

LLANELLI FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
(Registered charity no: 519123)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2023

Page 2	Trustees' Annual Report
Page 7	Independent Examiner's Report
Page 8	Receipts and Payments Account
Page 9	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Page 10	Declaration

Trustee's Annual Report 2022/2023

Reference and administrative details

Charity name: Llanelli Free Evangelical Church

Registered charity Number: 519123

Charity's Principal address:

The church building is situated in Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 2TH.

All correspondence, however, should be addressed to:

Matthew Howard
2 Llandafen Farm
Pemberton
Llanelli
Carmarthenshire
SA15 9BX

Trustees:

Those who are elected by the church members to the office of elder or deacon are the trustees of the church.

Elders:

Mr. Matthew Brian Lloyd Jones
Mr. David Lewis

Deacons:

Mr. Matthew Charles St John Howard (Church Administrator)
Mr. Malcolm MacDonald (until 30 June 2022)
Mr. Matthew George Thomas
Mr. James Hughes
Mr. Matthew Williams

The Pastor of the Church, Rev. Philip Swann, is in attendance at the Trustees' meetings and acts as Chair in a non-voting capacity.

Website

www.lfec.org

Advisers

Bankers:

Lloyds Banking Group
21 Stepney Street
Llanelli
Carmarthenshire
SA15 3YD

Virgin Money
Jubilee House
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 4PL

Structure, governance and management

Declaration of Trust dated 30 June 1987.

Organisational Structure

All Church work in its various aspects comes under the jurisdiction of the pastor and elders, who are mainly responsible for Church order. Regular meetings are held with the deacons, who are responsible for the administrative and practical affairs of the Church. The pastor and elders will decide the advisability or otherwise of proceeding with any proposed activity, submitting their findings to the Church Meeting, and recommending the best course of action. The Church Meeting consists of all current members of the church.

The elders and deacons meet approximately ten times a year. Church members meetings are held three times a year.

Appointment of Pastor

The Pastor is elected by the members of the church, requiring the votes of at least 80% of those who have voted.

Election of Elders

The qualifications for the office of elders as set out in the New Testament are read and expounded to the Church. The Pastor and Elders recommend nominees to the church, based on the needs of the church at that time. A ballot is subsequently held and those receiving the votes of at least 70% of those who have voted are considered duly elected. Those elected are approached by the Pastor and Elders and are invited to accept the office.

Election of Deacons

The Pastor and Elders recommend nominees to the church, based on the needs of the church at that time. A ballot is subsequently held and those receiving the votes of at least 70% of those who have voted are considered duly elected. Those elected are approached by the Pastor and Elders and are invited to accept the office.

Induction and Training of New Trustees

New trustees are provided with information on the roles and duties of trustees as published by the Charity Commission. A copy of the church's Declaration of Trust is provided by the Church Administrator and guidance given on its contents.

Risk Management

The church has a Safeguarding Policy and guidelines which were updated and approved in November 2013 and lodged with Thirty One Eight (formerly the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service). During the year this role was transferred to Christian Safeguarding Services.

Training and copies were given to those involved with children and vulnerable adults on 9th March 2014. All who work with children and vulnerable adults in the church are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. The rolling programme for updating/renewing these checks will be undertaken by the safeguarding co-ordinators.

Adaptations and improvements have been made to the church premises to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Insurance cover was set in the light of independent advice. The trustees comply with Charity Commission advice and directives in the running of the church. The church's finances are subject to independent examination. The church continues to be well supported by members and non- members and is able to meet all commitments.

The church monitors its financial position to ensure that its reserves are sufficient to meet its financial obligations.

Objectives and activities

Objects of the trust

These are stated in the Declaration of Trust:

“To advance the Christian religion in the county of Dyfed and elsewhere in the United Kingdom and overseas.”

(Following local government reorganisation on 1 April 1996, the three counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire replaced the county of Dyfed.)

Organisation of the trust

“In order that the organisation of the Church and the Trust may fully harmonize, the elders and deacons of the Church shall be the trustees.”

Public Benefit

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Policy Statements

The Church is reviewing policies on membership and discipline. The aim is to ensure that these policies are reflective of the church's beliefs through changes within society

Purpose

Our prayer as a church is that the public benefit derived from the work and facilities of the church will not be confined to time but will have eternal benefit for all who receive it.

In the goodness of God, we have been provided with a place of worship. Sunday Services and other occasional services (e.g. funerals) are also livestreamed on You Tube and Facebook.

Other activities are held over Zoom with the aim of providing a range of ways the community can access the activities of the Church whilst putting into practice the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Details of all weekday activities are set out below:

Monday

Coffee Mornings

Tuesday

Parent and Toddler group (during school terms)

Bible study /prayer meeting

Wednesday

Men's bible study (bi-monthly - Zoom)

Thursday

Lunchtime prayer meeting (Zoom)

Women's Bible Study (bi-monthly)

Friday

Friday Club and Friday Youth

Our Pastor continues to serve as a Community Governor at Ysgol Pen Rhos and the church continues to support the school in this way. In addition, our Pastor leads the Church Leadership work at the Evangelical Movement of Wales and the Soul Care Network for the Wales Leadership Forum.

Achievements and performance

Review of the year ended 5th April 2023

The Church seeks, through its range of activities aimed at all age groups, to reach out to the local community it serves in proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ. At the start of the year restrictions due to Covid had been lifted, meaning activities could return to being in-person. However, the Church has continued to offer online activities which means the Church now regularly reaches people around the UK as well as overseas.

During the period Dec 2022 – March 2023 the Church ran Heating Hub sessions to assist members of the local community during the energy crisis. These were supported by financial assistance from Carmarthenshire County Council.

In December 2022 David Lewis stood down as Assistant Pastor in order to take up another position outside of the Church. He continues to serve in his capacity as Elder and Trustee

Financial Review

As a consequence of the Covid restrictions different financial procedures were introduced which remain in place going forward, including procedures for offerings to be paid directly into the bank account or by forwarded cheques to the Church Treasurer. The success of this can be seen in the overall level of giving being maintained, which is very encouraging.

Overall the receipts were £62,677 and payments £73,166 leaving a deficit for the year of £10,489. This deficit will be covered in part, but not fully, through recoveries via the Gift Aid scheme. The trust has balances of £59,840 of which £31,415 is earmarked for assisting in obtaining alternative premises details of which are set out below.

Future

The Church is actively seeking to recruit another individual from outside the church to the role of Assistant Pastor in order to take up the role vacated by David Lewis.

The Church is currently engaged in the purchase of the former police station in Llanelli, a property which offers some 16000 sq. ft. of space. We do this with the intention of moving the church's location to this new site and developing the work there. However, extensive renovations will be needed before the site will be suitable, so this will be a plan that will develop over the coming few years.



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Llanelli Free Evangelical Church		
On accounts for the year ended	5 April 2023	Charity no (if any)	1182987
	Set out on pages 8 & 9		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2023

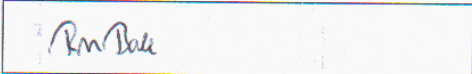
Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:  **Date:** 31/1/2024

Name: Roger Bale

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Institute of Certified Book-Keepers

Address: 12 Heol Derwen
Cross Hands
Llanelli SA14 6SN

<u>Llanelli Free Evangelical Church</u>	Receipts and	Payments
Year from 6 April to 5 April	2022/23	2021/22
Income	£	£
Offerings	60,459	64,602
Gifts for Ukraine	1,721	0
Tax Refunds	0	0
Building Fund	110	0
Legacy/gifts	300	720
Interest	87	44
Miscellaneous	0	50
	<u>62,677</u>	<u>65,416</u>
Payments		
<u>Charitable -direct activity</u>		
Pastor's salary	33,750	33,013
N I	0	0
Pension	7,740	7,723
Prof Development & books	1,020	287
Daylight	13,320	18,231
Visiting speakers	802	0
Sunday club	434	811
Friday Club. Friday Youth & Holiday Bible Club	449	293
Toddlers	44	0
Camp fees	823	0
Outreach	523	899
Warm Hub	285	0
Additional gifts	394	892
Missionary support	2,023	345
Charitable -direct activity	<u>61,607</u>	<u>62,494</u>
<u>Charitable-other expenditure</u>		
Maintenance	588	497
Utilities	2,963	2,772
Insurance	1,402	1,311
Fellowship meals	845	136
Broadband	660	548
Advertising & photocopying	388	600
Tables & Chairs	2,097	
Computer & sound equipment	1,607	1,271
Miscellaneous	1,009	898
Charitable-other expenditure	<u>11,559</u>	<u>8,033</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>73,166</u>	<u>70,527</u>
Deficit-/Surplus for year	-10,489	-5,111

Statement of Assets and Liabilities



	<u>5 April 2023</u>	<u>5 April 2022</u>
Monetary assets:		
Lloyds TSB Bank Account		
Ordinary activities	-4,595	6,091
Earmarked building fund	31,415	31,305
Total	26,820	37,396
Virgin Money Account	33,020	32,933
Total	<u>59,840</u>	<u>70,329</u>

Other assets at year end	
Land & building used by charity at Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli	Cost £127,000 in October 1988 Valued for insurance purposes November 2020 - £1,429,000

Declaration

The trustees approved the Church annual report and accounts on 4 February 2024

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Signature		
Full Name	Matthew Howard	MATTHEW JONES
Position	Trustee	Trustee
Date	4 Feb 2024	4 Feb 2024