



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

## CENTREPOINT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Registered Charity No. 1067616

### Highlights

Welcome to the **Centrepont Christian Church Annual Report**. This year has been filled with heartwarming events and meaningful moments. Let's take a closer look at some of the highlights:

#### **Christmas with the Family Hampers**

During the festive season, we came together to spread joy and love. Our Family Hampers initiative touched the lives of 55 families, ensuring that everyone felt the warmth of community.

#### **Special Christmas Services**

Our Christmas services were truly special. Gathered under the twinkling lights, we celebrated the birth of Christ, reflecting on the true meaning of this season.

#### **Church Family Party**

Laughter echoed through the hall as our church family enjoyed a delightful party. It's moments like these that provide community and a sense of belonging.

#### **'Go Deeper' conference at The Green House at Barnes Close**

The serene surroundings of The Green House provided the perfect backdrop for our retreat. We soaked in the teachings, relaxed, and enjoyed fellowship. At this 'Go Deeper' events, we delved into the lives of ancient kings from the Old Testament. Their stories taught us valuable lessons, and we found relevance in this exploration during the Coronation Year.

#### **Children's Ministry**

Our little ones continued to thrive with a tailored children's programme throughout the year during Sunday Service gatherings, and a separate, dedicated programme at the 'Go Deeper' conference. Our Children's Worker made sure their experience was both educational and fun whilst delving into the same topic of ancient Kings.

#### **Summer Church Service in the Park**

As the sun graced us with its warmth, we gathered for a Sunday service in the park. The open sky and fresh air added a touch of nature to our worship.

#### **Teamwork in Ministry**

Our local church ministry thrives on collaboration. Our dedicated voluntary staff team and ministry leaders work tirelessly, serving the Lord with creativity and excellence.

## Guidance from the Leadership Team

As shepherds under the Chief Shepherd, we've been blessed with wisdom, support, and fellowship from our Senior Leadership team. Their guidance has been invaluable.

## Loss of a devoted long-term member of the Church

A dear friend and sister in the Lord graduated to glory in 2022. She served the Church sacrificially for many years and is missed greatly. Pastor David Marsh conducted the Funeral at Sandwell Crematorium.

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*In times of uncertainty and change, one constant remains: God's grace. We give thanks for His unwavering presence, and we praise Him for carrying us through another remarkable year.*

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## Ministry highlights

### Family Life Groups

Our fortnightly Family Life Groups continued to be successful through 2022-23, engaging 80% of our Church membership. These smaller gatherings provide a safe space for members to share their concerns, joys, and struggles.

In these circles, we connect not only with each other but also with God. These groups are the perfect opportunity to establish and build authentic relationships with other believers and provide support and encouragement to one another.

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During our meetings, we delve deeper into the Sunday message, study the Word of God, and receive prayer.

### Prayer Meetings

As Christians, we recognise the power of prayer. We gather online every two weeks to intercede for our country. We pray for comfort, mercy, and divine intervention, especially considering the lingering effects of grief, stress, and increased mental health issues.

Together, we lift our voices, seeking God's guidance and healing. As a Church and Community, we stand united in prayer for the things that matter most.

### Celebration Meetings

Centrepont Christian Church meets weekly on Sundays for our church service that takes place every week at 10:45am. We have a live band and singers who lead us in worship.

Our teaching/sermons are based on the Bible, and we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in ways that are relevant to everyone.

During our Sunday service kids enjoy worship with the congregation before entering a separate child-centred Sunday School. Through our curriculums, kids have fun with bible teaching which is

age-appropriate and educational. Each session has a clear teaching point and the activities, which are imaginative and fun, help to support this.

## Celebrating Christmas

As a Church we always give priority to the reason for the season— The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is why we gather on Christmas Eve to honour His birth with praise and worship.

We also enjoy spending quality time as a Church family. So, after the worship service, we had a festive celebration. This included fun activities and a gingerbread house contest. We divided into teams and each team created a house.



1 CHRISTMAS PARTY FESTIVITIES

## Community and outreach highlights

### Support Centre

Despite the loss of Council funding, Centrepont Support Centre continues to provide essential services to our community. We offer referrals for benefit advice or debt counselling to those who face financial challenges.



2 DECEMBER CLOTHING DRIVE

Our service is inclusive and accessible, with a disability-friendly entrance, a spacious toilet with disability aids, and a welcoming atmosphere. We serve hot drinks and food to those who are homeless or hungry on a one-to-one basis. We also distribute blankets, fresh underwear, sleeping bags and food to those who need them. Our centre is open three days a week, offering general information, employability support, food-bank vouchers and food parcels to those in need.

In December, we organised a clothing drive for the homeless and those in need at the Church. We had a large selection of good quality second-hand clothing for all ages and genders. We also gave out bags of toiletries. We invited about 25 people who eat at the

Soup Kitchen on Carters Green, West Bromwich, to come and choose some clothing. We limited the number of people inside the Church to four at a time for safety reasons. It was a very successful event and many people left with a bin bag of clothes.

## Place of Welcome

As part of our mission to support the community, The Place of Welcome continues to operate three days a week. We offer Food Bank Vouchers to families and individuals who face financial difficulties. They can redeem these vouchers at a nearby Church and receive a package of food.

We also supply Food Parcels of fresh produce to those who need them, either by visiting our facilities, where a staff member will provide them with food, clothes and toiletries, or by arranging a home delivery service.

## Christmas Family Hampers

Christmas 2022 marked our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Family Hamper Project. Many families we serve face daily challenges, with the festive season amplifying their struggles. The inability to afford gifts or festive treats for their children is a harsh reality for some.

Throughout the year church members and volunteers collected toys, toiletry sets, food and clothing. We made use of In Kind Direct to access a wide range of products to fill the hampers to give away to the people we support. This continues to be a significant resource in aiding this initiative.



**3**VOLUNTEERS ORGANISING FAMILY CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

We utilised our networks through the community to identify and refer West Bromwich resident families in need. We received referrals for 55 Family Hampers from Safer Families for Children, Sacred Heart and Great Bridge Primary Schools, Welfare Rights for Sandwell, Health Visitors serving Sandwell homes, Advice and Guidance support centres in West Bromwich.

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*The experience reaffirmed our commitment to generosity and the joy it brings, not just during Christmas but as a year-round mission.*

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A dedicated group of church volunteers meticulously assembled hampers filled with food, essential toiletries, and wrapped gifts for 55 families. The gratitude expressed by the recipient families was profound, matched by the appreciation from referring organisations. For us, the act of giving—abundant and heartfelt—was its own reward.

## Supported Housing

In partnership with Hope Into Action, the Church House has been accommodating a refugee family from Afghanistan since March 2022. The family of six is expected to relocate by March 2024, after which we will evaluate our next steps.

We are pleased that we have been part of the solution to a family looking for a home at such a vulnerable time in their lives.

## Financial Report

As we reflect on our financial journey, it's evident that this year's fiscal narrative mirrors past trends, with the notable exception of a substantial anonymous contribution received in 2022. This gift was given for Church use with no restrictions attached.

The Church Retreat was significantly subsidised by the Church this year, it was a wonderful long weekend away together.

We did not receive or apply to receive any grants this fiscal period.

The Charitable Giving is higher than last year. Church members increased donations as we did not receive any donations from other organisations for the Family Christmas Hamper Project. With 55 requests for hampers, we were committed to fulfilling each one without exception.

To maintain operational efficiency, we invested in three refurbished laptops to replace aging equipment that no longer met our needs. "In Kind Direct" offered valuable deals that we capitalised on.

The Covenant giving increased this year as more members joined the Stewardship Services scheme where the Church has been the beneficiary of tax refunds.

### Centrepont Christian Church Registered Charity 1067616

#### Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023

Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £

#### A1 Receipts

Offerings	6089	-	-	6089	4826
Covenants/Gift Aid and Tax Back	11825	-	-	11825	5656
	-			-	-
Donations	11036	-	-	11036	9557
Disclosure Service	-	-		-	
Resources and Training	-		-		



Travel/Trips	2599		-	2599	2145
Miscellaneous	25		-	25	
Catering	50			50	
SCVO Grant Vision 2030			-		
Grant Covid Response					
Heart of England Grant					-
Grant– Community Fund	-				
Grant– Neighbourly	-				
Grant– Foyles Foundation					
SMBC grant	-				11807
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>31624</b>		-	<b>31624</b>	<b>33991</b>

**A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.**

-	-	-	-	-
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**Total receipts**

31624		-	31624	33991
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### A3 Payments

Stationary	104		-	104	188
	-	-	-		-
Fuel Costs	2579		-	2579	894
			-		-
Church Insurance	314		-	314	602
Telephone	1279		-	1279	
			-		
Office Rent and Services	6949		-	6949	6577
	-	-		-	-
Bank charges					
Resources/Training	806			801	600
Charitable Giving	3646			3646	2759
Hospitality	85		-	85	
Catering					150
youth	-			-	-

Miscellaneous	-	666			666	-
office equipment		2593			2593	680
Travel/Trips		4113			4113	1377
Grant– Covid Response						
Grant– Community Fund		-				
Heart of England Grant						
Grant– SCVO Vision 2030	-					
Grant– Foyles Foundation						
Grant– Neighbourly	-					
					-	
					-	
SMBC grant	-			-		11807
<b>Sub total</b>		23134		-	23134	25634



A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>23134</b>		-	<b>23134</b>	<b>25634</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>8490</b>	<b>0</b>	-	<b>8490</b>	<b>33991</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15108	5262	-	20370	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>23598</b>	<b>5262</b>	-	<b>28860</b>	<b>20370</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Cash funds this year	23598	5262	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>23598</b>	<b>5262</b>	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Laptops x 6	Unrestricted		2500
	Furniture, Fittings, Fixtures, etc.	Unrestricted		650
	Lighting and PA System	Unrestricted		500
	Data Projector	Unrestricted		110
	Printers x 3	unrestricted	-	750
			-	
			-	-
			-	-

## Independent Examiners Report

### Report to Centrepont Christian Church

I report on the accounts of Centrepont Christian Church for the year ended 30-6-23.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the account and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters.

### Independent Examiners Statement

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with the Charity Act;
- And to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.


Have not been met or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr. Robert Williams  
56 Vernon Street  
West Bromwich  
West Midlands  
B70 9BE

Signed:   
Dated: 15 APRIL 2024

This report was presented to the Annual General Meeting of Centrepont Christian Church Sunday 11th February 2024.

The report and accounts were approved by the Trustees, Senior Leadership Team, and Centrepont Membership at that meeting as an accurate record of the activities of Centrepont Christian Church during the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023.

Signed:   
Dated: 15th April 2024