

# HIS PLACE

England & Wales · Charity number 1054331

## Details

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**Other names** ST. LEONARDS PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1996-04-09

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** His Place  
Church & Community Venue  
Robertson Street  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN34 1HL

**Phone** 01424 423501

**Email** [Information@hisplacehastings.org.uk](mailto:Information@hisplacehastings.org.uk)

**Website** [www.hisplacehastings.co.uk](http://www.hisplacehastings.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CHURCH ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC:(A) TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT IN SUCH WAYS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT;(B) TO RELIEVE SICKNESS AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND TO PROMOTE AND PRESERVE GOOD HEALTH BY THE PROVISION OF FUNDS, GOODS OR SERVICES OF ANY KIND INCLUDING THROUGH THE PROVISION OF COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT; AND(C) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN SUCH WAYS AND IN SUCH PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE CHURCH COUNCIL FROM TIME TO TIME MAY THINK FIT.

**Activities:** His Place serves the community of Hastings, St Leonards and further a field, through social activities, workshops, education and welfare support, addiction & MH support groups, volunteering opportunities and church activities. The services are provided through our multi-use community building which includes an Art Cafe & Community Centre, Charismatic Church, Theatre and Conference facilities.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE ST. LEONARDS
- East Sussex

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-06	£78,678	£100,714	-	-
2024-04-06	£317,143	£405,157	-	-
2023-04-06	£277,160	£203,254	-	-
2022-04-06	£63,036	£82,263	-	-
2021-04-06	£63,889	£39,835	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Nigel Sinden</b>	Chair	2022-11-27
Alan Whitty		2024-03-03
Caroline Wheeler		2024-03-03
Christine Brewer		2022-10-27
Keith Forbes		2024-03-03
Trevor Webb		2024-03-03
nicola roper		2022-10-27

**HIS PLACE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1054331

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date			Period end date		
	<b>06</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>From</b>				<b>To</b>		

### Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

**His Place**

Other names charity is known by

His Place Community Church Hastings

Registered charity number (if any)

1054331

Charity's principal address

His Place

Church & Community venue

Robertson Street, Hastings

Postcode

TN34 1HL

#### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Cllr Nigel Sinden	Chairperson		
2	Nicola Roper	Health & Safety		
3	Caroline Wheeler	Safeguarding		
4	Christine Brewer	Treasurer		
5	Cllr Trevor Webb	Heritage		
6	Keith Forbes	Henry Ward Hall & Publicity		
7	Alan Whitty	Community		

#### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Keith Forbes	
Trevor Webb	
Nicola Roper	

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Heritage Consultant Fundraiser	Dr Katherine Prior	Brighton
Heritage Architect	John Bailey	Thomas Ford & Partners 177 Kirkdale, London, SE26 4QH

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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### Section B Structure, governance and management

## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution and trust deed adopted 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2006
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	<p>Elected by church members, following expression of wish document and profile being sent to all His Place Church members and community members of His Place Charity. Trustees are in place for 5 years then can step down or put themselves forward to be considered again for standing.</p> <p>If for any reason new trustees required during the year due to others stepping down, then these would be elected by trustees sourcing and electing.</p> <p>Anyone reaching 70 years of age must be assessed re suitability and mental capacity for serving as trustee.</p>

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

### Organizational Structure and Network of His Place Charity:

His Place has a managing trustee board composed of individuals with diverse skills that empower the charity's operations. Board members come from various backgrounds, including bookkeeping, mental health, social care, county council services, events management, childcare, catering, and business. His Place is a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which provides valuable consultancy support. Consultancy also comes from Dr. Katherine Prior, a heritage specialist and fundraising consultant, as well as John Bailey, a heritage architect with approximately 16 years of experience regarding our buildings risk management.

### Our strands of work are split into three streams:

#### His Place Community Church

The church management committee: Nicola Roper, Caroline Wheeler.  
Aim: provide weekly church services, fellowship meetings, bible studies and evangelistic outreach under the name His Place Community Church. To share our faith and support people who are searching and enquiring about Christian faith.

#### The Café & Community Centre

The management committee: Caroline Wheeler, Alan Whitty, Nicola Roper, Christine Brewer.  
Aim: Provide income to support with the upkeep and provision of services that His Place provide the wider community, through provision of home-made meals and refreshments, free and subsidised activities. Hire of space for external charities and other organisations.

#### Henry Ward Hall Community Venue:

The managing committee for HWH are Mike Willis, Keith Forbes, Rachel Mccarron and Nicola Roper. Meeting quarterly and between if required.

HWH aim is to be a community space and hireable pop-up events space for national, regional and local promoters as well as for our own productions. Community use and local dance schools and theatre schools. To increase footfall thorough the building and provide a cultural experience for all. This is as all our outreach streams is a not-for-profit activity. The day-to-day management is run by volunteers and the profit from events is split between charity core costs and community projects.

### Relationships with other charities / not for profit groups:

#### Hastings Street Pastors & Safe Space project:

Hastings Safe Space is a Police and ESCC community funded service. This project relies on volunteers caring and providing first aid and support on Saturday

**Night Pastors:-**

Nights between 9pm and 1am. This partnership commenced in July 2021 the previous funders for this service was the NHS CCG and ran from 2017 – 2020.

**1066 Country Crafters: -**

Have worked in partnership for 10 years, providing space for biweekly mental health peer support crafting group and storage. Enabling a safe space and opportunity for his group to succeed in continuing and providing community cohesive space for people who are under the support of community mental health teams supporting in their recovery and reintegration into accessing social opportunities and building friendships and links. They have use of a large space while enjoying interaction with café regulars and sharing their crafting successes.

**Ukrainian Saturday School and outreach: -**

Krysta Rafalska a Ukrainian who has lived in the UK for 20 years has partnered with His Place to provide education support on Saturdays for GCSE students and primary age children, to include learning English as well as improving their use of Ukrainian and keeping up of traditions. Hosting Ukrainian festivals and remembrance events, film club and a Ukrainian library. Ensuring Ukrainian and English community gather to increase cohesion and acceptance of the Ukrainian community.

**Trustees Consideration of Major risks and the system and procedures to manage them: -****Building Deterioration –**

Ongoing building safety risk management continues as the building is Grade A at risk on Heritage at Risk register. This risk will not reduce regarding Heritage England rating due to the roof and Cambridge roadside of repairs still required. There has not been any water ingress now for 2 years and the deterioration on Cambridge Road side has not increased since last year. A quinquennial has been completed May 25 and then actions planned for and completed.

**Increase in the reviews of the charity operating system, Health, and safety.**

- Review of Health and Safety risk management regarding the decay of windows and masonry on Cambridge Roadside of building. Quarterly roof inspection and gutter cleaning completed by Jason Cooper roofer / builder and quotes have been obtained for next phase of works to the building to increase its management of rainwater wastage as well as for stone repairs to Cambridge Road elevation. Works not possible this financial year as we have not succeeded in raising the match funding required to apply for grants required for the works.
- **Review and update of financial management:**  
Banking managed by Christine Brewer weekly. Christine manages the pay in element of His Place finances; Alan Whitty manages the outgoing payments. Each income route has its own records for recording financial transactions and two people at a time check the income amounts and sign to confirm the count. Petrol card for Esso now in use to ensure management and billing related to vehicle use is monitored. Christine Brewer, Nicola Roper and Caroline Wheeler now hold debit cards for the charity banking and purchasing. Removing the requirement of regular expenses being repaid as they are now able to purchase supplies for His Place directly and not as a third party. Alan Whitty has also been added to the bank accounts, so he has access to the online banking for management of accounts.

**MCA Loan: - (Methodist Funding for Churches)**

The heritage build project over ran and did not finish within the allocated Heritage Lottery structured time, we also incurred more expenditure than planned and therefore were not able to redeem all funding that had been planned from Heritage Lottery and we had to provide 19k of match funding ourselves and this had to be covered by MCA loan as we had not succeeded in fundraising in time. Therefore, the loan is for 5 years, can be paid off early, if possible, which is our aim. The loan was 50K up till April 2024 we are paying £ 1,235.49 per month as per the agreement.

**Section C**

**Objectives and activities**

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

His Place (Charity No. 1054331) exists to be a welcoming home at the heart of Hastings—bringing people together virtually and on site through faith, community, and creativity.

We offer practical care and support to those in need, and provide inclusive spaces where people can connect, learn, and thrive and socialise inclusively. Through our Community Church, The Café & Community Space and the Henry Ward Hall multi-use performance venue, we seek to promote well-being, and enrich the cultural life of our town.

**His Place Community Church objective:** To advance the Christian faith in accordance with scriptures, providing a place of worship, bible studies, home groups and prayer support, social support and engagement for all ages of the members of His Place and any other Christian family who call upon us or visit us. Completing outreach and evangelism to spread the gospel of the Good News. Increasing Christian cohesion through the whole of Hastings and St Leonards with inter church activities and outreach as identified through our being the home base for “SHADES” Christian theatre company.

**Café objective:** to be a safe place with the provision of affordable meals, snacks and refreshments for those who choose to access the service. A place where everyone is included and able to meet, eat and socialise. Regardless of social standing, employment, age. Run by church and community volunteers from different social groups to promote inclusion and cohesion for all.

**Community centre objective:** to provide a safe environment for all where they can access education, social opportunities and resilience training through learning skills, supported problem solving as well as general fun for all ages and abilities. Providing space that can be hired by other charities, community and public sector services ensuring that services required by the public are accessible to all. Filling in the gaps that the community identify and where other services alert us to a need.

**Health and wellbeing objective:** provide a place where all regardless of challenges, disabilities, age, nationality will feel included. Services to include mental health support, addiction support and life skills to aid people to a full and manageable life, safe space for those coping with / or seeking help to access services relating to domestic abuse, eating disorder, mental health crisis, stalking and general social interactive inclusive groups.

**Henry Ward hall:** to provide a venue where there is entertainment for all, professional and amateur music and theatre events. Providing training positions regarding production management through volunteering for all ages and abilities. Providing income from its activities to aid with the maintenance and management costs for the His Place Building. Contributing to the security of the charity’s future.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

**Activities undertaken:**

**Church activities:**

**Sunday services** - His Place hosts a service on a Sunday – max no of attendees is 35. The café community is like a non-faith based church group, the majority of café / community users are not Christian and do not attend church. Though they do when in times of struggle request prayer support from the manager and assistant who are His Place church members.

The congregation at His Place is inclusive and multi-cultural members from BAME community, European nationalities also. We have carers supporting people living in Kingswood Nursing home in attendance as well as a young man from a learning disabilities home attending.

Income to the Church is through giving either through the collection or through regular tithes into the bank. This offering from church congregation has totalled: £9,060.51 Gift aid for end of April 2024 £2,336.44

**Wednesday fellowship** – Prayer and Praise evenings are attracting a regular attendance of up to 10 people. Who spend an hour and half in fellowship praying, singing for community, church activities and whatever is on their heart. This meeting is open to the public and member of other churches and this year we have had 3 visitors join us, two were teenagers from Holy Trinity who came to join in and another was a visitor walking past. We also run this hybrid on occasion to engage with our fellow church members Pep and Rahni who are now based in London.

**Fathers Love Fellowship** – This is a meeting that is run for 4 weeks 3 times a year and is open to 4 people at a time to have ministry with Stu and Mark from Seaford Baptist Church who run this program for us. It is a growth program and helps born again Christians prepare for outreach as they deepen their faith. The aim is that everyone from His Place will have completed this course by early 2026 when a conference for the Hastings Churches will be undertaken to share the Fathers Love in a day and see revival occur as a result.

**Church Outreach activities -**

His Place continues to be a lively, integrated church with people from all denominations. The social calendar has continued and worked around restrictions. The activities held have increased friendships, been an opportunity for new people to socialise with us and find out more about His Place. The activities have included meals out, picnics, walks, quiz nights, music events and film nights in café. Home ministry visits have continued and include visits to some members in care settings. The aim is to increase this for the coming year to include taking social and spiritual activities to the people in mental health care provision including nursing home and supported accommodation.

**Pastoral support** – Pastoral support is for church members and the regulars who attend the café requiring pastoral support for mental health, social challenges. This is delivered by Caroline, Nicola, Stu and Mark who have allocated recipients. The support for some is check in phone calls and crisis support, with others having biweekly home visits or monthly communion visits.

**Café:**

His Place café continues to be successful as a not-for-profit community café, with a staff of 12 volunteers – covering 528 Volunteering hours a month between them. 101 hours of open hours for access to community and café activities.

The café is open Mon, Wed 10 – 4, Tues, Fri 10 -3, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat months 10 – 3, Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 5.30 – 8pm for games night, Thursdays 2 x a month for Just Friends social gatherings.

All food is homemade and prepared on site. For many guests this is their main meal each day and reduces the financial cost of electric use at home and reduces stress related to shopping and food preparation for the older guests who rely on this provision. For the young people with families and those who are

working and drop by for lunch this is a safe inviting environment where they find an inclusive, enjoyable environment which is low cost and accessible as in the middle of Hastings.

This year has seen an increase in café use by all social groups We have increased to opening every Saturday this year due to the Ukrainian café.

Our volunteers come from various organisations and referrals – including GPs, Mental Health services, Learning disability teams. 4 of our volunteers have provided long service of over 5 years each with 2 of them volunteering for the past 9 years. We have a homeless person volunteering with us as he wishes to contribute to the work of His Place. The volunteers who are open to the community mental health service and the volunteer who is under the Learning disabilities Adult Social Care service have been noted to have maintained / improved their wellbeing when their annual care support reviews are undertaken. This has resulted in social service and the local NHS teams signposting service users to access His Place for its wellbeing support.

The café is a safe place used by statutory and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services to meet their clients. Our regular professional guests include social services, HomeWorks, Mental Health community team. 2 Substance misuse groups. All sorts LGBTQ+ youth counselling service, Occupational therapists, Rough Sleeper keyworkers.

This year's café income has been £27,107.00 . which is a profit increase of £8,403.00 from last year.

#### **Community Centre:**

The café has increased its room hire and use by community with the sensory /meeting room now back in use following the last water ingress in 2023. Due to the increased need for space for community groups and workshops the foyer area of the first floor is used weekly by AA group and monthly by community engagement groups and the half landing comfy area is used daily by walk in social groups which include a knitting circle, reading group and men's met ups.

The community activities which His Place run and those for the groups who hire our spaces are all inclusive regarding nationality, ethnicity, disability etc unless there a closed group such as AA or Hard of hearing group which states the eligibility criteria. Disabled guests are catered for through person centred planning in the event they inform us of any challenge that we have not foreseen and ensured adaption to enable engagement. For 2023 – 2024 the community choir has been rehearsing upstairs and is accessible for ambulatory disabled, with a plan to rehearse downstairs should a power chair use wish to join who can not transfer onto stair lift and into a manual wheelchair. The plan to provide ramp access to the first floor from Cambridge Road will be resolved by July 2024.

**Grant from Stewardship Banks** for our support with the community providing warm space during the months November to March 2025. The grant was for £1000.

#### **1066 County Crafters: -**

This peer support group is in its 9<sup>th</sup> year with us and we have seen many people regain their health, find employment and therefore move on from this crafting group which meets twice a week to enjoy crafting together, conversation and therefore supporting there wellbeing. To attend this group the participant must be receiving support from the Sussex Partnership NHS Trust community treatment teams. The participant self-refers or can be referred. Alan who runs it part of the His Place community team now and supports with maintenance of our building and this came about because of him partnering with us as a place to deliver his support group.

#### **Warm Space:**

This has been our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of running warm space. The financial impact that this provides us has again enabled us to extend our winter opening hours and provide support with access to employment support, managing finances,

accessing third party support services, increasing social opportunities and providing a space safe for people to enjoy, keep warm and reduce their personal expenditure at home therefore reducing their risk of hardship. The men's social group which started 2 year ago still continues because of warm space.

**Refugee Buddy Project English Class:**

Language Class is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year at His Place, the Refugee Buddy Project are provided with the hall space free of charge every Tuesday as to charge them for the use would prevent them providing this much needed support to our international guests relying in the love and support of the community to learn the language, culture of Britain as they come to terms with living in our country and town. This service provides them with a safe space and opportunities to mix and get to know the other guests that feel at home at His Place.

**His Place Meet and Greet Community Lunch** – our monthly meal have not continued due to reduced attendance, so they had altered to special occasions such as Valentine's friendship lunch, summer community lunch and Christmas lunch. This has been successful with bringing in regulars as well as new guests for a three-course community meal.

**Building Hire:**

Building hires this year has brought in a £ 5,216.74 This is a increase from last year, with the extra venue hire and the recommencement of entertainment on site through Henry Ward Hall. This is expected to grow further in 2024 – 2025 as the building is now fully open again.

**Just Friends -**

This is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of being located at His Place meeting 2 x a month. Once is a cuppa social and the other is a sit-down meal with entertainment on a Thursday afternoon. Providing social inclusion for people who are single and wishing to be part of a social group. This group is for over 18's and their main age group is 30 – 70s currently.

**Hastings Safe space -**

This is in its 4th year with us post Covid and continues to provide safety and welfare support to those who are in town on a Saturday night enjoying the night entertainment as well as those who are vulnerable and on the streets through homelessness or mental health crisis and feeling lost. They continue to be funded by the Police in conjunction with East Sussex County Council. They're working hours have reduced though due to the reduced hours of support required in the community and the reduction of volunteers. They know provide the service from 8pm till 1am with live feet on the street from 9pm and a member of their team at the His Place base praying throughout.

**Rough Sleepers Initiative –**

This was their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this provision but at the end of this financial year the funding was pulled by the NHS and Eastbourne Council who provided homeless people with mental health or addiction problems housing with support from social services, OT, therapist etc. They provided a successful café hub for these individuals once a week in are hall. It has been a place for them to start re-integrating and learning skills in an organised setting. Aiding in opportunity for these people regardless of their physical / mental state an opportunity to be accessing service within a public space providing opportunity to fit in and meet our customers while being in their safe environment and learning new skills including how to maintain a tenancy.

**Sussex hard of hearing –**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that they have held their monthly support group for people who are deaf or hard of hearing at His Place. It's a safe environment for them to access the café and mix with our customers as well as have their own organised session where there is sometimes a special guest speaker or for them to discuss the challenges they are experiencing and helping each other through peer support.

**Knit and Natter** – this is a social group that meet once a week at the café, don't pay rent for space as they meet within the main area. It's a large group of ladies of all ages enjoying knitting, teaching new people the skills and having fun.

**French Lessons** – A gentleman from Hastings came to us looking for a new place to undertake conversational French lessons for beginners. Over a cuppa he and his attendees practice French and for new people they are supported to learn the language. This retired gentleman has become part of the His Place Community Family through his regular attendance to run his group.

**Surviving Christmas** – This charity joined us for the first time requiring new premises for the feeding of 150 people Xmas day and boxing day who otherwise would be a lone or out on the streets. They fitted in well with His Place and took over the whole venue for 4 days in the lead up to Xmas. With the feedback being that the venue had a very homely feel to it this time and that their attendees found it more comfortable as a result. This was the first year and there going to be back for Christmas 2025.

**Diabetes UK Group** – This support group is new to His Place and comes weekly. It's an opportunity for people who are newly diagnosed or long standing to meet with fellow diabetics and provide peer support to one another as well as have talks and learn from professionals on new advice as it comes out. They have also been a support to people who have come in and are at risk of becoming diabetic.

**Hope – G** – this is a community group who have started to attend His Place café for the meetings where they discuss issues important to them and work out aims of how to make positive change and support the wider community.

**Dementia Friends** – This is a careers group who come monthly to have a cuppa and share the challenges they have. As a result of there attendance carers are now bringin loved ones who have dementia to the café.

**NHS wellbeing training** – The national NHS organisation has started using us as a Hastings venue for when it is running wellbeing training and awareness for the wider community and organisations that support the community.

### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

**Volunteer engagement to provide the community services including part of the Henry Ward Hall service and church activities within His Place.**

- The café only has 12 volunteers of whom 4 attend the church, this highlights the strength of His Place and the commitment the community has to it. The volunteers who we attract are those whom finding employment is a challenge, we provide person centred volunteering opportunities and welcome all who are eligible to work with us. We have ex-offenders who integrated into the team, and everyone has a risk assessment completed and safeguarding practice in place. We pride ourselves on serving all and providing opportunities regardless of someone's history. When required due to safeguarding needs, we will arrange volunteering tasks within teams to happen out of public opening hours and ensure that every volunteer feels appreciated and is respected within His Place. Social support is volunteering is the community pastoral support which includes welfare checks face to face, phone calls all happening outside of the café or church open hours a lot of which occur in evenings and weekends to ensure mental health breakdown does not occur and support to contact professionals is provided.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Volunteer hours in the year have been approximately.

Areas of volunteering	Annual hours of work delivered	Cost if these staff were paid living wage rather than being volunteers, without Tax & NI added on to the bill.
Café:	6,336 hrs	£72,483.84
Church serving drinks	52 hrs	£ 594.88
Ministry team hours re service / bible study leading / prayer meetings for non-paid church staff	100 hrs	£ 1,144.00
Maintenance:	360 hrs	£ 4,118.40
Social Support:	104 hrs	£ 1,189.76
Administration:	1300 hrs	£14,872.00
Cleaning and general support	208 hrs	£ 2,379.52
Henry Ward Hall	452 hrs	£ 5,170.88
	<b>Total annual</b>	<b>£105,097.28</b>

Our aim is to eventually be able to have a paid staff and welcome volunteers to and increase all aspects of the His Place work to include outreach programs as well taking services, activities out into the community.

**Section D**

**Achievements and performance**

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- **Increasing community use** of space in the café and Henry Ward Hall pop up events. The building has seen more than 8000 people through our doors in the year, from increase of room hire, community groups using free space and audience for events in Henry Ward Hall. Everyone engaging with the feel of the place which is one of love and acceptance and witnessing the continued evolvement and restoration of the grade 2 listed building. Church has 2 wheelchair users coming a week and accessing using a roll out ramp. The Henry Ward Hall events now welcome regular people who have had strokes and another person who is a regular who has a muscular dystrophy. There have been performers who have diagnosis of autism, blindness and others who must use wheelchairs. This has been a welcome change showing the wider Hastings Community that we are a place which welcomes all and no one's health challenge gets in the way of them being active in their desire to be a customer / performer or participant throughout the range of activities we offer. This has also taught the youth that attend events that nothing can get in the way of your dreams if you don't give up.
- **Teamwork:** We have one administrator paid for 8 hours of core administration a week everyone else volunteers their time to ensure the charity activities have continued. Until we are at a stage where the building is saved, we will not be able to pay staff. This adds to the commitment and desire our volunteers have in serving the community. management of the building and teamwork in ensuring high standards of hygiene remained high and health and safety continue to be observed ensuring our community can continue to access and enjoy a full range of activities, services, and opportunities at His Place. Retaining volunteers some of which have now been serving in the café for 9 years. As a result of the Henry Ward Hall opening and the previous heritage projects, we have recruited some event volunteers, but they are not able to provide support during working hours of the café due to being in employment.
- **Henry Ward Hall:** Has accessed expectation with the amount of show hires we have had and the promoters who return to us for events. This has ensured the attendees know of the His Place Charity it's work and engaged in excess of 6000 people attending shows this year and experiencing the architecture and it's acoustics which cannot be found elsewhere in Hastings to this standard. In total we have had 6 events this year. Totalling income of £1,400.00
- **Trustee team:** The trustee team being increased in number and skills has made a positive impact in moving His Place and the services forward. With 2 councillors, nurse and business-related professionals joining the team. All who have been involved with the charity in some way for over past 5 years weather that be from attending services or bringing groups or individuals to receive support from His Place. Therefore, firsthand experience of His Place aiding in their knowledge and shared experience on both sides of the charity.
- **Rough Sleepers initiative:** this NHS service started out as a small group activity 2 years ago and has grown. The outcome for the service users has been that they are now welcome in the community, engaging in courses, some are housed independently know. The negative side is that this service ended in April 2024 as funding had to be redirected and therefore from the NHS. We have not got the sponsorship or grants yet to re-create this service, but the service users are able to access our current welfare opportunities and activities although they are not solely for Rough Sleepers. The OTs are remaining on contact and relying on His Place to find funding in the future to create a new partnership working option.
- **Increased engagement from the public:** The running of Henry Ward Hall has aided in the increase of public engagement with His Place

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

Charity and the increase footfall of café and community engagement through awareness of the services provided.

- **Welcoming all nationalities and ethnicities into His Place:**  
We continue to see an increase in homeless & refugees accessing His Place. Although the Rough Sleepers Initiative has come to an end this April because of funding cuts from there services the attendees are still accessing support through His Place community strand. Therefore, we have succeeded in continuing to provide a cohesive and inclusive community venue.
- **Extended Fellowship team:** We have welcomed Pastor Stuart and Worship leader Mark to our church team, and they are supporting twice a month with ministry on Sundays, guidance for His Place Community Church.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

His Place has a policy requiring that 10k spread across the café and church bank accounts is maintained. This is to ensure that should there be sudden stop in income, or unexpected maintenance bills that the costs can be covered. This if required for a period where the café and church were not able to be open for income stream that the running costs for the building would be maintained for 6-month period. The monthly income and expenditure are monitored and trends of change in income, giving and expenditure monitored by the chair of trustees and treasurer.

If we have a period of lower income and need to use the reserves to ensure our core bills are paid then as soon as possible we will build up the reserves again through increase of activity and were possible ensuring our suppliers are providing utilities and services at the best possible price to keep our liabilities low. Therefore not affecting the pocket of our intended customers / service users who rely on our services and may not be able to access us if we were required to increase our service costs.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

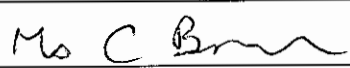
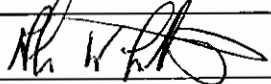
- Church collection / tithing and general donations Income - £ 25,483.99 this income is used for the running costs of the building including utilities, insurance, maintenance.
- Café - £27107.61 – this income has increased from previous years as the guests and service user footfall has increased also. Due to the cost of living crisis we have been mindful of people's needs and restrictions of their situation and have kept our prices the same as we do not have a mortgage and we are not for profit and at this time it has been possible to provide service with out risking our own situation. The buying prices are checked regularly to ensure we can change suppliers if required to enable to manage financial standing.
- Donations - £16,423.48 His Place continues to see visitors and others providing donations for general use of the services we provide.

## Section F Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Mrs C BREWER	Alan Whitty
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Community Trustee.
Date	24/10/25	



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 06/04/2024	To	Period end date 05/04/2025
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**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Building Fund Donaions	1,358	-	-	1,358	203
Cafe Sales	27,108	-	-	27,108	18,704
Church Collection	9,061	-	-	9,061	13,087
Donations/Legacies	16,423	-	-	16,423	469
Gift Aid	2,336	-	-	2,336	1,765
Fundraising Activities	1,228	-	-	1,228	76
Loan MCA	-	-	-	-	20,000
Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	105	-	-	105	58
Room Hire	5,217	-	-	5,217	1,375
Transfers between accounts	6,685	-	-	6,685	80,770
LWP vat Return	843	-	-	843	-
Grants	8,314	-	-	8,314	78,178
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>78,678</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>78,678</b>	<b>214,685</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>78,678</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>78,678</b>	<b>214,685</b>

**A3 Payments**

Administration Costs	7,166	-	-	7,166	8,461
Audio Visual supplies/Software	10,242	-	-	10,242	6,091
Chrsian outreach	305	-	-	305	8,865
Freelance/Contractors	3,322	-	-	3,322	47,299
Fundraising Costs	-	-	-	-	1,510
Cafe supplies	14,061	-	-	14,061	11,816
Insurance	8,010	-	-	8,010	8,872
Licences	1,840	-	-	1,840	2,320
Maintenance/building supply and services	9,084	-	-	9,084	274,467
Miscellanous	100	-	-	100	50
Publicity/Marketing	1,826	-	-	1,826	12,976
Phone /Internet	1,185	-	-	1,185	1,417
Utilities	14,761	-	-	14,761	7,509
Volunteer Expenses	4,821	-	-	4,821	4,645
Waste/Clearance	1,666	-	-	1,666	1,759
QWA QWA	1,986	-	-	1,986	2,163
Catering Equipment	218	-	-	218	4,917
Transfer to Cafe Account	6,200	-	-	6,200	30,020
Transfer to General account	235	-	-	235	50,750
Equipment for grant activities	47	-	-	47	21
Loan Repayment	13,638	-	-	13,638	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>100,714</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100,714</b>	<b>485,928</b>

<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>100,714</b>	-	-	<b>100,714</b>	<b>485,928</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 22,036</b>	-	-	<b>- 22,036</b>	<b>- 68,024</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>25,220</b>	-	-	<b>25,220</b>	<b>93,243</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>3,184</b>	-	-	<b>3,184</b>	<b>25,219</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank + Church accounts	2,984		-
	Cash	200	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b> (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	<b>3,184</b>		<b>-</b>
		OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Fixed Assets		-	36,000
	Non Fixed Assets		-	49,269
	Building		-	210,959
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	MCA Loan	Church	25,000	30 June 2027
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
M C Brewin <del>Alan Whitty</del>	CHRISTINE BREWIN Alan Whitty	24/10/25

**INDEPENDANT EXAMINATION OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR**  
**HIS PLACE YEAR ENDED 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of His Place for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination that have given me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Barraclough', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Helen Barraclough (retired C.E.O. of etc Sussex, registered charity: 1147918)  
73 Vale Road  
St. Leonards on sea  
East Sussex  
TN37 6PT

**HIS PLACE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1054331

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

**06 April 2023**

Period end date

**05 April 2024**

From

To

### Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

**His Place**

Other names charity is known by

His Place Community Church Hastings

Registered charity number (if any)

1054331

Charity's principal address

His Place

Church & Community Venue

Robertson Street, Hastings

Postcode

TN34 1HL

#### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1 Cllr Nigel Sinden	Chairperson		
2 Nicola Roper	Health & Safety / Secretary		
3 Caroline Wheeler	Safeguarding		
4 Christine Brewer	Treasurer		
5 Cllr Trevor Webb	Heritage		
6 Keith Forbes	Henry Ward Hall & Publicity		
7 Alan Whitty	Community		
8 Ransford Akowah	Pastoral		

#### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Herbert West	
Rev Chistopher Sears	
Miss Nicola Roper	

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Heritage Consultant Fundraiser	Dr Katherine Prior	Brighton
Heritage Architect	John Bailey	Thomas Ford & Partners 177 Kirkdale, London, SE26 4QH

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg trust deed, constitution)	Constitution and trust deed adopted 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2006
How the charity is constituted (eg trust, association, company)	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg appointed by, elected by)	Elected by church members when due at annual general meeting. If for any reason new trustees required during the year due to others stepping down, then these would be elected by trustees sourcing and electing. Trustees serve for 5 years then stand down and can be re-elected if appointed. Anyone reaching 70 years of age must be assessed re suitability and mental capacity for serving as trustee.

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

#### Organizational Structure and Network of His Place Charity:

His Place has a managing trustee board composed of individuals with diverse skills that empower the charity's operations. Board members come from various backgrounds, including bookkeeping, mental health, social care, county council services, events management, childcare, catering, and business. His Place is a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which provides valuable consultancy support. Consultancy also comes from Dr. Katherine Prior, a heritage specialist and fundraising consultant, as well as John Bailey, a heritage architect with approximately 16 years of experience regarding our buildings risk management.

Our strands of work are split into three streams:

#### His Place Community Church

The church management committee: Nicola Roper, Caroline Wheeler, Rahni, Pep

#### The Café & Community Centre

The management committee: Caroline Wheeler, Alan Whitty, Nicola Roper, Christine Brewer.

#### Henry Ward Hall:

HWH is the name for the building when we are running events or hiring out for Live Music, Theatre events, conferences that are secular and not part of the church or café's identity. Situated within a grade 2 listed building and is a fully licenced venue.

The hall accommodates all performers from local talent, touring, and international. Since it's opening in October 2023, we have welcomed 'Big bands, Orchestras, Small bands, British and International Solo artists Including Blues Man 'Jerron Paxton', 'Bob Log III, Sarah Jane Morris of Communards Fame.

This is a not-for-profit income stream, with Mike Willis running the HWH venue for us through his company Electica who pay the wages for the contracted staff running bar, tech support and front of house management as well as managing the publicity and marketing of the events. Contract in place with His Place sharing the roles and responsibilities.

The managing committee for HWH are Mike Willis, Keith Forbes, Caroline Wheeler and Nicola Roper. Meeting quarterly and between if required.

#### Relationships with other charities / not for profit groups:

#### Hastings Street Pastors & Safe Space project:

Hastings Safe Space is a Police and ESCC community funded service. This

project relies on volunteers caring and providing first aid and support on Saturday nights between 9pm and 1am. This partnership commenced July 2021 the previous funders for this service were the NHS CCG and ran from 2017 – 2020.

**1066 Country Crafters: -**

We have worked in partnership with Alan who runs this mental health peer support for the past 9 years, providing space for his twice weekly group and storage. Enabling a safe space and opportunity for his group to succeed in continuing and providing community cohesive space for people who are under the support of community mental health teams supporting in their recovery and reintegration into accessing social opportunities and building friendships and links. They have use of a large space while enjoying interaction with café regulars and sharing their crafting successes.

**Trustees Consideration of Major risks and the system and procedures to manage them: -**

**Building Deterioration –**

Ongoing building safety risk management continues as the building is Grade A at risk on Heritage at Risk register. This risk will not reduce regarding Heritage England rating due to the roof and Cambridge roadside of repairs still required but the urgent works windows and masonry on the north and northeast side of the building have been completed. This has improved the impact on heating use, weather deterioration and safety for all who use the yard access to neighbouring buildings and ours. We have seen a reduction in the heating and electricity costs following the end of these repairs and the prevention of water ingress that blighted us for four years up till 2024.

**Increase in the reviews of the charity operating system, Health, and safety.**

- Review of Health and Safety risk management regarding the decay of windows and masonry on Cambridge roadside of building. Quarterly roof inspection and gutter cleaning completed by Jason Cooper roofer / builder and quotes have been obtained for next phase of works to the building to increase its management of rainwater wastage as well as for stone repairs to Cambridge Road elevation. Works not possible this financial year as we have not succeeded in raising the match funding required applying for grants required for the works.
- **Review and update of financial management:**  
Banking managed by Christine Brewer and Caroline Wheeler weekly. Petrol card for Esso now in use to ensure management and billing related to vehicle use is monitored.  
Christine Brewer, Nicola Roper and Caroline Wheeler now hold debit cards for the charity banking and purchasing. Removing the requirement of regular expenses being repaid as they are now able to purchase supplies for His Place directly and not as a third party. Christine Brewer added as a signatory and Pastor Christopher Sears removed this financial year.

**MCA Loan: - (Methodist Funding for Churches)**

The heritage build project over ran and did not finish within the allocated Heritage Lottery structured time, we also incurred more expenditure than planned and therefore were not able to redeem all funding that had been planned from Heritage Lottery and we had to provide 19k of match funding ourselves and this had to be covered by MCA loan as we had not succeeded in fundraising in time. Therefore, the loan is for 5 years, can be paid off early, if possible, which is our aim. The loan was 20K up till April 2024 with an extra 30k available if we need it.

**Grand Piano purchase: - For Henry Ward Hall and Church use.**

Coach House Pianos have allowed us to have a Yamaha baby grand piano on an open payment scheme to be paid off, when possible, through the giving of donations by the HWH audience and fundraising shows. The cost of the piano being £12,000 up till April 2024 we have paid off £9,583.00 of the balance. While the piano is still on loan to buy contract it is under their insurance scheme, and we would be liable for any purposeful damage.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

His Place overriding objective is to be an organisation to benefit the public in Hastings and outer areas through all its services and activities. This is managed by being inclusive to all, regardless of a guests (customers) locality, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, identity. Everyone can access support, guidance and engage with the different aspects of the His Place Charity whether that is in person or virtually.

**His Place Community Church objective:** To advance the Christian faith in accordance with scriptures, providing a place of worship, bible studies, home groups and prayer support, social support and engagement for all ages of the members of His Place and any other Christian family who call upon us or visit us. Completing outreach and evangelism to spread the gospel of the Good News. Increasing Christian cohesion through the whole of Hastings and St Leonards with inter church activities and outreach as identified through our being the home base for "SHADES" Christian theatre company.

**Café objective:** to be a safe place with the provision of affordable meals, snacks and refreshments for those who choose to access the service. A place where everyone is included and able to meet, eat and socialise. Regardless of social standing, employment, age. Run by church and community volunteers from different social groups to promote inclusion and cohesion for all.

**Community centre objective:** to provide a safe environment for all where they can access education, social opportunities and resilience training through learning skills, supported problem solving as well as general fun for all ages and abilities. Providing space that can be hired by other charities, community and public sector services ensuring that services required by the public are accessible to all. Filling in the gaps that the community identify and where other services alert us to a need.

**Health and wellbeing objective:** provide a place where all regardless of challenges, disabilities, age, and nationality will feel included. Services to include mental health support, addiction support and life skills to aid people to a full and manageable life, safe space for those coping with or seeking help to access services relating to domestic abuse, eating disorders, mental health crisis, stalking.

**Henry Ward hall:** to provide a venue where there is entertainment for all, professional and amateur music and theatre events. Providing training positions regarding production management through volunteering for all ages and abilities. Providing income from its activities to aid with the maintenance and management costs for the His Place Building. Contributing to the security of the charity's future.

### Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

#### Activities undertaken:

##### Church activities:

**Sunday services** - His Place hosts a service on a Sunday – max no of attendees is 30 currently this is less than it had been prior to Covid when we hosted 2 services a day. The café is a church to some of the customers many of whom come requesting prayer and fellowship.

The congregation at His Place is inclusive and multi-cultural with a few members being of 4 BAME nationalities, 1 Eastern European, 1 west Asian church member. His Place congregation includes 4 members with social and mobility needs as well as SEN diagnosis. These members attend weekly and at times they do not have carers available to stay with them, in these occasions. His Place church members provide the care support required. His Place continues to have a family feel and unity amongst all who attend.

Income to the Church is through giving either through the collection or through regular tithes into the bank. This offering from church congregation has totalled: £13,087.00, Gift aid for end of April 2024 £1,765.00.

**Wednesday fellowship** – Prayer and Praise evenings are attracting a regular attendance of up to 10 people. Who spend an hour and half in fellowship praying, singing for community, church activities and whatever is on their heart. The aim is to increase this to a size where the main church space is used as in pre covid years.

**Thursday fellowship** – Bible study that is hybrid, those meeting in person meet at the café and those who join virtually access through skype to join the study.

**Church Outreach activities -**

His Place continues to be a lively, integrated church with people from all denominations. The social calendar has continued and worked around restrictions. The activities held have increased friendships, been an opportunity for new people to socialise with us and find out more about His Place. The activities have included meals out, picnics, walks, quiz nights, music events and film nights in the café. Home ministry visits have continued and include visits to some members in care settings. The aim is to increase this for the coming year to include taking social and spiritual activities to the people in mental health care provision including nursing home and supported accommodation.

**Pastoral support** – Pastoral support is for church members and the regulars who attend the café requiring pastoral support for mental health, social challenges. This is delivered by Rahni, Pep, Caroline and Nicola who have allocated recipients. The support for some is check in phone calls and crisis support, with others having biweekly home visits or monthly communion visits.

**Café:**

His Place café continues to be successful as a not-for-profit community café, with a staff of 12 volunteers – covering 528 Volunteering hours a month between them. 101 hours of open hours for access to community and café activities.

The café is open Mon, Wed 10 – 4, Tues, Fri 10 -3, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat months 10 – 3, Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 5.30 – 8pm for games night, Thursdays 2 x a month for Just Friends social gatherings.

All food is homemade and prepared on site. For many guests this is their main meal each day and reduces the financial cost of electric use at home and reduces stress related to shopping and food preparation for the older guests who rely on this provision. For the young people with families and those who are working and drop by for lunch this is a safe inviting environment where they find an inclusive, enjoyable environment which is low cost and accessible as in the middle of Hastings.

This year has seen an increase in café use by working people. The Saturday trade has not picked up post Covid yet. Due to challenges in recruiting Saturday volunteers, we are still only open 2 Saturdays a month.

Our volunteers come from various organisations and referrals – including GPs, Mental Health services, Learning disability teams. 4 of our volunteers have provided long service of over 5 years each with 2 of them volunteering for the past 8 years. This year also saw the return of a volunteer who took a couple of years out and has returned. The volunteers who are open to the community mental health service and the volunteer who is under the Learning disabilities Adult Social Care service have been noted to have maintained / improved their wellbeing when their annual care support reviews are undertaken. This has resulted in social service and the local NHS teams signposting service users to access His Place for its wellbeing support.

The café is a safe place used by statutory and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services to meet their clients. Our regular professional guests include social services, HomeWorks, Mental Health community team. 2 Substance misuse groups. All sorts LGBTQ+ youth counselling service, Occupational therapists, Rough Sleeper keyworkers.

This year's café income has been £18,704.00.

This year saw the death of a regular to the café who has been a supporter of His Place for over 20 years. He has bequeathed £5,000.00 to the His Place Charity for the upkeep of the building to ensure the church and community activities continue. The funds have not been presented in this financial year.

**Community Centre:**

The café has increased its room hire and use by community with the sensory /meeting room now back in use following the last water ingress in 2023. Due to the increased need for space for community groups and workshops the foyer area of the first floor is used weekly by AA group and monthly by community engagement groups and the half landing comfy area is used daily by walk in social groups which include a knitting circle, reading group and men's met ups.

The community activities which His Place run and those for the groups who hire our spaces are all inclusive regarding nationality, ethnicity, disability etc unless there a closed group such as AA or Hard of hearing group which states the eligibility criteria. Disabled guests are catered for through person centred planning in the event they inform us of any challenge that we have not foreseen and ensured adaption to enable engagement. For 2023 – 2024 the community choir has been rehearsing upstairs and is accessible for ambulatory disabled, with a plan to rehearse downstairs should a power chair use wish to join who can not transfer onto stair lift and into a manual wheelchair. The plan to provide ramp access to the first floor from Cambridge Road will be resolved by July 2024.

**1066 County Crafters: -**

This peer support group is in its 9<sup>th</sup> year with us and we have seen many people regain there health, find employment and therefore move on from this crafting group which meets twice a week to enjoy crafting together, conversation and therefore supporting there wellbeing. To attend this group the participant must be receiving support from the Sussex Partnership NHS Trust community treatment teams. The participant self-refers or can be referred. Alan who runs it part of the His Place community team now and supports with maintenance of our building and this came about because of him partnering with us as a place to deliver his support group.

**Warm Space:**

This has been our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of running warm space. The financial impact that this provides us has again enabled us to extend our winter opening hours and provide support with access to employment support, managing finances, accessing third party support services, increasing social opportunities and providing a space safe for people to enjoy, keep warm and reduce their personal expenditure at home therefore reducing their risk of hardship. The men's social group which started 2 year ago still continues as a result of warm space.

**Refugee Buddy Project English Class:**

Language Class is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year at His Place, the Refugee Buddy Project are provided with the hall space free of charge every Tuesday as to charge them for the use would prevent them providing this much needed support to our international guests relying in the love and support of the community to learn the language, culture of Britain as they come to terms with living in our country and town. This service provides them with a safe space and opportunities to mix and get to know the other guests that feel at home at His Place.

**His Place Meet and Greet Community Lunch** – our monthly meal have not continued due to reduced attendance, so they had altered to special occasions such as Valentine's friendship lunch, summer community lunch and Christmas lunch. This has been successful with bringing in regulars as well as new guests for a three-course community meal.

**Building Hire:**

Building hire this year has brought in £1,375.00 This is an increase from last year, with the extra venue hire and the recommencement of entertainment on site through Henry Ward Hall. This is expected to grow further in 2024 – 2025 as the building is now fully open again.

**Just Friends -**

This is a new regular hire for His Place meeting 2 x a month. Once is a cuppa social and the other is a sit-down meal with entertainment on a Thursday afternoon. Providing social inclusion for people who are single and wishing to be part of a social group. This group is for over 18's and their main age group is 30 – 70s currently.

**Hastings Safe space -**

This is in its 4th year with us post Covid and continues to provide safety and welfare support to those who are in town on a Saturday night enjoying the night entertainment as well as those who are vulnerable and on the streets through homelessness or mental health crisis and feeling lost. They continue to be funded by the Police in conjunction with East Sussex County Council. They're working hours have reduced though due to the reduced hours of support required in the community and the reduction of volunteers. They know provide the service from 8pm till 1am with live feet on the street from 9pm and a member of their team at the His Place base praying throughout.

**Rough Sleepers Initiative –**

This was their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this provision but at the end of this financial year the funding was pulled by the NHS and Eastbourne Council who provided homeless people with mental health or addiction problems housing with support from social services, OT, therapist etc. They provided a successful café hub for these individuals once a week in are hall. It has been a place for them to start re-integrating and learning skills in an organised setting. Aiding in opportunity for these people regardless of their physical / mental state an opportunity to be accessing service within a public space providing opportunity to fit in and meet our customers while being in their safe environment and learning new skills including how to maintain a tenancy.

**Sussex hard of hearing –**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that they have held their monthly support group for people who are deaf or hard of hearing at His Place. It's a safe environment for them to access the café and mix with our customers as well as have their own organised session where there is sometimes a special guest speaker or for them to discuss the challenges they are experiencing and helping each other through peer support.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

**Volunteer engagement to provide the community services including part of the Henry Ward Hall service and church activities within His Place.**

- The café only has 12 volunteers of whom 5 attend the church, this highlights the strength of His Place and the commitment the community has to it. The volunteers who we attract are those whom finding employment is a challenge, we provide person centred volunteering opportunities and welcome all who are eligible to work with us. We have ex-offenders who integrated into the team, and everyone has a risk assessment completed and safeguarding practice in place. We pride ourselves on serving all and providing opportunities regardless of someone's history. When required due to safeguarding needs, we will arrange volunteering tasks within teams to happen out of public opening hours and ensure that every volunteer feels appreciated and is respected within His Place. Social support is volunteering is the community pastoral support which includes welfare checks face to face, phone calls all happening outside of the café or church open hours a lot of which occur in evenings and weekends to ensure mental health breakdown does not occur and support to contact professionals is provided.

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Volunteer hours in the year have been approximately.

Areas of volunteering	Annual hours of work delivered	Cost if these staff were paid living wage rather than being volunteers, without Tax & NI added on to the bill.
Café:	6,336 hrs	£72,483.84
Church serving drinks	52 hrs	£ 594.88
Ministry team hours re service / bible study leading / prayer meetings for non-paid church staff	100 hrs	£ 1,144.00
Maintenance:	360 hrs	£ 4,118.40
Social Support:	104 hrs	£ 1,189.76
Administration:	1300 hrs	£14,872.00
Cleaning and general support	208 hrs	£ 2,379.52
Henry Ward Hall	452 hrs	£ 5,170.88
	<b>Total annual</b>	<b>£105,097.28</b>

Our aim is to eventually be able to have a paid staff and welcome volunteers to and increase all aspects of the His Place work to include outreach programs as well taking services, activities out into the community.

**Section D: Achievements and performance**

## Section D: Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

- **Saving Robertson Street URC Building:** (Our home) The building work was completed and the church able to re-open and performance space known as Henry Ward Hall from July 2023. This would not have been possible without the grant funders and public support and belief in His Place. This has now reduced the risk of closure as the building is safe and has bided time for the fundraising required for the remaining structure repairs for the Cambridge Roadside of the building.
- **Teamwork:** We do not have fully paid staff and rely heavily on volunteers from all areas of the community and church members. The management of the building and teamwork in ensuring high standards of hygiene remained high and health and safety continue to be observed ensuring our community can continue to access and enjoy a full range of activities, services, and opportunities at His Place. Retaining volunteers some of which have now been serving in the café for 8 years. As a result of the Henry Ward Hall opening and the previous heritage projects, we have recruited some event volunteers, but they are not able to provide support during working hours of the café due to being in employment.
- **Trustee team:** The trustee team being increased in number and skills has made a positive impact in moving His Place and the services forward. With 2 councillors, nurse and business-related professionals joining the team. All who have been involved with the charity in some way for over past 5 years whether that be from attending services or bringing groups or individuals to receive support from His Place. Therefore, firsthand experience of His Place aiding in their knowledge and shared experience on both sides of the charity.
- **Rough Sleepers initiative:** this NHS service started out as a small group activity 2 years ago and has grown. The outcome for the service users has been that they are now welcome in the community, engaging in courses, some are housed independently know. The negative side is that this service ended in April 2024 as funding had to be redirected and therefore from the NHS. We have not got the sponsorship or grants yet to re-create this service, but the service users are able to access our current welfare opportunities and activities although they are not solely for Rough Sleepers. The OTs are remaining on contact and relying on His Place to find funding in the future to create a new partnership working option.
- **Increased engagement from the public:** The running of Henry Ward Hall has aided in the increase of public engagement with His Place Charity and the increase footfall of café and community engagement through awareness of the services provided.
- **Welcoming all nationalities and ethnicities into His Place:** We continue to see an increase in homeless & refugees accessing His Place. Although the Rough Sleepers Initiative has come to an end this April because of funding cuts from their services the attendees are still accessing support through His Place community strand. Therefore, we have succeeded in continuing to provide a cohesive and inclusive community venue.
- **Extended Fellowship team:** We have welcomed Pastor Stuart and Worship leader Mark to our church team, and they are supporting twice a month with ministry on Sundays, guidance for His Place Community Church.

## Section D: Achievements and performance:

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## Section E: Financial review:

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

His Place has a policy requiring that 10k spread across the café and church bank accounts is maintained. This is to ensure that should there be sudden stop in income, or unexpected maintenance bills that the costs can be covered. This if required for a period where the café and church were not able to be open for income stream that the running costs for the building would be maintained for 6-month period. The monthly income and expenditure are monitored and trends of change in income, giving and expenditure monitored by the chair of trustees and treasurer.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

N/A

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.



- Church collection / tithing and general donations Income - £13,556.00 this income is used for the running costs of the building including utilities, insurance, and maintenance.
- Café - £18,704.00 –Due to the living crisis we have been mindful of people's needs and restrictions of their situation and have kept our prices the same as we do not have a mortgage and we are not for profit and at this time it has been possible to provide service with out risking our own situation. The buying prices are checked regularly to ensure we can change suppliers if required to enable to manage financial standing.
- Homeless scheme - £ 250.00 restricted fund and is used for the needs of vulnerable or homeless people's needs. Such as food, or personal care items.
- Donations - £469.00– His Place continues to see visitors and others providing donations for general use of the services we provide.
- Building Fund & heritage grants - £203,432.00 carried over from 2022-2023 for the building restoration project.
- Grants for projects – £1000.00 – restricted funding for use within the community setting and to benefit those requiring warm space due to the financial climate in the UK and its effects on welfare.

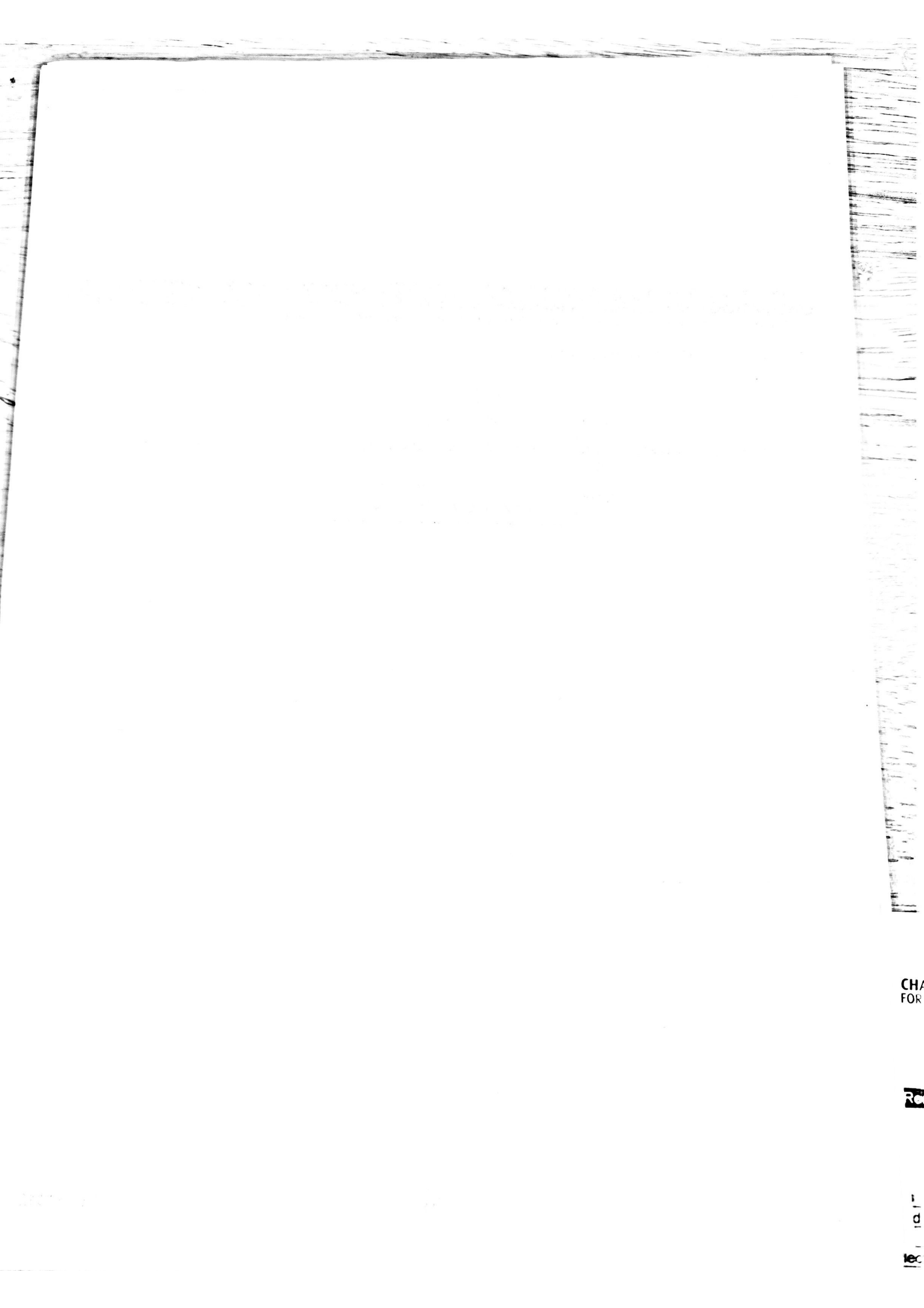
## Section F: Other optional information:

**Section G Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Nicola Roper	Caroline Wheeler
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Health & Safety/ Secretary	Safeguarding
Date	30/12/2024	



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CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
**HIS PLACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

1054331  
1654331

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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	06/04/2023	To	05/04/2024
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**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Building Fund Donations	203,432	-	-	203,432	141,891
Cafe Sales	18,704	-	-	18,704	17,009
Church Collection	13,087	-	-	13,087	14,239
Donations/Legacies	469	-	-	469	22,471
Gift Aid	1,765	-	-	1,765	5,197
Fundraising Activities	76	-	-	76	-
Loan MCA	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-	11,165
Miscellaneous	58	-	-	58	4,002
Room Hire	1,375	-	-	1,375	530
Transfers between accounts	80,770	-	-	80,770	-
Heart of Hastings	-	-	-	-	11,516
Grants	78,178	-	-	78,178	49,139
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>417,913</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>417,913</b>	<b>277,159</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>417,913</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>417,913</b>	<b>277,159</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Administration Costs	8,461	-	-	8,461	13,450
Audio Visual supplies/Software	6,091	-	-	6,091	960
Christian outreach	8,865	-	-	8,865	10,457
Freelance/Contractors	47,299	-	-	47,299	12,817
Fundraising Costs	1,510	-	-	1,510	252
Cafe supplies	11,816	-	-	11,816	7,535
Insurance	8,872	-	-	8,872	7,633
Licences	2,320	-	-	2,320	632
Maintenance/building supply and services	274,467	-	-	274,467	113,913
Miscellaneous	50	-	-	50	2,157
Publicity/Marketing	12,976	-	-	12,976	9,300
Phone /Internet	1,417	-	-	1,417	1,113
Utilities	7,509	-	-	7,509	4,993
Volunteer Expenses	4,645	-	-	4,645	8,487
Waste/Clearance	1,759	-	-	1,759	1,667
QWA QWA	2,163	-	-	2,163	3,474
Catering Equipment	4,917	-	-	4,917	758
Transfer to Cafe Account	30,020	-	-	30,020	-
Transfer to General account	50,750	-	-	50,750	-
Equipment for grant activities	21	-	-	21	3,656
Homeless Vouchers	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>485,927</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>485,927</b>	<b>203,254</b>

<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total payments</i>	<b>485,927</b>	-	-	<b>485,927</b>	<b>203,254</b>
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	<b>- 68,014</b>	-	-	<b>- 68,014</b>	<b>73,905</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>93,243</b>	-	-	<b>93,243</b>	<b>19,338</b>
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	<b>25,229</b>	-	-	<b>25,229</b>	<b>93,243</b>

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period:**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank + Church accounts	15,036	10,000	-
	Cash	193	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b> (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	15,229	10,000	-

Categories	Details	Error	Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
				-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
				-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Fixed Assets		-	49,269
	Non Fixed Assets		-	210,959
	Building		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
				20,000
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	MCA Loan	Church	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>N/A</i>	NICOLA ROPEY	30/12/24
<i>C Wheeler</i>	CAROLINE WHEELER	30/12/24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR HIS PLACE YEAR  
ENDED 5TH APRIL 2024.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of His Place for the year ended 5th April 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity 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 accounts, which comprise the receipts and payments accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination that have given me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records

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.



Helen Barraclough  
Chief Executive  
Etc Sussex  
49 Cambridge Gardens  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN34 1EN

**HIS PLACE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1054331

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date	Period end date
From	<b>06 April 2022</b>	To <b>05 04 2023</b>

## Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	<b>His Place</b>
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	His Place Community Church Hastings
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1054331
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	His Place
	Church & Community venue
	Robertson Street, Hastings
	<b>Postcode</b> TN34 1HL

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rev Christopher Sears	Chairperson / Treasurer	End of term Nov 2022	
2	Margaret Sears		End of term Nov 2022	
3	Nicola Roper	Health & Safety / Secretary		
4	Caroline Wheeler	Safeguarding		
5	Cllr Trevor Webb		Resigned July 2022	
6	Nigel Sinden	Chairperson	Nov 2022 onwards	Nicola Roper
7	Christine Brewer	Treasurer	Nov 2022 onwards	Nicola Roper

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Herbert West	
Rev Chistopher Sears	
Miss Nicola Roper	

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Heritage Consultant Fundraiser	Dr Katherine Prior	Brighton
Heritage Architect	John Bailey	Thomas Ford & Partners 177 Kirkdale, London, SE26 4QH

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution and trust deed adopted 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2006
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, reconstituted company)	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by church members when due at annual general meeting. If for any reason new trustees required during the year due to others stepping down, then these would be elected by trustees sourcing and electing. Trustees serve for 5 years then stand down and can be re-elected if appointed. Anyone reaching 70 year of age has to be assessed re suitability and mental capacity for serving as trustee.

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

**Charity's Organisational Structure and wider network which His Place works with:**

His Place has a managing trustee board with mixed skills to empower the charity and it's running. The board skills include a mix of people with backgrounds in bookkeeping, justice & Mental Health social care, county council service, events management, childcare and catering and business. His Place is a Member of the NVCO and benefits from consultancy support from Dr Katherine Prior a heritage specialist and fundraising consultant and John Bailey Heritage Architect who has been involved with the buildings risk management for aprox 15 years.

**Relationships with other charities / not for profit groups:**

**Hastings Street Pastors & Safe Space project:**

Hastings Safe Space is a Police and ESCC community funded service. This project relies on volunteers caring and providing first aid and support on Saturday nights between 10pm and 4 am. This partnership commenced in July 2021 the previous funders for this service were the NHS CCG and ran from 2017 – 2020 when Covid hit and the service was forced to stop.

**Snowflake Trust** is a registered UK charity (No:1119743) and a company limited by guarantee (registered in England No: 5950395).

The Snowflake homeless support service shares our space from November through till end of March. Working in partnership through providing free catering facilities so they can run their hot meal delivery service. Prior to 2020 covid outbreak they had run night shelters at other churches during the winter months but from 2020 till winter 2023 they have used our premises as a base for preparing hot meal delivery service to street homeless and those in temporary accommodation. The future partnership is not confirmed for 2023 onwards as government regulations have not been confirmed. Snowflake have use of our two-community kitchen and café kitchen in return for payment of electricity used ensuring that their service is protected from unnecessary expenses. Should they revert to providing night shelters for the homeless we would not be able to continue the partnership as His Place building is not insurable for use as a night shelter although temporary.

**OPUS Theatre Hastings:**

Not for Profit community Theatre / classical music venue sharing the church floor for its activities and raising funds for the upkeep of the His

Place building. Polo Piatti started this partnership with us after one hire use in 2017 and ceased this project December 2022 following Covid and a major water ingress. We thank him and his team for all the support they have provided in ensuring the longevity of the building continues and people accessing music. Two members of the His Place trustees had sat on the half yearly review meetings. The contract OPUS had been reviewed annually and amendments made if required due to viability, shared space restrictions, risk and need. To not lose the income stream and musical heritage of the building His Place will continue with providing and managing the space as a venue with Mike Willis local musician and promotor and Keith Forbes our technical manager under the name Henry Ward Hall. The re branding and commencement of this will start from Autum 23.

**1066 Country Crafters: -**

We have worked in partnership with Alan who runs this mental health peer support for the past 8 years, providing space for his biweekly group and storage. Enabling a safe space and opportunity for his group to succeed in continuing and providing community cohesive space for people who are under the support of community mental health teams supporting in their recovery and reintegration into accessing social opportunities and building friendships and links. They have use of a large space while enjoying interaction with café regulars and sharing there crafting successes.

**Trustees Consideration of Major risks and the system and procedures to manage them: -**

**Covid 19 Pandemic –**

during covid pandemic community café remained open for the vulnerable therefore updated training and regular updates to the risk assessments were carried out because of government law changes to continually ensuring the safety of those attending. Partition screens, one-way systems, signage, sanitation, and increased housekeeping were introduced to ensure we remained open and within the legal parameters required. As we returned to fully working premises, we continued the safety measures until end of Summer 2022. As a result, at no time were we forced to close as no one caught the virus while on our premises.

**Covid Financial impact –**

we survived the covid period and with the support of Government grants from Hastings Borough Council we started the financial year 2022 to 2023 in a positive position as we did not lose all of our client / service groups and gradually have re - built the café and community activities back up.

**Building deterioration –**

Ongoing building safety risk management continues as the building is Grade A at risk on Heritage at Risk register. This risk will not reduce regarding Heritage England rating, but the physical risk will have reduced this financial year following the urgent restoration works that commenced January 2023 for the windows and masonry on the north and northeast side of the building which also has not prevented extra heating costs last winter but will aid in future years financial management and environment management.

**Near Miss incident with window failure. –**

The scaffolding for repair works had been due to be erected in November 2022, the week before this one of the windows on the gallery level had decayed and some of the stained glass fell out and the lead had concertinaed and was at risk of falling into the yard and potential harm risk. This incident was found within hours of occurring and our roof maintenance contractor attend same day and helped secure the safety of

passer byes, the building and supported to reduce risk of water ingress while waiting for boarding up when scaffolding completed. Near miss report recorded and filed for records.

**Increase in the reviews of the charity operating system, Health, and safety.**

- **Review of Health and Safety risk management regarding the decay of windows and masonry** – due to the success of obtaining National Lottery Heritage funding – a steal building inspection had been completed, a measured survey and monthly architectural reviews in conjunction with the council Heritage protection officer. This added to the governance and protection of the property and therefore the public and staff who accessed it. Reducing our liability risk.
  
- Finance secured for the restoration repairs to be completed confirmed enabling the saving of the building. Thanks go to Dr Katherine Prior and assistant Nicola Roper for their efforts in completing applications successfully and the support of the His Place Community and other supporters who helped by engaging with promoting our future and praising the work and therefore need of His Place and it's building.
  1. National Churches Trust
  2. National Lottery Heritage Fund
  3. East Sussex Historic Churches Trust
  4. Garfield Weston Foundation
  5. Hobson Trust
  6. Congregational Churches Trust
  7. Heart Of Hastings
  
- **Review and update of financial management:** The changes made in weekly banking, and lowering the level of financial risk by introducing use of card payment has been a positive change and policies re GDPR, Financial management and money movement have been updated to protect the few volunteers whose responsibility it is to undertake financial management tasks. Ongoing challenges continue with the change of address for the banking and removal of Rev Chris Sears as signature following his stroke. Therefore, because of Lloyds Banks procedure and lack of understanding we have had to manage with one signature Nicola Roper and use internet banking as our sole means of managing payments as Rev Chris signature no longer excepted by bank. Adding to the risk for Nicola Roper as the responsibility could not be shared. Treasure and other trustees supported with the purchasing and decision making and oversite of the finances. A complaint has been sent to business element of Lloyds bank following there no acceptance of board of trustee document and minutes sent in as per there policy for removing a signature who has lost capacity or is uncontactable. To prevent future situations like this there will be a minimum of 3 signatures on the account and if a signatory's health is in question trustees will meet and decide whether change of signatures required and act on this while the person has capacity and ability to engage with the bank and its procedures.

**MCA Loan: -**

Risk of cash flow problems identified as National Lottery Heritage Fund only pay 75% of the month's bills 20 days in arrears of claim. This could have led to challenges for His Place in meeting all commitments therefore an application for loan of 50k was made to Methodist Church Association Bank. Who loan money to charities and churches with core cost activities and the money is protected and can only be used for the project requested. His place where successful with the application and aim to pay off as soon as the Heritage work is completed.

**Section C****Objectives and activities**

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

His Place overriding objective is to be an organisation to benefit the public in Hastings and outer areas through all its services and activities. This is managed by having no barriers to the locality of where the guests come from or what, ethnicity, religion, age, gender they are. Everyone can access support, guidance and engage with the different aspects of the His Place Charity.

**His Place Charity objective:** To be a welcoming environment to all members of the public making us a truly inclusive open community organisation where there are no barriers, and all are welcome and able to safely meet and engage in pro social activities.

**Church objective:** To advance the Christian faith in accordance with scriptures, providing a place of worship, bible studies, home groups and prayer support to the members of His Place and any other Christian family who call upon us or visit us. Completing outreach and evangelism to spread the gospel of the Good News.

**Café objective:** To provide a community café which is accessible to people from all areas of the community where they can afford to eat whether they are on benefits, homeless, retired, working and well off.

**Community centre objective:** to provide a place of education, social opportunities and problem solving through access to activities improving integration, skills, problem solving as well as general fun for all ages and abilities. Providing space that can be hired by other charity or community and public sector services ensuring that services required by the public are accessible.

**Health and wellbeing objective:** provide a place where all regardless of challenges, disabilities, age, nationality will feel included. Services to include mental health support, addiction support and life skills to aid people to a full and manageable life.

**Activities undertaken:****Church activities:**

Pastor Graham Compton joined us in April to support as Pastor Chris Sears had been unwell for sometime following a stroke and parkinsons diagnosis. Graham has become a full time member of the team and is now responsible for pastoral and church activities within the His Place Charity structure. Pastor Chris remains a senior pastor following his 25+ years of running His Place community church but due to his deteriorating

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

health active involvement is reducing.

**Sunday services** - His Place hosts a service on a Sunday – max no of attendees is 50 currently this is less than it had been prior to Covid when we hosted 2 services a day. The café is a church to some of the customers many of whom come requesting prayer and fellowship.

The congregation at His Place is inclusive and multi-cultural with several BAME, Eastern European, Caribbean, and Western Asian members. and aged. With a range of social situations. His Place continues to have a family feel and unity amongst all who attend. We have a large number of nurses attending the church who come from the local hospital with their families.

Income to the Church is through giving either through the collection or through regular tithes into the bank. This financial year the gifting through this way has brought in £14,239.32 Gift aid for end of March 2022 was obtained and brought in £5196.58 this was a high amount as we had not claimed for previous 3 years and end of March 2023 brought in Gift aid of £1,764.96.

We claim Listed Places of Worship VAT rebate when undertaking maintenance and other upkeep work that is eligible. We claimed the total of £3,498.40 for this financial year. Next year this will be much greater due to the heritage restoration happening.

**Wednesday fellowship** – Prayer and Praise evenings are attracting a regular attendance of up to 10 people. Who spend an hour and half in fellowship praying, singing for community, church activities and whatever is in their heart. The aim is to increase this to a size where the main church space is used as in pre covid years.

**Church Outreach activities -**

His Place continues to be a lively, integrated church with people from all denominations. The social calendar has continued and worked around restrictions. The activities held have increased friendships, been an opportunity for new people to socialise with us and find out more about His Place. The activities have included meals out, picnics, walks, quiz nights, music events and film nights in the café. Home ministry visits have continued and include visits to some members in care settings. The aim is to increase this for the coming year to include taking social and spiritual activities to the people in mental health care provision including nursing homes and supported accommodation.

**Café:**

Caroline Wheeler trustee oversees the day management and running of the café and community centre. Working Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Fridays weekly. Building up the successful outreach program over the past 6 years. She has been instrumental with recruitment of volunteers, increase in activities and partnerships with 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisations statutory and non statutory.

His Place café continues to be successful as a not-for-profit community café, with a staff of 14 volunteers – covering 30 hours of public open time weekly. The café is only closed Sundays now as it is open Thursdays for activities, but no food served. All food is prepared on site and homemade options available. This is a resource that the older population who attend daily use for ensuring they have a healthy hot meal each day and social inclusion. This year purchase of a commercial dishwasher, and new back door were the major purchases and decorating of water ingress areas.

Our volunteers come from various organisations and referrals – including GPs, Mental Health services, Learning disability teams. Out of all the volunteers there are only 6 who are not engaged with some type of statutory service. The volunteers with Mental Health needs are seen to grow and improve in their health and His Place is included in their treatment reviews and acknowledged as a positive relationship for these people.

The café is a safe place used by statutory and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services to meet their clients. Our regular professional guests include social services, HomeWorks, Mental Health community team. 2 Substance misuse groups.

£17,009.31 was the café income for this year, it had been a busy year but has room for further increase re café customers and evening activities but only possible if we can attract more volunteers who have good health and have access to transport. Advertising for more volunteers has failed to produce good outcomes this past year. The volunteers we have attempted to recruit have not felt able to commit due to their restrictions of health matters. The café had to reduce to two Saturdays a month opening as a supervising volunteer was off on long term sick.

#### **Community Centre:**

The café has rooms attached and space in Church that are multi-functional and create our community centre resource which includes a community kitchen for hire and use by other services, hall, sensory room, playroom, and meeting rooms. This year we had to work through the impact of last year's water ingress, the repair works finished May 2023 and within weeks water entered again and impacting use of sensory room and storeroom. Some equipment was unsalvageable. This time the main areas and services were not heavily impacted on.

The community activities are all inclusive and disabled guests are catered for through person centred planning and if alterations are required or extra equipment is needed, we work with the person and any professional required to modify an activity or service to ensure inclusivity.

The grants we obtained in this period for community use was Benefactor grant for services aimed at Mental health craft and rehabilitation services and music activities for young people. This grant totalled £17,500.

#### **1066 County Crafters: -**

This peer support group is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year with us and we have seen many people regain their health, find employment and therefore move on from this crafting group which meets twice a week to enjoy crafting together, conversation and therefore supporting their wellbeing. To attend this group the participant must be receiving support from the Sussex Partnership NHS Trust community treatment teams. The participant self-refers or can be referred. Alan who runs it part of the His Place community team now and supports with maintenance of our building and this came about because of him partnering with us as a place to deliver his support group.

#### **Warm Space:**

We were fortunate enough last winter to receive a grant from the government warm space scheme, this was for the community aspect of His Place work and this enabled us to extend our winter opening hours, support with access to employment, managing finances, accessing third party support services, increasing social opportunities and providing a space safe for people to enjoy, keep warm and reduce their personal

expenditure at home therefore reducing their risk of hardship. One main result of this was a men's social group where the men would play board games and become very competitive. This has continued because of this program and now you will find a group of men playing drafts, chess, or other games in the café regularly. We hope to increase our winter warm offer this next winter should we be successful gaining further funding.

**Refugee Buddy Project English Class:**

Language Class started this year at His Place because our neighbours were running out of space in their offices next door due to the amount of people needing their service. Now they take over the hall every Tuesday and continue to support refugees in understanding the diverse culture of the town and aid in their transition to living and engaging in a new country while also learning English to aid their inclusion.

**His Place Meet and Greet Community Lunch** – our monthly meal had recommenced post covid but did not run the whole year as numbers dropped due to death of regulars. The numbers needed to be at a double level to make it manageable. The Christmas meal was a success as always and brought non regulars in as well.

**Building Hire:**

Building hires this year only brought in a £530.00. The effect that Opus not being open and the building works being undertaken had effected the income that would normally be earmarked for building works.

**Opus Theatre** – it's the 5th year of bringing in income to the charity all in aid of building regeneration fund, half of all profit is paid to His Place, shared use of space, they have licence for up to 750 people. There larger events include licenced bar and their smaller classical events pull in approx. 500 people. Covid pandemic has hit this income stream as the cost of putting performance on was not achievable. The cost of international concert performers and risk to them and the public in a nonstandard concert venue was to high risk.

**Hastings Safe space -**

In its 3<sup>rd</sup> year after closing for a year due to Covid. It is now funded by the police and East Sussex County Council with the Hastings Street Pastors as the organisation that staff the Saturday nights from 10pm till 4am and supporting the people in need with welfare support.

**Snowflake night shelter** - Due to pandemic the winter homeless shelter scheme had to be altered to provide hot meals to the homeless on streets and those in temp accommodation, Snowflake used the café kitchen from November till end of March 2022 providing 150 meals a night. Through the work of their volunteers.

**Rough Sleepers Initiative –**

This is a new hire from the Eastbourne Council who provided homeless people with mental health or addiction problems housing with support from social services, OT, therapist etc. They have started up a café hub for these individuals once a week in the hall. It is a place for them to start re-integrating and learning skills in an organised setting. Aiding opportunity for these people regardless of their physical / mental state an opportunity to be accessing service within a public space providing opportunity to fit in and meet our customers while being in their safe environment and learning new skills including how to maintain a tenancy.

**Sussex hard of hearing –**

This is a new monthly hire support group for people who are deaf or hard

of hearing. It's a safe environment for them to access the café and mix with our customers as well as have their own organised session where there is sometimes a special guest speaker or for them to discuss the challenges they are experiencing and helping each other through peer support.

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

##### **Volunteer engagement to provide the community and church services within His Place.**

- The café only has 12 volunteers of whom 5 attend the church, this highlights the strength of His Place and the commitment the community has to it. The volunteers who we attract are those whom finding employment is a challenge, we provide person centred volunteering opportunities and welcome all who are eligible to work with us. We have ex-offenders who integrated into the team, and everyone has a risk assessment completed and safeguarding practice in place. We pride ourselves on serving all and providing opportunities regardless of someone's history. When required due to safeguarding needs, we will arrange volunteering tasks within teams to happen out of public opening hours and ensure that every volunteer feels appreciated and is respected within His Place. Social support is volunteering is the community pastoral support which includes welfare checks face to face, phone calls all happening outside of the café or church open hours a lot of which occur in evenings and weekends to ensure mental health breakdown does not occur and support to contact professionals is provided.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Volunteer hours in the year have been approximately.

- Café: 1820 hours
- Church serving drinks: 52 hrs
- Maintenance: 312 hrs
- Social Support: 104 hrs
- Administration: 1300 hrs
- Cleaning and general support: 208 hrs

Total volunteering hours provided by our overall team of 25 volunteers comes to - £3,796.00 in hours which equates to a cost saving of £5,757.44 if they were paid and receiving a minimum wage. Our aim is to eventually be able to have a paid staff and welcome volunteers to and increase all aspects of the His Place work to include outreach programs as well taking services, activities out into the community.

## **Section D**

## **Achievements and performance**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

- **Saving Robertson Street URC Building:** (Our home) for the next generations. This could not have been possible without obtaining grants through National Lottery Heritage funding and match funding from 7 other charities. This has been a long challenge over 6 year of attempts and 2022 – 2023 we succeed thanks to the support of Dr Katherine Prior a heritage consultant and researcher who works within the diocese of Chichester and felt drawn to our building and community due to the work and support with the wider community. It has been a blessing that Katherine has found time to support us and we are immensely grateful.

This project would not have got off the ground without the financial support provided from Hastings Action Zone Fund as without their support the previous year, we could not have funded the surveys required or the guidance required by a Heritage Architect.
- **Teamwork:** We do not have fully paid staff and rely heavily on volunteers from all areas of the community and church members. The management of the building and teamwork in ensuring high standards of hygiene remained high and health and safety continue to be observed ensuring our community can continue to access and enjoy a full range of activities, services, and opportunities at His Place. Retaining volunteers some of which have now been serving in the café for 7 years. As a result of the grants and the heritage project we have been successful in recruiting temporary volunteers in addition who worked with us for an agreed time, fitting in with the exciting team, sharing their knowledge and skills which has empowered the team we already had. We are thankful for Cllr Nigel Sinden agreeing to become our chairperson following Rev Chris's retirement and thank him for taking over from temp Chairperson Nicola Roper who covered in Chris's absence.
- **Rough Sleepers initiative:** this NHS service started out as a small group activity where their service users would attend have a coffee and access OT related activities, as the year has gone on the service users are now welcomed and engage in conversation with the regular café and community users, some will stay or come in at other times into the café as they now feel part of the His Place family. This indicates to all who come that life can be hard and changeable but there is always hope and your self-esteem, control of your life choices and building your life back up is possible.
- **Increased engagement from the public:** Our open day in December for the pre - Make a Joyful noise project saw over 200 people come and engage with the history of the building, and the music heritage team created a community concert in one day which included all ages, nationalities. The Ukrainian community took part and sung traditional carols, members of our mental health project took part in the performances to by singing, dancing. We welcomed the Silver Swans – an over 50's ballet class. It was a joyful day and regardless of level of accomplishment everyone who wanted to perform did and were respected and supported by the audience. The style of the production was old time music hall and because of this there are

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

plans to do future community projects like this once the building is watertight and fully able to open again.

- **Welcoming all nationalities and ethnicities into His Place:**  
We have always prided ourselves of opening our doors to everyone regardless of any social / economical difference and this year we have seen a big increase in the number of refugees accessing His Place. This has been because of further partnership and joint working with the Refugee buddy project and Homes for Ukrainian grant scheme through Hastings Voluntary Action. Our biggest group has been the ladies EDE party. The building was made available for the ladies to have a party and celebrate with food and other traditions without the worry of any outside intrusion. The woman therefore not having to worry about keeping covered and were free to celebrate this important festival for their faith. The refugee buddy project has also used us weekly now for providing space for English lessons which again has helped with community cohesion as their participants pass through the café and engage with speaking to café customers and community members building on the feeling of acceptance and safety that were able to offer in this diverse community of Hastings and St Leonards.
- Pastor Chris Sears had recovered from his ill health and has been able to get back into the building and been able to continue supporting the congregation through guidance and Pastor Graham Compton has joined the team officially now after a few months of being a guest pastor. The church continued as did the charity through the challenges of Pastor Chris's illness as the governing and church leadership team are so strong with their faith, skills set and determination and therefore no service regardless of being community based or church suffered during this time. Large organisations can crumble when sudden changes occur but the resilience that His Place Charity has shown over all the years and the challenges that are not man made prove that we do have a past, present, and future that will see us continue to serve the community for generations to come.

## Section E

## Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

His Place has a policy ensuring that 10k across the café and church bank accounts is the level that must be maintained to ensure that in the event income ceased or situations unexpectedly arise that there would be this figure available to ensure unexpected costs could be covered or that the running costs could be covered for up to 6 months. The monthly income and expenditure are monitored and trends of change in income, giving and expenditure monitored by the chair of trustees and treasurer.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

None

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

- Church collection / tithing and general donations Income – 14,239.32 this income is used for the running costs of the building including utilities, insurance, maintenance.
- Café - £17,009.31 – this income has increased from previous years as the guests and service user footfall has increased also. Due to the living crisis we have been mindful of people's needs and restrictions of their situation and have kept our prices the same as we do not have a mortgage and we are not for profit and at this time it has been possible to provide service with out risking our own situation. The buying prices are checked regularly to ensure we can change suppliers if required to enable to manage financial standing.
- Donations - £22,470.94 - His Place continues to see visitors and others providing donations for general use of the services we provide.
- Building Fund - £78,150.72 – restricted for use towards building related maintenance and restoration
- Grants towards Make a Joyful Noise National Lottery Heritage Fund restoration and music heritage project £63,741.21
- Grants for projects – £33,996.94 – restricted funding for use within the community setting and to benefit those with mental or physical health needs as well as those facing isolation or disadvantaged through education or financial standing. The expenditure from these grants can be carried into the next financial year.

## Section F

## Other optional information

### Asset information:

**Fixed asset value:** £36,000

**Non fixed asset value:** £49,269.35

**Building value:** £210,959.25

**Pat testing:** completed in August 2023

**Fire alarm system:** Wireless fire alarm system installed in 2017 has been maintained with 2 yearly inspections and maintenance.

### Accidents:

2 accidents occurred this year. 1 was our attendance to a member of the public who had a fall outside on Robertson Street and came in for medical attention and due to previous history and a current broken arm was taken to Hospital for check over.

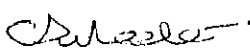
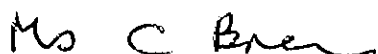
November 2022 – plastic covering one window on the southwest side of the building fell onto a volunteer's car which was parked in the yard. Following this all the plastic was removed from the windows in preparation for the commencement of the heritage restoration.

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	CAROLINE WHEELER	CHRISTINE BREWER
Date	10.11.23	10.11.23



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 06/04/2022	To	Period end date 05/04/2023
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**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Building Fund Donaions	141,891	-	-	141,891	15,829
Cafe Sales	17,009	-	-	17,009	7,380
Church Collection	14,239	-	-	14,239	22,868
Donations/Legacies	22,471	-	-	22,471	2,000
Gift Aid	5,197	-	-	5,197	
Homeless Vouchers	-	-	-	-	150
Insurance Claim	11,165	-	-	11,165	-
Miscellaneous	4,002	-	-	4,002	300
Room Hire	530	-	-	530	1,870
HBC Covid Buisness	-	-	-	-	12,639
Heart of Hastings	11,516	-	-	11,516	
Grants	49,139	-	-	49,139	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>277,159</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>277,159</b>	<b>63,036</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>277,159</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>277,159</b>	<b>63,036</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Administration Costs	13,450	-	-	13,450	8,749
Audio Visual supplies/Software	960	-	-	960	1,809
Chrisian outreach	10,457	-	-	10,457	477
Freelance/Contractors	12,817	-	-	12,817	-
Fundraising Costs	252	-	-	252	
Cafe supplies	7,535	-	-	7,535	4,627
Insurance	7,633	-	-	7,633	6,477
Licences	632	-	-	632	752
Maintenance/building supply and services	113,912	-	-	113,912	29,559
Miscellaneous	2,157	-	-	2,157	2,535
Publicity/Marketing	9,300	-	-	9,300	20
Phone /Internet	1,113	-	-	1,113	1,159
Utilities	4,993	-	-	4,993	7,100
Volunteer Expenses	8,487	-	-	8,487	4,097
Waste/Clearance	1,667	-	-	1,667	1,284
QWA QWA	3,474	-	-	3,474	2,392
Catering Equipment	758	-	-	758	7,895
Equipment for grant activities	3,656	-	-	3,656	3,282
Homeless Vouchers	-	-	-	-	49
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>203,254</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>203,254</b>	<b>82,263</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>203,254</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>203,254</b>	<b>82,263</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>73,905</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,905</b>	<b>- 19,227</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>19,227</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,227</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>93,132</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,132</b>	<b>- 19,227</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank + Church accounts	83,197	10,000	-
	Cash	46	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b> (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	<b>83,243</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>-</b>
	Error	Error	OK	

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Fixed Assets	36000	-	-
	Non Fixed Assets	49269	-	-
	Building	210959	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Mrs C Brewer</i>	CHRISTINE BREWER	23.1.24

**etc  
sussex**

49 Cambridge Gardens  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN34 1EN  
01424 444691  
etcSussex@btinternet.com

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR HIS PLACE YEAR  
ENDED 6TH APRIL 2023.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of His Place for the year ended 6th April 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

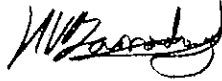
I report in respect of my examination of the accounts, which comprise the receipts and payments accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination that have given me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records

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.



Helen Barraclough  
Chief Executive  
Etc Sussex  
49 Cambridge Gardens  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN34 1EN

**HIS PLACE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1054331

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date	Period end date
<b>From</b>	5 April 2020	4 April 2021
	<b>To</b>	

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** His Place

**Other names charity is known by** (Previous name) St Leonards Pentecostal Church

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1054331

**Charity's principal address**

His Place Church & Community Venue	
Robertson Street	
Hastings East Sussex	
<b>Postcode</b>	TN34 1HL

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rev Christopher Sears	Chairperson		
2	Margaret Sears			
3	Nicola Roper	Treasurer		
4	Caroline Wheeler	Safeguarding Officer / Café Manager		
5	Trevor Webb		From 30 November 2020	
6				

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Burt West	

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by church members when due at annual general meeting.

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity’s organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees’ consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

**Trustee Risk Management**

Two of the trustees, Revd Christopher Sears (Chair) and Margaret Sears, are married and due to this they do not make or sign off any financial decisions alone or manage any banking or accounting matters between themselves.

**Building Risk Management**

The management of the building’s safety risks continues to be a priority for the trustees, as might be expected from the building’s A rating (‘immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed’) on the Heritage at Risk Register. Monthly building inspections were instituted, and a structural engineer’s report on the condition of the steel structure underpinning the south elevation was commissioned.

**Covid-related Risk Management**

Because of the financial risks arising from the pandemic, the trustees instituted more regular monitoring of income and expenditure, and scaled back expenditure to the essential minimum on building safety and maintenance in order to ensure the charity’s survival. The trustees successfully applied for £5,000 from the Government’s Covid-support funding; this came through in July 2020.

Financial management and banking policies were reviewed and updated to reduce the amount of money retained on site and to ensure the safety of staff making deposits, particularly in the months of lockdown when depositors were required to queue for long periods outside of the bank.

As the community café remained open for vulnerable clients throughout most of the pandemic lockdowns, the trustees instituted a continuous process of reviewing and updating risk assessments to ensure staff safety and compliance with the law. This was accompanied by a monthly review of operations regarding the management of communal spaces, social distancing, sanitisation and hygiene practices, and improved signage and communication with volunteers, church members and clients.

**Section C Objectives and activities**

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

His Place is a free church (i.e., not affiliated to any denomination) in the Pentecostal tradition. The objects of the trust are for the benefit of the public: (a) to advance the Christian Faith; (b) to relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health; (c) and to advance education. The means of delivering the objects are determined by the Church Council from time to time as it sees fit; in practice the beneficiaries are based in the towns of Hastings and St Leonards.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity and planning future activities.

The trustees are committed to welcoming and supporting people of all faiths and none on their journeys of spiritual and mental wellbeing and/or exploration of the Christian faith. As part of their Christian mission, the trustees seek to provide spiritual and physical refreshment to people from Hastings and St Leonards, particularly those from marginalised groups who experience financial deprivation, poor health, and/or exclusion from common forms of social and cultural enrichment.

The His Place Community Café is open to all and is a haven for people who feel out of place or unwelcome in conventional commercial cafés but who need somewhere safe and accepting to be. There are also several community rooms which are let for free or at very affordable rates to charitable and self-help organisations, such as AA, Cancer Support and a hard of hearing group.

Since 2017, His Place has hosted Opus Theatre in its main worship space, an innovative arts venture led by the British-Argentine composer and pianist Polo Piatti, which seeks to bring musical performance and education of the highest international standards to Hastings. Revenue after costs from Opus's events is shared 50/50 with His Place and is ring-fenced for improvements to the church building and its facilities.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The trustees are committed to stabilising and strengthening the financial position of the charity. A key element of this is meeting the building's repair needs with a determined programme of fundraising from grants and donations, with a view to reducing the drain on income of emergency repairs and overly burdensome maintenance spends.

The charity relies on the generous labour of volunteers, which even in a year of pandemic lockdowns amounted to 5,500 hours. Over 80% of this contribution was made by the volunteers who keep the Community Café operating. Six volunteers also redecorated the community hall over two weeks.

The trustees endeavour to make volunteering a rewarding activity at His Place and encourage where safely possible the recruitment and training of volunteers from its vulnerable adult users.

Most of His Place's volunteers are referred by GPs, mental health services, learning disability practitioners and other social care teams. Out of all the volunteers there are only four who are not engaged with some type of statutory service. The volunteers with mental health needs are seen to grow and improve in their health and His Place is included in their treatment reviews and acknowledged as a positive relationship for these people.

The trustees take seriously their responsibilities towards the safeguarding and well-being of their volunteers.

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Many of His Place's activities and those that other charities offer at His Place were curtailed by the impact of Covid in 2020/21. But a surprising amount continued in one form or another and the trustees are grateful to all the volunteers who worked so diligently, responsibly and with such passion to continue to provide support services for vulnerable people.

#### Church services and other religious activities

- Two Sunday services (morning service in worship space attended by up to 60; evening café service attended by 20)
- Mid-week Bible Study, with up to 15 attendees
- Two House Groups (Bexhill and Hastings)
- Annual Healing Service
- Two 12-hour inter-church prayer days during the pandemic
- Representation at an inter-church Prayer and Praise event, covering Eastbourne, Hastings and Bexhill, re Covid
- Four baptisms in the sea

#### Outreach activities

His Place runs a range of outreach activities that are open to both church and community centre users, including community meals, walks, quiz nights, film nights in the café, painting and crafting groups, family play days and open mic nights (the latter in conjunction with One Hastings Many Voices). Many of these ran infrequently in 2020/21, but they proved remarkably resilient in springing back to life whenever lockdown restrictions were eased.

#### Café

His Place operates a not-for-profit community café, which is staffed by a team of 10 volunteers and is open for 25 hours a week (excepting Thursdays and Sundays). After the first, severe lockdown it continued to operate throughout the year, offering home-made, allergy-friendly food and drinks at very affordable prices. During the year under review, the café purchased a new dishwasher and completed payments on its coffee machine.

The café space continued to act as an informal, safe meeting space for professionals from Social Services, Homeworks, and the local Mental Health Community Team to meet their clients for 1:1 meetings.

#### His Place Community Centre

The Community Centre continued to offer or host, where lockdown regulations permitted, a range of activities, including:

- **Disability-friendly exercise and activity days**  
On Wednesday mornings, usually attended by 14 people from two care settings with their carers for social engagement with other café users, games and other activities. Participants included people with significant physical disabilities and young adults with learning disabilities.
- **Mental Health Hastings**  
Activities on Wednesdays and Saturdays offering peer support, workshops (craft, mindfulness, fishing for health, music, suicide awareness, managing on a budget, life skills) in partnership with His Place and the 1066 Crafters group. In March 2021, this work secured a grant of £10k from National Lottery Awards for All.

## Section E

## Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The trustees have a policy of maintaining a minimum of three months' expenditure in the current account.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section F



## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Nicola Roper	Caroline Wheeler
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Treasurer	Safeguarding Officer

**Date** 1/2/22

- **Mental Health Safe Place**  
A drop-in on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays during the Covid lockdowns for signposting access to social care and mental health first aid support.
- **Monthly Meet and Greet Community Lunch**  
Approximately 30 attendees, mainly retired or unemployed people.

#### **Hastings Safe Space**

Hastings Safe Space ran from His Place for a second year, offering a safe zone on Saturday nights for people affected by alcohol, or who lack transport to return home or who require First Aid or other support that does not warrant an ambulance call-out. This NHS/Rother CCG-run community project is staffed by volunteers and generates a modest income and goodwill for His Place. The value of the service was underlined on one occasion when local street pastors brought in a stabbing victim who was kept alive by Safe Space's emergency medic team until an ambulance arrived. He made a full recovery and returned to thank the volunteers for their role in saving his life.

#### **Snowflake**

Due to the pandemic, the regular winter homeless shelter scheme in Hastings had to switch from offering overnight accommodation to providing hot meals to rough sleepers and people in temporary accommodation. To facilitate this, His Place made its café kitchen available to homeless charity Snowflake. Every night from early November 2020 to the end of March 2021, Snowflake's volunteers turned out 150 hot meals from the kitchen.

#### **Opus Theatre**

Opus Theatre had its fourth year of residency at His Place, but its ability to host concerts and to generate income both for itself and the repair of His Place's building was reduced to almost nil by the pandemic. In normal times, Opus holds regular concerts attended by an average of 500 people each. It is hoped that Opus will be able to renew a full programme of concerts and other music events in 2022.

#### **Grant Funding**

In July 2020, the trustees secured a £5,000 grant from the Government's Covid-support funding to help stabilise the financial situation during the pandemic.

In March 2021, the trustees were awarded £5,000 from the Sussex Community Foundation to fund activities and the community centre's running costs specifically for the benefit of socially isolated, elderly and/or unemployed clients.

See above under Mental Health Hastings for news too of a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to support MHH's activities at His Place.

The trustees also had the benefit of a heritage conservation adviser who was awarded a £5,000 contract under the Trinity Triangle Heritage Action Zone (TTHAZ) scheme to devise a project budget and fundraising strategy for four projected phases of repair to His Place's building.



## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	07-Apr-20	To	06-Apr-21
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Building fund donation	76	656	-	732	-
Café sales	125	3,085	-	3,210	-
Church collection	15,338	-	-	15,338	15,395
Donation / Legacies	14,277	315	-	14,592	24,814
Fundraising Activities	-	-	-	-	7,649
Homeless Vouchers	100	600	-	700	-
Insurance Claim	1,580	3,692	-	5,272	-
Miscellaneous	3,045	5,000	-	8,045	15,822
Room hire	-	1,000	-	1,000	3,748
Awards 4 All - Mental Health Hastings	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Sussex C Foundation - Carer / cared 4	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>34,542</b>	<b>29,347</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,889</b>	<b>67,427</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>34,542</b>	<b>29,347</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,889</b>	<b>67,427</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Administration costs	290	49	-	340	-
Audio visual supplies / software	552	-	-	552	-
Christian outreach / church materials	325	-	-	325	-
Freelance / contract pay	-	1,330	-	1,330	-
Fundraising costs	54	-	-	54	91,514
Groceries	223	2,474	-	2,697	-
Insurance	3,964	-	-	3,964	-
Licences	400	508	-	908	-
Maintenance / building supply and services	14,458	124	-	14,582	-
Miscellaneous	430	1,297	-	1,727	50
Publicity and marketing	193	-	-	193	-
Phone and internet	1,015	-	-	1,015	-
Utilities	4,780	-	-	4,780	-
Volunteer expenses bus / mileage	1,325	406	-	1,731	-
Waste and clearance costs	438	742	-	1,181	-
QUA QUA mission	1,374	-	-	1,374	-
Catering equipment	131	2,912	-	3,043	-
Homeless vouchers	-	41	-	41	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>29,952</b>	<b>9,884</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,835</b>	<b>91,564</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>29,952</b>	<b>9,884</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,835</b>	<b>91,564</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>4,590</b>	<b>19,463</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,054</b>	<b>- 24,137</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	228	11,817	-	12,045	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,818</b>	<b>31,280</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,099</b>	<b>- 24,137</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Current Account	4,034.23	13,146.63	-
	Bank Church Account	-	18,133.54	-
	Cash	784.12	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>4,818</b>	<b>31,280</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		General	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
His Place  
For the Accounts Year Ended 6 April 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of His Place for the year ended 6 April 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity 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 Trustee's accounts (which comprise the receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities) carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



S.R. Sampson BFP FCA FCIE DChA

For and on behalf of Ashdown Hurrey Auditors Limited

20 Havelock Road

Hastings

East Sussex

TN34 1BP

Date: ..... 04 / 02 / 2022 .....