

10<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

## **Plymouth Brethren Christian Church Press statement**

On 9 January 2014, the Charity Commission issued its formal decision that it will enter Preston Down Trust (a trust that operates Gospel Halls of the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (PBCC) in the Torquay and Newton Abbot area) on its Register of Charities.

Members of the PBCC give thanks to God that the truth of our Christian position has been upheld.

This decision is a great relief to us and we are hugely encouraged and comforted, that after a thorough explanation of our Christian beliefs and practices, which are based on the infallible and eternal Word of God as set out in Holy Scripture, the Charity Commission has agreed that the doctrines and practices of our church advance religion for the public benefit.

The explanation by the Commission of its decision in its report and in the media is, of course, for the Commission. While we do not necessarily agree with all matters of law or opinion set out in the decision document, we thank the Commission for working with us and welcome the result that the decision achieves in enabling PBCC Gospel Hall Trusts to move onto the Register of Charities and return their focus to the service of God and the wider community.

The PBCC, with the benefit of expert advice, has always considered the Preston Down Trust to be a charitable trust for the advancement of religion. After extensive discussions between the PBCC and the Commission a Deed of Variation has been settled to provide a public statement of our core doctrine and faith in practice in order to assure the Commission of the ongoing operation of the trust for the public benefit. The past two years have been a time of intense prayer for members of the church universally and we wish to thank our legal advisors and the many neighbours, friends, members of Parliament and other members of the public who have known us for many years and provided support and advice throughout this difficult period.

