

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CHARITY COMMISSION 2022**  
**(Summary of the Report for the Church General Meeting)**

I have been asked this evening to say a little bit about the Trustees Annual Report for the Charity Commission for The Church of the Living Hope for 2022. Reports like this for the Charity Commission are something that Charities are required to produce each year, and we are given clear guidelines as to what the Charity Commission expects to be in them. Lucinda and myself wrote this year's report with those guidelines in mind, and the other trustees have agreed to and accepted the report..

In the report, we are asked to explain how what we have done fits in with "The Objects" of the Charity, which are in our constitution. Our Objects are to do with the advancement of the Christian faith, for the benefit of the public, especially in Milford Haven, and the surrounding county of Pembrokeshire, and any other charitable purposes that put into practice the Christian faith. In the report, we have tried to set out and explain how we have done that, and what has been achieved.

The Church of the Living Hope became an officially registered charity on 4th January 2022, and we met for worship for the first time the following Sunday. This report therefore covers the period between then and the end of 2022, but not what has happened so far this year.

In the report, we have highlighted a number of areas where we made progress during that period : Firstly, we established a regular worshipping congregation, meeting in Hubberston and Hakin Community Centre. Initially, this was just on a Sunday evening, and then increasingly we had Sunday morning services and activities as well, which began to attract children and families. As well as this, other groups, such as Prayer meetings and Growth Groups have also met regularly, to help strengthen the life of the church.

Secondly, the Trustees appointed a part-time Minister (myself) to guide forward the church forward in it's life and mission, with a Leadership team subsequently being formed in April 2022. The Leadership team also includes Shirley Harrison, Linda Lewis, Graham Andrew and Helen Bookless and they play a valuable role in supporting and developing the life of the church.

Thirdly, we have aimed since the start to be actively missional. The first step in respect was the opening of the Little Fishes Parent-and Toddler Group in the Community Centre, and other kinds of outreach have also taken place.

Fourthly, the Trustees have been active in developing important policies and procedures to help us as a church to be committed to good practice - a process which is ongoing. Other important practical steps, like the opening of a bank account, and some Safeguarding training being organised, have also taken place.

Fifthly, we arranged for some suitable external oversight to help guide us forward and, having looked into various options, we agreed part way through the year to ask Julian Richards and Rob Jones to take on this role (initially for 1 year) with the experience and insights that they have to offer.

In doing this, we have left open the question as to whether we might affiliate with a particular church grouping, or denomination, after that time, or at some stage in the future.

The report also highlights the contribution to the church's life made by so many volunteers, which is a really important element within church life, and there is a financial section in the report, and a section about the trustees reserves policy. I won't comment on financial matters, as we will be hearing a financial report soon.

There is also a section on Structure, Governance and Management, and the names of all those who served as trustees during the year are listed. The current trustees are our Chair - Lucinda Johnstone, our Secretary - Selina Johnson, myself, Graham Andrew, Linda Lewis and Janet Llewellyn.

I want to say on a personal note how grateful I am to all those who served as Trustees during the year and to the Leadership team, for all your hard work and commitment, as well as to those who contribute to church life in many different roles, and to all of you for your support and prayers. We are one body, one family, one team, and as we continue to pray and work together in a spirit of unity, I trust we will continue to see God's blessing on the life and outreach of this church in all kinds of ways in the years to come.