Charity Registration No: 1157883

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust

Report of the Trustees and unaudited financial statements Year ended 5 April 2019

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust – Registered Charity number 1157883 Year ended 5 April 2019

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Coventry Gospel Hall Trust - Registered Charity number 1157883 Report of the trustees For the year ended 5 April 2019

Charity name

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust

Registered charity number

1157883

Trustees

Andrew Leslie Beresford

Timothy John Brewer (retired 10 September 2019)

Ian Jenkin

Iain William Mitchell Rupert Nelson

Simon James Taylor (appointed 10 September 2019)

Trustees holding title to

property

Andrew Leslie Beresford

Timothy John Brewer (retired 10 September 2019)

Ian Jenkin

Iain William Mitchell Rupert Nelson

Principal address

Gospel Hall Bosworth Close

Baginton Near Coventry CV8 3AG

Bank

Lloyds Bank High Street Coventry

Solicitors

Band Hatton Button 53-55 Butts Road

Coventry CV1 3BH

Independent Examiner

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA 8 Troutbeck Avenue

Leamington Spa

CV32 6NE

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust – Registered Charity number 1157883 Report of the trustees For the year ended 5 April 2019

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 5 April 2019. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 12 and comply with the Trust Deed and applicable law.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust is constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 1 August 1983, amended by various Deeds and most recently by Deed of Variation dated 28 February 2014. The Trust was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 16 July 2014 under Charity Registration Number 1157883.

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 3. None of the Trustees, nor any person connected with them, received any remuneration or expenses from the Charity in the year ended 5 April 2019 (2018: £nil).

Trustees are selected according to their experience in specialised fields and are expected to use that experience in furthering the objects of the Trust. Checks are made to ensure that there are no legal or other barriers to their appointment. New Trustees are nominated by the existing Trustees and appointed by unanimous resolution of the Congregation. Incoming Trustees are made fully aware of their responsibilities by the existing Trustees who ensure that new Trustees read the Trust Deed and the relevant guidance for Trustees published by the Charity Commission.

Wider network

The Trustees maintain informal links with Trustees of similar Trusts with a view to pooling experience considered useful in pursuing the objects of the Trust. Coventry Gospel Hall Trust also financially supports the following charitable trusts in Coventry that have congruent purposes:

- Mount Nod Gospel Hall Trust
- Tile Hill Gospel Hall Trust
- Wyken Gospel Hall Trust

Costs of services donated to these charities are shown in Note 4 on page 13.

Risk management

The Trustees have identified and reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that they have established systems or procedures to manage and mitigate those risks.

Organisational structure

All major decisions, including those of a financial nature, are made by the Board of Trustees at their regular meetings, which are usually held at monthly intervals. More minor decisions may be made by individual Trustees in their particular field of responsibility.

Objectives and activities

Public benefit

The Trustees of Coventry Gospel Hall Trust confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance to charities on public benefit. The ways in which this has been done are set out below.

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust – Registered Charity number 1157883 Report of the trustees (continued) For the year ended 5 April 2019

Objectives and aims

The Trust has the following charitable purposes:

- 1. The advancement of the Christian religion for the public benefit including by the carrying on of the service of God in accordance with the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible as followed by those Christians forming part of the world-wide fellowship known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (the "Brethren") whose core doctrine and whose proper practices in furtherance of some of the aspects of that core doctrine ("Faith in Practice") is summarised in the two Schedules to the New Trust Deed which is contained in the Second Schedule to the Deed of Variation dated 28 February 2014.
- **2.** Any other charitable purposes connected with Brethren.

Main Activities

The Trust provides and maintains gospel halls for the religious activities of Christians often referred to as 'Brethren'. Details of the origins, teachings and way of life of the Brethren can be found on their website - www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org.

Meetings held at these gospel halls include the Lord's Supper (Communion), Gospel preachings, Bible readings and Bible addresses. Depending on the particular meeting, between 40 and 500 people normally attend these occasions. There is a structured weekly schedule of meetings held in the gospel halls.

Spreading the Gospel Message

The Gospel Hall is a base from which a large number of preachers operate to spread the Christian gospel, in word and deed. Gospel tracts are provided by the Trust to such preachers. Many of them also preach the Christian gospel on the streets of Coventry most weeks of the year. In addition to street preaching, the trust also keeps in contact with prison chaplains to provide gospel tracts and bibles as required. A total of 200 bibles and 22,800 gospel tracts were provided free of charge.

The Trust also operates a programme of providing regular packs of nutritious food, hygiene sundries and gospel literature to homeless and needy persons through local charities or homeless societies.

Visitors

The services and meetings are attended by the regular congregation and many of the services are open to other visitors who are properly disposed. The notice board outside the Hall welcomes visitors and displays times of Gospel Preachings along with a telephone number for those seeking further information or help. Gospel Tracts, which are distributed frequently, also display this information.

Bibles and an extensive range of other Christian reading material is on display at the Hall, to which visitors are free to help themselves.

The life of a Christian

The following points are an extract from Schedule 1 of the Trust Deed. They outline the way of life of the Brethren as supported by the Holy Scriptures and how it contributes to public benefit;

- 1. We seek and are encouraged to live exemplary lives in all our relationships with others in the wider community (including former Brethren), in accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture (1 Timothy 2:2)
- 2. We regularly go out from our homes to preach on the streets, to distribute Christian literature and engage with the wider community (including former Brethren) in order to present eternal salvation, available to all men by faith in Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 4:2).

- 3. We seek as members of the public to lead Christian lives as husbands and wives, parents, children, employers, employees and neighbours. (Colossians 3:22-25, 4:1).
- 4. The preservation and protection of the family unit is fundamental and children are prized as a blessing from God. (Psalm 127:3-5). The elderly are valued members of the community, for whom both their family and the wider community are expected to care.
- 5. Holy Scripture commands us to be good neighbours to others, and deal with all other people (including former Brethren) openly, honestly and fairly and consistent with these principles, we should give our time, talents and money to assist those in need in the wider community, in so far as reasonable given our abilities and our available resources. (Matthew 7:12, Matthew 22:39, Ephesians 4:28).

Funding

Funding is sought through gifts and donations from the congregation. Grants are sometimes received from other charitable trusts with congruent objectives. Gift aid is also claimed on relevant gifts.

Volunteers

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust relies almost entirely on volunteers to carry out the management, administration and general maintenance work. The Trustees thank these many volunteers for the help they have given during the year.

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

The normal activities of the Trust were maintained throughout the year, including outreach. Members of the congregation also donated their time to do charitable work for local community projects, including liaison with the local parish council and police. In accordance with the Christian principles of the Brethren, members were also encouraged to give both time and money to a variety of other registered charities. The main Gospel Hall under the control of the Trust was used throughout the year to further its charitable objectives.

The Trust made significant progress with its long-term project to provide more suitable and upgraded gospel halls in locations that are more closely related to where members of the congregation now live. This meets a long standing need that has been challenging to fulfil. Obtaining planning permission for places of Christian worship has proved particularly difficult.

Planning permission to build a Gospel Hall in Burton Green was finally granted on 27th February 2019. Negotiations with the landowner were then concluded with the Trust purchasing the land on 16th April 2019. Construction is now well advanced, with the new building expected to be ready for use in January 2020.

On 7th August 2019, planning permission was at last granted to build a Gospel Hall on the land in Keresley purchased by the Trust on 24th November 2017. Construction is planned for Spring 2020.

These projects are partly financed from the proceeds of older premises that have served their purpose well for many years, but their congregations have now relocated. On 5th June 2018, following professional advice, the Trust successfully sold the premises in Earlsdon that had been received as a donation on 15th February 2018. On 24th July 2018, the Wyken Gospel Hall Trust donated the net sale proceeds of a premises in Wyken to this Trust's New Halls Restricted Fund.

The Trust was privileged to host special bible conferences in July 2018 and December 2018. The Trustees are very thankful to the many volunteers who helped to make these events successful.

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust – Registered Charity number 1157883 Report of the trustees (continued) For the year ended 5 April 2019

Compliance

The Trustees reviewed and updated the Trust's policies and Procedures. Risk assessments and the five-year electrical tests were carried out and actions taken to improve health and safety. The new GDPR requirements were addressed and the Trust registered with the ICO.

The congregation is kept regularly informed as to specific needs for funds, and other relevant matters.

Financial review

Financial position

In the year ended 5 April 2019 the Trust had a £294,627 surplus in incoming resources compared to resources expended (2018: £436,830). Total voluntary income received during the year was £509,425 (2018: £706,706).

The Trust operates a 'New Halls' restricted fund for providing new gospel halls. Donations received specifically for that purpose are placed in this fund, including gift aid claimed. During the year, these included a grant of £253,815 received from Wyken Gospel Hall Trust. The congregation enthusiastically supported this fund and dedicated collections were held to facilitate donations. All costs expended on obtaining new gospel halls, whether successful or not, are charged to this fund, which had a balance at year end of £662,415 (2018: £332,619). When costs of new gospel halls are capitalised, the fund purpose is fulfilled and the asset value is transferred to unrestricted funds. All other funds held were unrestricted funds.

Reserves policy

The Trust's Reserves are that part of the Trust's unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. They exclude any fixed assets held for the Trust's use. They also exclude restricted funds. At the year end the New Halls Restricted Fund had a balance of £662,415. The Restricted Fund is held entirely within current assets.

The Trustees have agreed that the Trust should aim to develop and maintain unrestricted reserves at a minimum level of £100,000. This would enable the Trust to continue its activities in the event of a sudden loss of funding. It should also enable the Trust to cover a major essential repair or special event arising at short notice.

However, the members of the Congregation have always recognised their responsibility to fund the running costs of the places of worship which they regularly attend. Therefore the trustees do not ever expect a shortfall in funding to be other than temporary.

Free reserves accumulated in excess of the minimum can be used at the discretion of the Trustees for the strategic development of the Trust. With progress now being made towards providing two new gospel halls, the Trustees are accumulating additional reserves as the total costs of providing those halls are expected to substantially exceed the balances of the restricted fund. The Trustees review the actual level of reserves every three months.

Free reserves at the year end were £349,250 (2018: £275,420).

On behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Trustee

Date: 17/1/2020

Trustee

Coventry Gospel Hall Trust – Registered Charity number 1157883 Independent examiner's report to the trustees For the year ended 5 April 2019

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Coventry Gospel Hall Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2019 which are set out on pages 9 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 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 charity 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

Dr J R Ayling BSc FCA Chartered Accountant 8 Troutbeck Avenue Leamington Spa CV32 6NE

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	lotes	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies:					
Donations and gifts		153,967	77,425	231,392	220,001
Gift Aid claimed		3,799	17,086	20,885	29,066
Grants received		3,333	253,815	257,148	457,639
Investments					
Bank interest		1,449	3,152	4,601	1,143
Gain on disposal		190	0	190	(
Total		162,738	351,478	514,216	707,849
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities					
Running gospel hall	5	120,290	0	120,290	206,540
Other charitable activity	5	82,372	129	82,501	9,635
Grants paid	4	0	0	0	25,000
Cost of donated services	4	16,798	0	16,798	29,844
Total	_	219,460	129	219,589	271,019
Net income/(expenditure)		(56,722)	351,349	294,627	436,830
Transfer to/(from) Restricted funds		21,553	(21,553)	0	C
Net movement in funds	8	(35,169)	329,796	294,627	436,830
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		2,258,939	332,619	2,591,558	2,154,728
Total funds carried	=	2,223,770	662,415	2,886,185	2,591,558

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