

Three Bridges Free Church

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 December 2022

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

THREE BRIDGES FREE CHURCH
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Three Bridges Road Three Bridges Crawley RH10 1LS
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Trust Deed dated 17 November 1998 (amended February 1999)
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1074518
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	Graham Bell Steven Collingham Robert Cranfield Nelson Lucero Mark Pash Peter Taylor
BANKERS	Santander UK plc
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Jaimée Young Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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THREE BRIDGES FREE CHURCH
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Objects of the charity

The charity, which is a church, is governed by a trust deed and is constituted as a trust. The charity's principal objects, as set out in its governing document, are to advance the Christian faith.

The Trust seeks to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by acting as a church in the area of Crawley, Sussex.

Review of the charity's main activities and achievements

To further the above objects and vision, the charity's main activities and achievements were as follows:

We began the year by considering how our verses for the year (Colossian 1:13-14) should shape our lives as Christians. We held regular Sunday worship services during which we preached through the books of Exodus, Hebrews, Colossians, Ruth and special series called Firm Foundations in which we looked at our core beliefs as a church. We also held a series of special evangelistic events and service in the run up to Easter as part of our 'Passion for Life' mission. This included putting on an 'Easter Trail' for children in a local park. Many of our Sunday services were livestreamed over the internet as we continued to use the technology and make use of opportunities to reach out online brought about by the covid pandemic. It was encouraging also to see our Sunday morning 'Explorer' children's groups grow.

Our midweek ministry involved our fortnightly Home Groups which looked at the Minor Prophets and our Tuesday morning Bible study group which studied the book of 1 Corinthians. We also relaunched our bi-monthly 'Agape' coffee morning for community outreach and ran a Holiday Bible Club in the February half term which saw about 45 children attend for a full day of activities. In addition, our weekly Friday morning 'Toddler Spot' continued to be appreciated by many local families with pre-school children. We also held regular men's and women's ministry throughout the year.

During the year we also ran our Christianity Explored and Hope Explored courses on a number of occasions and were encouraged to baptise 8 people during three baptismal services.

During the year we reviewed our Safeguarding Policy and held quarterly members meetings. The membership at the end of 2022 stood at 85.

In planning the activities the Trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Renovation

This year we began a multi year building renovation programme with a view to complete various projects over a five year period based on available funding. The felt roof of the old church which was leaking and starting to cause a rot problem was replaced and the main church entrance subfloor with a damp issue was re-waterproofed.

Financial review

During the year income increased by £68,700, to £174,100, and expenditure increased by £14,100, to £143,400. As a result the cash held by the charity increased by £30,700, to £126,200, of which £80,600 is unrestricted and can be used for any charitable purpose.

Reserves policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to hold unrestricted cash of no less than 4 months of unrestricted expenditure (which equates to approximately £42,000) so that the charity could continue to operate should income and / or expenditure vary adversely. At the year end, the charity held unrestricted cash of £80,600. As part of long term planning for capital projects including the building renovation, the trustees have identified the need for investment over a number of years. This means the trustees are holding reserves over £42,000.

Governance

Responsibility for setting policy and for making operating decisions rest with the Trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. The Trustees have ultimate responsibility for the management of the trust and do so with the assistance of the Elders and Deacons on a day to day basis. New Trustees are appointed by a full meeting of the church members, in consultation with the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Graham Bell

Date: 05 October 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THREE BRIDGES FREE CHURCH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Three Bridges Free Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 on pages 5 to 8 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts 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 accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jaimée Young

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: 16 October 2023

THREE BRIDGES FREE CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
<i>Income receipts</i>						
Donations		88,322	-	56,905	145,227	80,936
Gift aid receipts		16,642	-	-	16,642	15,141
Income from charitable activities		390	-	-	390	402
Use of church and car park		11,210	-	-	11,210	7,200
Interest		51	-	-	51	5
Other		579	-	-	579	1,679
<i>Total receipts</i>		117,193	-	56,905	174,098	105,363
<i>Payments</i>						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	110,994	-	15,652	126,646	109,965
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	-	15,970	808	16,778	19,320
<i>Total payments</i>		110,994	15,970	16,460	143,424	129,285
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		6,199	(15,970)	40,445	30,674	(23,923)
Transfers between funds	5	3,025	(3,025)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		9,224	(18,995)	40,445	30,674	(23,923)
Cash funds as at last year end		935	89,454	5,092	95,481	119,404
Cash funds at this year end	A	10,159	70,459	45,537	126,156	95,481

The notes on pages 7 - 8 form part of these accounts.

THREE BRIDGES FREE CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted Funds			
	General funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£	2022
				£
				Total
				2021
				£
A Cash funds				
Cash at bank with immediate access	10,159	34,216	45,537	89,912
Notice deposits	-	36,244	-	36,244
	10,159	70,459	45,537	126,156
				95,481
B Other monetary assets				
Gift aid due to charity	11,588	-	10,188	21,775
Other debtors	-	-	-	-
	11,588	-	10,188	21,775
				11,791
C Liabilities				
Falling due within one year:				
Fee for Independent Examination	1,260	-	-	1,260
	1,260	-	-	1,260
				1,200
D Assets retained for charity's own use				
			Insurance value	
			2022	
			£	£
Freehold Church building			1,150,000	-
Freehold Manse			510,000	-
Contents and equipment			-	136,091
			1,660,000	136,091

The purchase cost of the Manse and the construction cost of the Church are shown. The trustees have used insurance values for equipment since they are unable to reliably estimate current values; insurance values may differ materially from current values.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf

by Graham Bell date 05 October 2023

The notes on pages 7 - 8 form part of these accounts.

THREE BRIDGES FREE CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		General funds	Designated funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly						
Employment costs	Note 4	74,359	-	-	74,359	74,068
Church, property and related costs	Note 2a	27,843	-	-	27,843	27,804
Manse costs	Note 2a	1,083	-	-	1,083	2,917
Church renovation		-	-	15,601	15,601	-
Equipment		1,175	-	-	1,175	1,208
Office, admin and support		864	-	-	864	941
Ministry and outreach activities		3,821	-	52	3,872	2,058
Children, youth and holiday club		1,589	-	-	1,589	933
Other expenses		261	-	-	261	37
		<u>110,994</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,652</u>	<u>126,646</u>	<u>109,965</u>

2a Sinking funds expenditure (incl. property)

	Church	Manse	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Accounts, advice and Independent examination	1,170	-	1,170	2,490
FIEC affiliation	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
SGP affiliation	1,000	-	1,000	-
Other professional fees	-	-	-	198
Insurance	5,601	432	6,033	6,521
Utilities	3,880	-	3,880	2,167
Maintenance and cleaning - Church	14,192	-	14,192	14,679
Maintenance and cleaning - Manse	-	651	651	2,550
	<u>27,843</u>	<u>1,083</u>	<u>28,925</u>	<u>30,604</u>

3 Grants and gifts paid to others

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		General funds	Designated funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Organisations:						
European Christian Mission		-	1,920	-	1,920	1,920
Crosslinks		-	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
UFM Worldwide		-	11,950	50	12,000	15,000
Organisations < £1,000		-	900	155	1,055	900
Individuals		-	-	603	603	300
		<u>-</u>	<u>15,970</u>	<u>808</u>	<u>16,778</u>	<u>19,320</u>

THREE BRIDGES FREE CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4 Transactions with related parties

No payments were made to trustees or persons related to them, except for reimbursement of expenses paid out on behalf of the charity.

5 Movement of funds

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	935	117,193	(110,994)	3,025	10,159
Designated funds					
Missionary Fund	6,721	-	(15,970)	15,950	6,701
Sinking Fund	82,733	-	-	(18,975)	63,758
	<u>90,389</u>	<u>117,193</u>	<u>(126,964)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,618</u>
Restricted funds					
Church Library Fund	362	-	(52)	-	310
Building Fund	-	56,750	(15,601)	-	41,149
Hardship Fund	4,655	-	(578)	-	4,078
Other Funds	75	155	(230)	-	-
	<u>5,092</u>	<u>56,905</u>	<u>(16,460)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,537</u>
Total funds	<u>95,481</u>	<u>174,098</u>	<u>(143,424)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,156</u>

The designated Missionary Fund relates to funds set aside from giving to support missionaries in various countries including France, Uganda and the UK through organisations such as UFM, ECM and Gideons.

The Sinking Fund is used for capital and one off yearly projects along with supporting the increased expense of a second full time pastor. Surplus general funds are transferred to this fund for this purpose.

The restricted Church Library Fund relates to funds donated for the purchase of books for the church library. Due to the size of the original gift it has taken some time to spend this wisely and as new appropriate books become available additional books are purchased from this.

The Building fund relates to donations given for the purpose of the building renovation programme which includes replacing the heating system and a kitchen project.

The restricted Hardship Fund is for the purpose of practically supporting others through difficult trials including situations of material need.