

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO  
THE TRUSTEES OF CITY CHURCH PLYMOUTH**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are attached to this report.

***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner***

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145(1)(a) of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

***Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

***Independent Examiner's Statement***

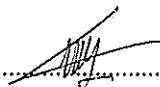
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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Merlin Mbahin, FAAT, MIP

(Fellow of the Association of Accounting Technicians)

Clear Blue Sky Accountancy Ltd, 30B City Business Park, Somerset Place, Plymouth, PL3 4BB

.....  
09/01/2024

Date 09/01/2024



Registered Charity No. 900363  
Member of the Evangelical Alliance

## Annual Report of the Trustees - Year ended 31st. March 2023

The Charity's governing document is the Trust Deed dated 6<sup>th</sup>. Feb. 1990. The Trustees, at the date the accounts were approved were: -

Trevor Turnbull  
Jeremy Lavers  
Sam Esimaje (appointed at trustees meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024)

The Leader of the church is: -  
Colin Trend

Trevor Turnbull is the Treasurer, while the day-to-day finances are dealt with by Rebekah Coombes, a suitably qualified & self-employed book-keeper,

### FUNDS

The funds are held as follows: -

- A current Bank Account and a Deposit Account, with HSBC Bank.

### INVESTMENT POLICY

It is the Charity's policy to hold our funds in the HSBC accounts, where they are protected by the FSCS scheme in the UK. As the balance of these accounts have increased the trustees and leadership are considering opening other savings accounts where a more favourable rate of interest may be available.

### ASSETS

The principal assets of the church are the items of equipment used for the weekly public meetings, plus a laptop PC and a video projector.

### LEADERSHIP

The Leader continues to seek to widen the range of skills & abilities in the Leadership Team. The Trustees & Leader now meet together on a monthly basis, to ensure good communication & oversight.

### GENERAL

The prime objectives of the Trust are the advancement of the Christian faith, the relief of hardship and the advancement of education on the basis of Christian principles.

Following the lifting of Covid restrictions we have been able to restart our in-person meetings. However, manpower availability and health concerns have necessitated that these meetings only happen monthly. On other Sundays we continue to hold virtual Sunday meetings by Zoom & hold joint meetings with other churches locally. Monthly Sunday meetings take place in the hired premises at the Open Doors International Language School.

We meet on Sundays for worship and to teach the Christian faith. We seek to aid those attending to develop their knowledge and trust in Jesus. Nominated leaders and members of the Pastoral Support Team are in regular contact with members, mostly by telephone, to ensure pastoral care is provided where needs present.

We promote prayer and mutual support and are concerned to ensure that our faith affects the way we live. Our aim is to develop Christian character and to apply Christian principles in daily life. We also aim to teach and encourage each other to have a concern for wider community involvement & significant numbers are involved in community projects, as well as prayer for the city.

The work among the small number of children and young people is of great importance and we are continually thankful for the small team of committed and imaginative leaders & teachers in the church. This work has also been hindered by Covid & our ability to meet together only monthly. The organization and leadership is under regular review & there is active discussion currently over the best people & the best ways of teaching & encouraging children. There is good & regular communication with parents, while counselling on parenting skills is made available as required. Currently the children's work takes place in the same room as our main meeting and parents/carers retain full responsibility for their children. Our policy on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is under regular review and D.B.S. checks have been carried out on all those working with children. This includes awareness of Vulnerability policy & its application in the church

We are providing regular financial support to Plymouth Focus Advice Centre, in the Money Advice field & we also supply volunteers to work with this organization in the community. It operates under the umbrella of the Plymouth Focus charity, which was established through the work and vision of our members. It aims to facilitate the work of churches to operate jointly, for a range of activities in the community & for community benefit.

Regular support gifts are also made to the Street Pastors, Cross Rhythms Christian radio, the Food Bank, Plymouth Crisis Pregnancy Centre, Shekinah, Oriel Ministries, the Barnabas Fund, Compassion UK & Plymouth Focus Advice Centre.

Prior to the Covid 19 pandemic the church had met on Sundays in the Open Doors International Language School premises, in Greenbank. There is ongoing reconsideration of our use of the premises, as we seek to position ourselves effectively. We are considering meeting in the homes of church members and we are also aware that the building we currently hire on a Sunday is due for demolition during the course of 2024. Open Doors International Language School plan to move to new premises and we will explore the option of continuing our Sunday hire in their new location.

A significant part of the vision of the church is that of church unity and we continue to take every opportunity to work together with other churches in the city and in the region. There is close co-operation between us and other church leaders, in addition to support of the work and activities of Christians Together in Plymouth. We join with other churches in a range of activities and prayer gatherings.

A tithe of the Tithe Fund income is set aside and held in the C. Fund for a variety of situations outside the church. In addition to the support mentioned above, it is distributed to needs in Plymouth & the UK, at the discretion of the Leadership Team. A Jubilee Fund was established & held within the C. Fund, in response to a fresh understanding of biblical teaching on the Jubilee principle. The emphasis is on seeing the need & recognizing the opportunity to give to individuals, in times of particular financial difficulty.

The church continues to support Wendy Luff in the Los Olivos church in Bogota, by way of meeting the cost of Wendy's annual air-fare to the U.K. Regular gifts to her are also being made by individuals in the church.

#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission, relating to Public Benefit & the Advancement of Religion. The activities of the church are also in line with the stated objectives of the Trust. Included in our activities are the following:-

##### Advancement of the Christian faith.

- Putting faith into practice, through teaching & supporting marriage relationships.
- Pre-marriage counselling. Demonstrating & encouraging the right responsibilities of citizens.

##### Relief of hardship.

- Financial support to Plymouth Focus Money Advice Centre & the Plymouth Pregnancy Crisis Centre.
- Church members are encouraged to become involved in these and other such activities to meet the needs of the community.
- Financial support to a church member working with the needy in the baryos of Bogota.
- Financial support to Street Pastors initiative on the city streets at night, in collaboration with the police.
- Donations are made to local & international need.

##### Education

- Weekly application of Christian beliefs to daily life.
- Teaching children Christian values & citizenship in Sunday meetings.
- Support & prayer for teachers.
- Support & prayer for children in school.

Charitable gifts to a total of £ 12,000 were made in the year. This included gifts to needy individuals as thought appropriate. In addition gifts are being made by members via the church, to enable anonymous donations to individuals,

The support gift to Kitt Mason has been reduced to an agreed level.

The overall financial affairs of the Charity appear to be satisfactory.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed have been reviewed and the church holds the necessary insurance policies. The Trustees expressed themselves satisfied with the situation to-date.

This report conforms to statutory accounting regulations and the charity's Governing Document.

Signed .....  
Jeremy Lavers, for the Trustees.

Date... 26<sup>th</sup> JAN 2024.

# CITY CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

*Registered Charity No. 900363*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### **Tithe Fund - Receipts and Payments Account**

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance B/F</b>		<b>37,184.49</b>		<b>27,310.59</b>
Represented by Tithe Balance	37,184.49		27,310.59	
 <b><u>INCOME</u></b>				
Tithes received	35,745.54		37,702.30	
Income Tax recovered	6,723.34		6,463.68	
Other income	0.00			
	<u>42,468.88</u>		<u>44,165.98</u>	
 <b>Transfers</b>				
From C. Fund	0.00			
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>42,468.88</b>		<b>44,165.98</b>
 <b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
<b>Ministry Support Gifts</b>				
City Church Plymouth				
Kitt & Sue Mason	17,452.20		17,452.20	
J. Friday	0		0	
	<u>17,452.20</u>		<u>17,452.20</u>	
 <b>Ministry gifts &amp; expenses</b>				
Training costs	0		199.95	
Conference expenses	40		17.5	
Charitable gifts	6463.24		5740	
General	0		0	
	<u>6,503.24</u>		<u>5,957.45</u>	
 <b>Transfers</b>				
To Well-Spring Fund	1661.02		375.95	
To C. Fund (T. of T)	5160.81		5306.48	
To R. Fund (CB & CT Reserve)	5279.90		5200.00	
	<u>12,101.73</u>		<u>10,882.43</u>	
Total Tithe expenditure		<b>36,057.17</b>		<b>34,292.08</b>
Tithe Account Balance		<b><u>43,596.20</u></b>		<b><u>37,184.49</u></b>

## CITY CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

*Registered Charity No. 900363*

### Well-Spring Fund - Receipts and Payments Account

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance B/F</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>				
Well-Spring income	2,050.00		2,187.00	
Bank account interest	125.03		2.31	
Income Tax recovered	487.01		498.50	
	<u>2,662.04</u>		<u>2,687.81</u>	
<b><u>Transfers</u></b>				
From Tithe Fund	1,661.02		375.95	
	<u>1,661.02</u>		<u>375.95</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>4,323.06</b>		<b>3,063.76</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
Hall Hire	1,300.72		255.43	
Childrens' materials	195.00		12.25	
Independent Examiner	250.00		300.00	
Insurance, licences etc.	2,246.70		2,479.48	
Sundries	330.64		16.60	
	<u>330.64</u>		<u>16.60</u>	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>4,323.06</b>		<b>3,063.76</b>
<b>Well-Spring Fund Balance</b>		<b><u>0.00</u></b>		<b><u>0.00</u></b>

## CITY CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

*Registered Charity No. 900363*

### Transit Fund - Receipts and Payments Account

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance B/F</b>		<b>110</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>				
Speaker offerings	1,902.43		540.00	
Wendy Luff pledges	2,868.00		2,784.00	
Wendy Luff gifts	0.00		0.00	
Income tax recovered	1,444.53		1,276.75	
Various	3,135.00		12,510.00	
	<u>9,349.96</u>		<u>17,110.75</u>	
<b>Transfers</b>				
	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>9349.96</b>		<b>17110.75</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
Speaker offerings	2,012.43		430.00	
Wendy Luff pledges	2,868.00		2,784.00	
Wendy Luff gifts	0.00		0.00	
Income tax recovered - paid out	1,444.53		1,276.75	
Various	3,135.00		12,510.00	
	<u>9,459.96</u>		<u>17,000.75</u>	
<b>Transfers</b>				
To C. Fund	0.00		0.00	
To Tithe Fund	0.00		0.00	
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>9459.96</b>		<b>17000.75</b>
<b>Transit Account balance</b>		<b><u>0</u></b>		<b><u>110</u></b>

## CITY CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

*Registered Charity No. 900363*

### C. Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance B/F</b>		<b>108.96</b>		<b>267.99</b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Incoming resources from donors				
Special offerings	0.00		0.00	
Jubilee offerings	0.00		0.00	
Gift Aid reclaim Jubilee	0.00		0.00	
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
<b><u>Transfers</u></b>				
Tithe of tithe	5,160.81		5,306.48	
Tithe Fund - other	159.90			
	<u>5,320.71</u>		<u>5,306.48</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>5,320.71</b>		<b>5,306.48</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Special offerings	0.00		0.00	
Charitable gifts	4,360.00		4,360.00	
Jubilee fund gifts	0.00		0.00	
Plymouth Focus support	1,069.67		1,105.51	
Other				
	<u>5,429.67</u>		<u>5,465.51</u>	
<b><u>Transfers</u></b>				
To Tithe Fund				
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>5429.67</b>		<b>5465.51</b>
<b>Account balance</b>		<b><u>0.00</u></b>		<b><u>108.96</u></b>

## CITY CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

*Registered Charity No. 900363*

### R. Fund Colin Bettison & Colin Trend Reserve Account

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance B/F</b>		<b>1,009.33</b>		<b>2414</b>
C. Bettison Reserve	0.00		1719	
C. Trend Reserve	1,009.33		695	
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
C. Bettison Reserve	0.00		0	
C. Trend Reserve	0.00		0.00	
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
<b><u>Transfers</u></b>				
<b>To C. Bettison Reserve</b>				
From Tithe Fund	0.00		2,080.00	
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>2,080.00</u>	
<b>To C. Trend Reserve</b>				
From Tithe Fund	5,120.00		3,120.00	
	<u>5,120.00</u>		<u>3,120.00</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>5,120.00</b>		<b>5,200.00</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Payments from C. Bettison Reserve	0.00		3,799.00	
Payments from C. Trend Reserve	5,610.00		2,805.67	
	<u>5,610.00</u>		<u>6,604.67</u>	
<b><u>Transfers</u></b>				
From C. Bettison To Tithe Fund	0.00		0.00	
From C. Trend to Tithe Fund	0.00		0.00	
	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>5,610.00</b>		<b>6604.67</b>
C. Bettison Reserve Balance	0.00		0.00	
C. Trend Reserve Balance	519.33		1,009.33	
<b>Account balance</b>		<b><u>519.33</u></b>		<b><u>1,009.33</u></b>

# CITY CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

*Registered Charity No. 900363*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
<b>C. Fund</b>				
Balance brought forward	108.96		267.99	
Transfer from Tithe Fund	5,320.71		5,306.48	
Transfer to Tithe Fund	0.00		0.00	
Income	0.00		0.00	
Expenditure	<u>5,429.67</u>		<u>5,465.51</u>	
		<b>0.00</b>		<b>108.96</b>
<b>R. Fund</b>				
Balance brought forward	1,009.33		2,414.00	
Transfer from Tithe Fund	5,120.00		5,200.00	
Transfer to Tithe Fund	0.00		0.00	
Income	0.00		0.00	
Expenditure	<u>5,610.00</u>		<u>6,604.67</u>	
		<b>519.33</b>		<b>1,009.33</b>

# CITY CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

*Registered Charity No. 900363*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### Statement of Assets and liabilities

	2022/23		2021/22	
	£	£	£	£
Tithe Fund balance	43,596.20		37,184.49	
Administration Fund balance	0.00		0.00	
Transit Fund balance	0.00		110.00	
C. Fund balance	0.00		108.96	
R. Fund balance	519.33		1,009.33	
	<u>519.33</u>	<b>44,115.53</b>	<u>1,009.33</u>	<b>38,412.78</b>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>				
<u>Bank Accounts</u>				
Opening balance	38,412.78		29992.58	
Movement in year	5702.75		8420.20	
Closing balance	<u>5702.75</u>	<b>44,115.53</b>	<u>8420.20</u>	<b>38,412.78</b>
<u>Cash Balance</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<b>0.00</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<b>0.00</b>
		<b>44,115.53</b>		<b>38,412.78</b>
<b>NOTE</b>				
<b><u>C. Bettison reserve</u></b>				
Now held in Reserve Fund		<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>
<b><u>C. Trend Reserve</u></b>				
Now held in Reserve Fund		<b>519.33</b>		<b>1,009.33</b>