' and reduced his day to day involvement in the eldership).

Jeff Cutts

Joanne Kilbry—The Trustees were unanimous in appointing Joanne Kilbry as a church elder which was endorsed by the whole church.

## **The Trustees**

**Under the Trust Deed, trustees are appointed to be responsible and accountable for the financial integrity of the church, including property, equipment, fixtures & fittings, health and Safety and Safeguarding. The trustees serving during the year under review were:**

George Hurlstone (Secretary)

Sue Sparks

Linda Hurlstone

Peter Minshull (Resigned 4th Feb 2024)

Rachel Mellor

Reuben Oliver Gittings (appointed 4th Feb 2024)

Jeff Lewis (appointed 4th Feb 2024, resigned 23rd Sept 2024)

Stephen Hodgkinson (Chairman)

Peter Martin (Resigned 4th Feb 2024)

Giles Chapman (Resigned 4th Feb 2024)

Michael Burgess

The trustees are empowered to appoint a treasurer to maintain the accounts of the church. Rory Sanders holds this position following his appointment 1st October 2023.

The trustees normally meet each month, except August, to review and make decisions in all matters relating to the church finances, employment, health and safety, safeguarding/child protection and the general running of the centre. A full financial review is undertaken each quarter. Minutes of the meetings are taken and maintained by the church administrator.

The trustees employ a Church Administrator Louise Davies, whose contract is for 31.5 hours per week for 42 weeks per annum.

None of the trustees receive any financial remuneration or benefits in kind from the Trust, other than a contribution towards out of pocket expenses paid to S Hodgkinson as declared in the accounts.

### **Governance**

The Church holds an Annual General Meeting and for the year under review was held on Sunday 2nd February 2024 at which a summary of income and expenditure was presented, together with a summary of ministry reports.

### **Marriages**

The church centre is licensed and registered with the Superintendent Registrar to conduct marriage ceremonies under certificate. Our Registered Number is 42430. Two weddings were conducted during the period under review.

### ***Church Ministries***

#### **Prayer Ministry**

Prayer underpins and sustains everything that takes place within and out from New Life Church and new ministries are birthed in prayer. Regular times of corporate prayer are held at the centre and in Life Groups throughout the week. Individual church members are encouraged to pray privately each day and special prayer events are held from time to time. During the year under review, we have experienced amazing answers to prayer evidenced by miraculous healings, guidance for individual lives and new opportunities for the church to serve the community. Regular prayer clinics are held and the church elders are always available to pray for people's needs and situations.

Members of The Prayer Ministry Team are always available on Sunday mornings to pray with people after the service. The team has been expanded under the guidance of Merle Williams who provides training for those joining the team.

#### **Healing Rooms England & Wales**

We provide room/office facilities on Tuesdays and Thursdays for Healing Rooms ministry whose headquarters are located at New Life Church Centre.

#### **Preaching Ministry**

The church Elders continue to have overall responsibility for the preaching and teaching of sound biblical truths bringing guidance, direction and vision to the church.

Inspirational preaching is provided through church members and from time to time visiting speakers.

**The Elders are particularly grateful to Paul Williams, Catherine Krinks and Shane Wright who continue to form the core of the preaching ministry team, joined this year by Joanne Kilbry.**

Visiting preachers have included Mike Vickers (Cross The Nations), Rev. Derek Balsden (Global Methodist Church), Rev Paul Weaver (former National UK Leader Assemblies of God Church), Rev. David Morris (Baptist Minister), Dennis Smith (Good News for Everyone), Rev Christopher Hill (C L Ministries).

### **Praise & Worship Ministry**

Christian Contemporary Music plays a key part in our Sunday worship services and the church is blessed with a good number of gifted Holy Spirit anointed musicians and singers from whom we currently have several worship bands who alternate for various periods during the year.

The bands are supported by a dedicated team of audio and visual technicians.

**Sanctuary Worship** provides an extended time of praise and worship with an open time to hear from The Lord. This usually takes place monthly on the first Tuesday evening.

### **Life Groups, Discipleship and Pastoral Care**

The church is committed to the discipleship and pastoral care of church members and this is undertaken in a variety of ways, primarily small groups. All new people joining the church are encouraged to join a small group or be linked to one.

Each first Sunday in each month one of our Life Groups/Study Groups leads the second part of our service which includes sharing together in Holy Communion, Praying for our Prodigals and bringing God's Word.

**Equip Foundations**, remains well established and is very well attended including many people who recently completed the Alpha Course.

**'Living God's Way'** courses for new disciples takes place, primarily for those who have recently completed an Alpha Course.

### **Evangelism**

The church is committed to evangelism within the local community. Church members carry this out most effectively through personal witnessing and development of friendships and relationships. Church wide **Alpha Courses** continue to be held every year in the autumn and spring terms. Alpha continues to be the main tool to assist members in introducing friends, neighbours and colleagues to the Christian faith. We have seen encouraging growth in attendance on Alpha Courses and these have been followed by foundation courses.

**Six new believers were baptised on Easter Sunday.**

Special events, e.g. Theatre Productions and Concerts are also held occasionally and these events provide an ideal opportunity to introduce people to the Christian faith.

Life Groups play an essential part in Alpha by introducing guests and in providing the excellent weekly meals for the evening courses.

A comprehensive report of all the church's ministries is produced and reported at the AGM. A copy is available on request.

### **Primary Schools' Ministry**

We continue to conduct lessons and assemblies using **Open the Book** materials and **O/T Mini and N/T Mini** (formerly Bible Explorer) material. The teams have been strengthened with volunteers including Tina O'Hara who has lead our Open the Book team.

We conduct a one hour lesson in all the primary schools preparing year 6 pupils who are moving up to High School and present each pupil with an '**It's your move**' booklet produced by Scripture Union. This is largely funded by Churches Together in Congleton.

Our Children's ministry team also conduct assemblies in most primary schools and a new initiative called 'The Hope Journey' takes place, working with other local churches. This also included **Christmas in a Box**.

### **High Schools' Ministry**

We have a longstanding strong relationship with our two High Schools particularly CU groups in Congleton High School. We hope for greater connections once again with Eaton Bank Academy.

### **Nursery Group**

This consists of Pre-School for 3 and 4 year olds and 2 year olds in The Rainbow Room, catering for children on a sessional basis. \*Fees are charged and part-time staff are paid on a pro-rata basis per session. Staff are paid above the minimum wage and Childcare level 3 qualifications are recognised with an additional hourly rate supplement. Holiday pay is the required statutory 5.6 weeks.

(\*Most three & four year old children are now funded by Cheshire East Council Children & Families plus some two year olds who meet the special funding criteria.)

Individual Pupil Funding (IPF) is secured to cover one to one support for special needs children.

The Nursery Group continues to provide high quality pre-school provision. This was under the leadership of Alison Timbey our Nursery Manager who relinquished her role at the end of the summer term.

Two existing members of staff, Maria Daniels and Jemma Irwin were appointed Joint Managers in a shared leadership role. Sarah Morris continues as Deputy Manager, having returned from maternity leave.

We believe in the inclusion of all children and we have developed and been recognised as a centre of excellence for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The Nursery is judged **GOOD** following the last Ofsted inspection in October 2019.

Open Evenings for parents are held each year to discuss the progress of their children.

Again we have seen a modest growth in numbers of the children attending, and especially those with special educational needs (SEND).

**Zang Qui Xi**, who is sponsored by our nursery families, is a special needs child in the Lighthouse orphanage in Chagsha Province in China which is part of the church's ministry and support for International China Concern.

New Life Nursery is a member of the Early Years Alliance and is registered with Children and Families Cheshire East.

Special services are held for nursery children and families at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Summer Sports, all of which are extremely well attended by the children and their families.

New Life Nursery Group maintains a strong Christian ethos with daily prayers, Bible stories and songs.

### **Childrens' and Youth Ministry**

We have an excellent team of enthusiastic and committed leaders in Beth Cosgrove, Sue Wood, Callum Davies and Chloe Page who provide energy, imagination and creativity to this ministry, working well together as a team.

Early in the year Chloe decided on a career change and is now employed by the NHS based at the Christie Hospital as she provides special support for young people/young adults diagnosed with cancer.

Following a fairly protracted search for a replacement the Trustees were delighted to appoint Jeremy Coles to the Children's Ministry Team who took on this role early in August.

The church remains totally committed to children and young people and continues to invest unreservedly in this ministry.

### **Design and Publicity and Communication**

Julie Thomas undertakes the role of running **Facebook**, keeping the **Website** up to date, and effectively communicating through Social Media. She is employed by the church one day per week.

We are indebted to **Elaine Sharples** for her excellent work in designing our Alpha leaflets, publicity items and adverts for the local press.

### **Ministry to Deaf People**

Loop systems exist in the Main Hall, Social Room and Children's Room.

### **Fairly Traded Goods**

New Life Church encourages support for Fair Trade which is promoted through Words & Music.

### **Ukrainian Refugees**

The church provided support and regular gatherings (Conversation Café) for refugees based locally.

### **UK Missions**

The church provides regular financial support to the following:

- Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons International)
- United Christian Broadcasters (UCB)
- Alpha UK
- Christian Institute
- Lifelink
- Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)
- Care
- Churches in Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy
- Bible Society
- Open Doors
- Street Pastors
- Healing Rooms
- Sat 7 TV
- Message Trust
- Christian Aid
- The Message

Other one-off gifts are made on approval of the trustees.

### **Overseas Missions**

The church support various overseas missions financially on a regular basis in China, Slovakia, Romania, Africa and India plus support for the Persecuted Church worldwide through Open Doors charity.

### **Samaritan's Purse (Christmas Shoeboxes)**

New Life Church acts as a collecting centre thanks to Yvon Degens' and Ruth Speed's Organisation and we collected over 1,100 shoeboxes.

### **Caring Ministries / Serving the Community**

***Objective 2 of our Trust Deed states "The relief of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress or who are aged or sick"***

The major expansion of this work has continued during the year under review and we have further extended our network of referring agencies with whom we have excellent working relationships.

Various grants have generously been made available to support this vital work and the trustees are extremely grateful to several agencies, charities and grant making bodies.

### **Christian Counselling and Listening Service**

This is run by Louise Daniels, a fully qualified counsellor accredited by BACP and ACC. The service is open to people both in and outside the church and many people are referred through local agencies.

The church carries specialist professional indemnity insurance for this ministry.

This service now includes Pregnancy Crisis Support and Child Loss (formerly provided under the Image banner).

### **Storehouse Project**

This project continues to experience **very strong demand** and the church is extremely grateful for extra grants and an amazing response from the local community. Joanna Crichton and Lynnsey Miles oversee the Storehouse and during the year have built a great team of reliable volunteers.

Lynnsey decided on a career change and relinquished her role as Volunteer Manager in December. Lynnsey's post was originally funded through a grant by Reaching Communities and she has not been replaced due to financial constraints.

The Storehouse Project, which was launched October 2010 has had an amazing impact within the community where more and more people and families have benefitted from crisis food parcels.

Generous donations of food from church members, local schools and other churches in the town have kept The Storehouse stocked with food and essential items, plus some very generous regular financial gifts from people outside the church enables us to boost stocks on a regular basis.

Collections at Tesco Congleton have also boosted stocks and the church is very grateful to the generosity of the Congleton public. (We are now included in Tesco's national food collection known as Fair Share) which takes place twice each year.

Regular daily collections of fresh food are made at Marks & Spencer Food Hall, Tesco, Greggs and Co-op.

Regular bulletins are produced for general information.

Circa 400 Bags of Joy and presents were provided to needy families and individuals referred to us by various support agencies.

### **Furniture and White Goods Recycling / New Life Community Partnership**

The church for many years has sourced good condition second hand items, passing them on to those who are being re-housed, having previously been homeless.

The church works in conjunction with the warehouse and team based on Bromley Road and is very grateful to them for their support, without which the service could not operate.

We have experienced a massive increase in demand due to cost of living increase, especially in white goods for single parent families, often fleeing domestic abuse. Also we're helping an increasing number of individuals with mental health issues.

### **Forget-me-not Group**

Under the leadership of Clare Sheard and a team of dedicated volunteers the church runs, twice monthly, a very successful support group for those suffering from dementia and their carers.

### **The Jubilee Club**

The Jubilee Club was founded in May 2012 in response to the needs of many people being helped through the Storehouse foodbank. People are referred through various agencies.

The club meets every Tuesday, starting with tea, coffee and toast, followed by a brief "life message". Members of the team then opt for various activities.

Many of those attending are struggling with serious life issues, e.g. recovering from drug and alcohol addictions, mental health patients, broken domestic relationships, abusive and violent relationships.

The Club continues to thrive and grow with thanks to many committed volunteers.

### **Job Club & Benefits Support**

This grew out of the Jubilee Club and has proved very popular and been very successful. Job vacancies are scrutinised and matched to suitable applicants. CVs are written, mock interviews take place, references are provided and suitable attire provided if appropriate. Well over 100 people have gained permanent employment since it began in 2013. Thanks to the commitment of a group of volunteers under the leadership of Catherine Morris this has continued to help an ever increasing number of clients who are referred to us.

### **Family Support Ministry**

This ministry has continued to grow and was initially funded by a three year grant from the National Lottery's Reaching Communities.

This expanding ministry is led by Joanna Crichton and Margaret Sanders and is now funded through church members' 'My Giving' and very recently generous grants.

Much of the work takes place with damaged, broken and dysfunctional families and on occasions involves supporting clients in court appearances and EHA, CIN and CP meetings where children are involved. Parenting courses are proving very popular and helpful.

### **Civic & Community Engagement**

The church continues to be actively involved in the local community including civic functions and charitable events with the Rotary Club.

Church Elder Steve Hodgkinson relinquished his role as Mayor's Chaplain in May upon appointment of a new Mayor.

## **Financial Review**

***The financial activity of the charity is detailed in the Financial Statements attached which have been prepared by B K Plus Limited Chartered Certified Accountants.***

The trustees are satisfied that the Financial Accounts reflect an accurate account of the year's activities.

The Income and Expenditure figures for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 shows a net deficit of expenditure over income of £72,944, (£22656, 2023)

The Balance Sheet reveals net assets of £807,965(2023 : £880,909)

Whilst the charity remains in a strong and healthy financial position to support its ongoing work and vision, the trustees are reliant upon community grants to supplement the generous giving of church members.

**All designated giving, e.g. Grants, International China Concern, Building Fund, Ukraine Refugees, Romanian children etc. was directed in full to the designated account or recipient, together with allocated Gift Aid.**

The Trustees are continually reviewing the financial position and are confident that the significant cash reserves which have accumulated through prudent management will enable the church to continue to maintain all its ministries with its financial commitments and obligations.

## **Plans for the future**

Our goal will continue to be the advancement of the Christian faith and the building of God's Kingdom through all the ministries described in the report, whilst being open to new initiatives through the guidance and inspiration of The Holy Spirit.

## **Reserves Policy**

**The Reserves Policy is as follows:**

### **Tier 1 – Long Term**

The trustees will maintain a minimum cash balance of £85,000 overall funds to ensure continuation of operations, e.g. payment of wages and salaries, running and maintenance costs of buildings, fixtures and fittings.

### **Tier 2 – Short Term**

The trustees will review the reserves policy annually when approving the accounts and make appropriate amendments in the light of current circumstances.

## **Volunteers**

The church relies on the contribution made by its volunteers. These volunteers deliver services and also act as trustees, administrators, fundraisers and in other roles.

### **Risk Management**

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at the current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

### **Safeguarding**

The church operates Child Protection, Safeguarding Adults and Working with Offenders policies. All people working with young people and children and vulnerable adults are DBS checked.

### **Health and Safety**

Issues are reviewed monthly at the Trustees' meetings and Martin Hambley, Health and Safety Officer, and provides regular, usually weekly visits, carrying out alarm tests etc.

### **Independent Examiners**

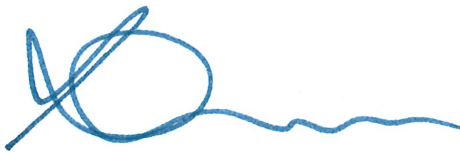
BK Plus Ltd were appointed as independent examiners during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity. (Our main contact is Steve Orme).

### **Church in the Community**

We have continued to help more and more vulnerable and needy people and families and we are seeing many of them become part of the church family.

The church has experienced further growth during the year under review with more and more people and families becoming committed church members.

We continue to be committed to the 'Great Commission' to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19) and to see God's people 'growing and being built up in love, as each part does its work' (Ephesians 4:16)



Stephen Hodgkinson MBE  
Chairman of Trustees

Dated:

16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of  
New Life Church Congleton**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the New Life Church Congleton (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 14 to 28.

**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 Trust'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.

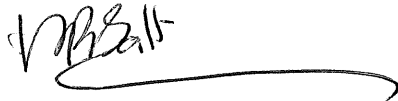
**Independent examiner's statement**

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



Signed:

Dated : 26 6 25

K. Salt (FCCA)  
BK Plus Audit Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Adventure Place  
Hanley  
Stoke on Trent  
ST1 3AF

**New Life Church Congleton  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Income</b>						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Donations & Grants	2	277,644	168,918	-	446,562	494,838
Charitable activities	3	266,168	-	-	266,168	195,696
Fundraising activities	4	18,100	-	-	18,100	13,897
Investment income	5	1,061	-	-	1,061	1,362
<i>Total income</i>		<u>562,973</u>	<u>168,918</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>731,891</u>	<u>705,793</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Cost of raising funds						
Fundraising	6	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Ministry	8	258,996	6,121	-	265,117	229,649
Youth, children and schools outreach		90,633	1,583	-	92,216	101,279
Caring ministries		6,506	67,225	-	73,731	80,429
Support of missionaries and other charity donations	9	13,784	98,707	-	112,491	85,101
Nursery		150,156	-	-	150,156	134,628
Café and bookshop		111,124	-	-	111,124	97,363
<i>Total expenditure</i>		<u>631,199</u>	<u>173,636</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>804,835</u>	<u>728,449</u>
<i>Net income/(expenditure)</i>		(68,226)	(4,718)	-	(72,944)	(22,656)
<b>Transfer between funds</b>						
Gross transfers between funds	16	16,712	(16,712)	-	-	-
<i>Net movement in funds</i>		<u>(51,514)</u>	<u>(21,430)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(72,944)</u>	<u>(22,656)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward		583,789	74,415	222,705	880,909	903,565
<i>Total funds carried forward</i>		<u>532,275</u>	<u>52,985</u>	<u>222,705</u>	<u>807,965</u>	<u>880,909</u>

**New Life Church Congleton  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	421,039	446,501
<i>Total fixed assets</i>		<u>421,039</u>	<u>446,501</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		7,581	11,965
Debtors	12	23,431	39,289
Cash at bank and in hand		403,620	424,093
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>434,632</u>	<u>475,347</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	47,706	40,939
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>386,926</u>	<u>434,408</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>807,965</u>	<u>880,909</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	-	-
<i>Net assets</i>		<u><u>807,965</u></u>	<u><u>880,909</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
Endowment fund	15	222,705	222,705
Restricted income funds	16	52,985	74,415
Unrestricted income funds			
General funds	17	532,275	583,789
<i>Total charity funds</i>		<u><u>807,965</u></u>	<u><u>880,909</u></u>

The notes at pages 17 to 28 form part of these accounts

**Approved by the trustees on the date shown below and signed on their behalf by:**

Stephen Neil Hodgkinson MBE

Date:

*16<sup>th</sup> June 2025.*

**New Life Church Congleton  
Statement of Cash Flows  
as at 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Net cash used in operating</b>	20	<u>(10,094)</u>	<u>23,458</u>
<b><i>Cash flows from investing</i></b>			
Interest and dividends		1,061	1,362
Property improvement costs		-	-
Purchase of furniture and equipment		(11,440)	(22,547)
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	-
<b>Net cash provided by investing</b>		<u>(10,379)</u>	<u>(21,185)</u>
<b><i>Cash flows from financing</i></b>			
Repayment of borrowing		-	-
Cash inflow from new borrowings		-	-
<b>Net cash provided by financing</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash</b>		(20,473)	2,273
Cash and cash equivalent brought		424,093	421,820
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried</b>		<u><u>403,620</u></u>	<u><u>424,093</u></u>

**New Life Church Congleton  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**1 Accounting policies**

***Basis of preparation of accounts***

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

**Fund structure**

The charity maintains various types of funds as follows:

**Endowment funds**

Endowment funds represent assets which are to be held permanently by the charity.

**Restricted funds**

Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies received which are allocated by the donor for specific purposes.

**Designated funds**

Designated funds are amounts which have been put aside out of unrestricted funds at the discretion of the trustees which are therefore not available for other purposes.

**General unrestricted funds**

General unrestricted funds represent unrestricted income which is expendable at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

**New Life Church Congleton  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Incoming recognition**

All income is recognised in the statement of financial activities when the conditions for receipt have been met and there is reasonable assurance of receipt. Where a claim for repayment of income tax has or will be made, such income is grossed up for the tax recoverable. The following accounting policies are applied to income:

**Gifts in kind and donated goods**

Assets given for distribution by the charity are recognised as income for the year only when they are distributed. Where such undistributed assets exist at the year end, they are not included in the accounts but a note is provided of their estimated value. Assets given for use by the charity are recognised as incoming resources at their estimated market value when receivable. If they form part of the fixed assets of the charity, they are capitalised in the balance sheet at the value at which the gift was included in incoming resources. Assets given in kind for conversion into cash and subsequent application by the charity are recognised as income in the accounting period when receivable. All estimates of value of such gifts are made by the trustees.

**Donations**

Donations and all other receipts from fundraising are reported gross and the related fundraising costs are reported in other expenditure.

**Investment income**

Investment income is accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable relating to investment income is accounted for in the same period as the related income.

**Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Grants payable are accounted for when the trustees have accepted a legal or moral obligation to make the grant.

**Allocation of overhead, support and governance costs**

Costs have been allocated first to the charitable activity concerned. Overhead, support and governance costs relating to Charitable Activities have been apportioned based on usage. The allocation of overhead, support and governance costs is shown in note 7.

**Costs of generating funds**

The cost of generating funds consist of the support costs in relation to the administration support provided with regard to room hire.

**Charitable activities**

Costs of charitable activities comprise of those costs incurred in the delivery of its activities. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly and the relevant amount of support costs that relate to that particular activity.

**New Life Church Congleton  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

***Tangible fixed assets***

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation which is provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

Fixtures and fittings	20% reducing balance
Equipment	straight line over 5 years
Building improvements	straight line over 15 years
Property	straight line over 50 years

***Operating leases***

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities in equal amounts over the period of the lease.

***Stocks***

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

***Grants***

Grants receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) in the year for which they are received. Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

***Charitable commitments***

Commitments which are legally binding on the trustees are accounted for as resources expended in the statement of financial activities. Where the promise of financial support is not binding on the trustees, such intentions are accounted for by a transfer to a designated fund. Activities that are to be wholly financed from future income do not form part of such designation and are disclosed in a note to the accounts.

**New Life Church Congleton**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

<b>2 Donations &amp; Grants</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Gifts and donations	277,644	149,568	427,212	478,013
Plus Dane Housing - Caring ministry grant	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
William Dean Trust - Allotment grant	-	1,000	1,000	-
Congleton Inclosure Trust - Electrical work	-	4,000	4,000	-
John Holford Charity - Caring ministry grant	-	5,000	5,000	-
Congleton Young People Trust Ltd	-	250	250	-
Sainsburys - Storehouse grant	-	500	500	-
Cheshire East - CEC - Flourish Fund	-	7,600	7,600	-
J H Rausing Trust - Caring ministry wages	-	-	-	8,125
Congleton 4 Congleton - Caring ministry grant	-	-	-	2,000
Cheshire East - Cost of Living grant	-	-	-	5,000
THIBA Ltd - LEO grant	-	-	-	200
Congleton Inclosure Trust - Equipment grant	-	-	-	500
	<u>277,644</u>	<u>168,918</u>	<u>446,562</u>	<u>494,838</u>

**3 Income from charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Ministry sundry income	3,606	-	3,606	10
Nursery school fees	171,949	-	171,949	114,279
Nursery sundry income	971	-	971	1,356
Café and bookshop income	86,666	-	86,666	78,808
Events	2,976	-	2,976	1,243
	<u>266,168</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>266,168</u>	<u>195,696</u>

**New Life Church Congleton**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

<b>4</b>	<b>Income from fundraising activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Room hire	18,100	-	18,100	13,897
	Miscellaneous events and income	-	-	-	-
		<u>18,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,100</u>	<u>13,897</u>
<b>5</b>	<b>Investment income</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Bank interest from UK cash deposits	1,061	-	1,061	1,362
		<u>1,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,061</u>	<u>1,362</u>
<b>6</b>	<b>Cost of raising funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Fundraising:				
	Room hire support costs (note 7)	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**New Life Church Congleton**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**7 Allocation of support and governance costs**

Allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

	Ministry	Youth, children and schools outreach	Caring ministries	Support of missionaries and other charity donations	Nursery	Café and bookshop	Fund raising	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance	5,931	-	-	-	-	659	-	6,590	6,719
Heat and light	4,790	-	-	-	2,395	4,790	-	11,975	11,565
Repairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,021
Depreciation:									
Land and buildings	9,085	-	-	-	1,817	1,211	-	12,113	12,219
Building improvement	5,162	-	-	-	1,032	688	-	6,882	7,881
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	12,534	-	-	-	895	4,476	-	17,905	16,353
IT costs	11,107	4,272	1,709	-	-	-	-	17,088	8,493
Bank charges	135	-	-	-	27	18	-	180	180
Telephone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,792
Printing and stationery	2,735	746	497	-	746	249	-	4,973	5,045
Staff costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs	2,660	725	486	-	725	242	-	4,838	6,375
	<u>54,139</u>	<u>5,743</u>	<u>2,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,637</u>	<u>12,333</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,544</u>	<u>92,643</u>
<b>Governance costs</b>									
Legal & professional								1,538	3,075
Accounts and independent examiners fee								3,300	3,300
								<u>4,838</u>	<u>6,375</u>

New Life Church Congleton  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024

8 Charitable activities expenditure

	Ministry £	Youth, children and schools outreach £	Caring ministries Storehouse £	Caring ministries Furniture Recycling	Caring ministries Jubilee & Job Club	Caring ministries Other	Support of missionaries and other charity donations £	Nursery £	Café and bookshop £	2024 £	2023 £
Salaries	171,282	73,202	-	-	-	41,665	-	134,404	49,813	470,366	420,949
Alpha course expenses	3,872	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,872	2,533
Preaching and Visiting Speakers	6,390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,390	6,690
Outreach expenses	1,909	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,909	2,094
Evangelism working expenses	1,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	1,200
Evangelism outreach	1,671	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,671	3,061
Promotional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,776
Mini Bus costs	1,668	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,668	1,468
Sundry expenses	9,916	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,505	846	12,267	17,202
School ministry	-	6,362	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,362	4,326
Event costs	3,648	6,909	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,557	8,656
Training and development	1,795	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,795	803
Grants and donations made	-	-	-	-	-	-	112,491	-	-	112,491	87,986
Caring ministry - Counselling	-	-	-	-	-	836	-	-	-	836	1,047
Caring ministry - Jubilee project	-	-	-	-	1,581	-	-	-	-	1,581	1,082
Caring ministry - Storehouse	-	-	16,525	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,525	19,471
Caring ministry - General	-	-	-	-	-	2,560	-	-	-	2,560	4,709
Caring ministry - Hardship fund	-	-	-	-	-	756	-	-	-	756	982
Caring ministry - Furniture recycling	-	-	-	3,752	-	-	-	-	-	3,752	5,316
Caring ministry - Family support	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caring ministry - Bereavement support	-	-	-	-	-	973	-	-	-	973	485
Nursery materials and equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,608	-	6,608	3,948
Repairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Café and bookshop supplies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,498	10,498	324
Café and bookshop stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,469	36,469	38,279
Stock write off	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Support costs (Note 7)	54,139	5,743	1,345	1,345	-	-	-	7,637	1,165	1,165	1,420
	<u>257,490</u>	<u>92,216</u>	<u>17,870</u>	<u>5,097</u>	<u>1,581</u>	<u>46,790</u>	<u>112,491</u>	<u>150,154</u>	<u>111,124</u>	<u>794,813</u>	<u>728,449</u>

**New Life Church Congleton**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

9 Support of missionaries and other charity donations	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Material grants payable by the trust: 3 grants were made to individual missionaries (2023:3)	-	7,400	7,400	9,314
South African Missionary Work	-	12,450	12,450	10,900
Amic mission- Romania	-	6,530	6,530	870
Mali appeal	-	6,566	6,566	6,794
ICC- China	-	5,970	5,970	6,475
Carrot Tops	-	450	450	1,200
Christian Aid	-	1,075	1,075	1,000
Romania children's home	-	30,066	30,066	10,022
Support to Romania -Ukrainian Refugees	5,687	15,381	21,068	18,607
			-	
Other small grants to charities	8,097	-	8,097	8,734
Special donations from the Church Family Fund	-	12,819	12,819	11,185
	<u>13,784</u>	<u>98,707</u>	<u>112,491</u>	<u>85,101</u>

**New Life Church Congleton  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**10 Staff numbers and costs**

The average weekly number of staff employed by the charity during the year, was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Nursery staff	14	12
Coffee shop and bookshop staff	8	6
Admin staff	3	3
Youth and children's ministry	5	5
Counsellor	1	1
Cleaning	2	2
Church leadership	1	1
Volunteer manager/co-ordinator	1	1
Family Support Ministry	2	2
	<u>37</u>	<u>31</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of the above was:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	442,467	398,810
Social security costs	21,426	16,108
Pension costs	6,473	6,031
Total emoluments (remuneration and taxable benefits)	<u>470,366</u>	<u>420,949</u>

No employees emoluments exceeded £60,000.

The Trust considers its key management personnel comprise the trustees.

No remuneration was paid to trustees in the year (2023: Nil).

**Transactions with trustees**

Mr S N Hodgkinson MBE received £1,200 by way of a nominal allowance towards out of pocket expenses during the year.

Mrs J Crichton, daughter of Mr S Hodgkinson MBE and sister of Mrs R Mellor who are trustees was employed by the charity as a family support worker. The salary paid during the year amounted to £18,916.

Mrs S Wood, sister of Mrs L Hurlstone who is a trustee was employed by the charity as a youth and children's minister. The salary paid during the year amounted to £22,082.

Mr G Wood, brother-in-law of Mrs L Hurlstone who is a trustee was employed by the charity as Assistant Manager in Words and Music. The salary paid during the year amounted to £15,637.

**New Life Church Congleton**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Building Improve- ments £	Fixtures & Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
As at 1 January 2024	548,353	209,951	340,073	1,098,377
Additions	-	-	11,440	11,440
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>548,353</u>	<u>209,951</u>	<u>351,513</u>	<u>1,109,817</u>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>				
As at 1 January 2024	198,629	180,889	272,358	651,876
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	12,114	6,883	17,905	36,902
At 31 December 2024	<u>210,743</u>	<u>187,772</u>	<u>290,263</u>	<u>688,778</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 December 2024	<u>337,610</u>	<u>22,179</u>	<u>61,250</u>	<u>421,039</u>
As at 1 January 2024	<u>349,724</u>	<u>29,062</u>	<u>67,715</u>	<u>446,501</u>

The property from which the charity operates is included at cost. The property's current value cannot be quantified as this depends on the future possible use of the site.

**12 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Gift Aid accrued income	20,674	36,161
Prepayments	2,757	3,128
Sundry debtors	-	-
	<u>23,431</u>	<u>39,289</u>

**13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Taxation and social security	6,732	5,252
Other creditors	5,752	5,510
Accruals	5,441	5,899
Deferred income	29,781	24,278
	<u>47,706</u>	<u>40,939</u>

**14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loan	-	-

**New Life Church Congleton**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**15 Endowment funds**

Endowment funds represent the charity's property which is the fellowship's permanent place of worship.

	2023 Balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	2024 Balance £
Property fund (cost)	222,705	-	-	-	222,705
<b>Total endowment funds</b>	<u>222,705</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>222,705</u>

This fund represents donations and gifts from church members together with grants towards the purchase and extension of the church property which was previously rented. The implied conditions of donations and grants being that the church permanently function from this site. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting by Charities" (SORP 2005) an endowment fund has been created.

**16 Restricted funds**

The movements on the restricted funds of the charity were as follows:

	2023 Balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	2024 Balance £
Church building fund	-	2,121	2,121	-	-
Charities and missionaries fund	4,527	41,712	42,698	(2,641)	900
Romanian children's home	10,990	23,179	30,066	2,641	6,744
Ukrainian refugee support fund	583	12,540	13,123	-	-
Church youth fund	-	250	250	-	-
Church family fund	9,636	4,324	12,819	-	1,141
Children's ministry	-	1,333	1,333	-	-
Congleton Inclosure Trust - Electrical work	-	4,000	4,000	-	-
Equipment fund	-	3,500	-	(3,500)	-
Caring ministry funds	-	-	-	-	-
- General	5,794	18,452	24,246	-	-
- Jubilee project	-	-	-	-	-
- Storehouse	41,869	45,226	37,921	(13,212)	35,962
- Family support	-	75	75	-	-
- Furniture recycling	-	1,428	1,428	-	-
- Jubilee Club	-	567	567	-	-
- Dementia group	1,016	1,611	1,989	-	638
- Tools for love thy neighbour	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
- Flourish Fund	-	7,600	-	-	7,600
	<u>74,415</u>	<u>168,918</u>	<u>173,636</u>	<u>(16,712)</u>	<u>52,985</u>

**Transfers**

Transfers from restricted funds to unrestricted funds relate to grants received towards support cost expenditure which was incurred during the year. Therefore the conditions of the grants have been met and the grant income was transferred into unrestricted funds.

**New Life Church Congleton  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**17 Unrestricted funds**

	2023 Balance £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	2024 Balance £
Valuation reserve (Unrealised gain)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Designated funds:</b>					
Local evangelism account	-	2,188	2,188	-	-
<b>General fund</b>	583,789	560,785	629,011	16,712	532,275
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>583,789</u>	<u>562,973</u>	<u>631,199</u>	<u>16,712</u>	<u>532,275</u>

The local evangelism account represents monies intended to be used for the promotion of the charity via evangelistic, civic and community events

All funds are considered adequate to meet their intended purposes.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances as at 31 December 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	478,797	-	222,705	421,039
Current assets	473,594	52,985	-	434,632
Creditors:				
Amounts falling due within one year	(22,009)	-	-	(47,706)
Amounts falling due in more than one year	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>532,275</u>	<u>52,985</u>	<u>222,705</u>	<u>807,965</u>

**19 Commitments**

There were no commitments for capital expenditure at the year end (2023: none).

**20 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds	(72,944)	(22,656)
Add back depreciation charge	36,902	36,452
Deduct interest income shown on investing activities	(1,061)	(1,362)
Decrease (increase) in stock	4,384	(1,744)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	15,858	(4,946)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	6,767	17,714
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<u>(10,094)</u>	<u>23,458</u>