

**Riviera Life Church**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Registered charity number 1082222

## Riviera Life Church

### Charity Information

Registered Charity Number	1082222
Address	527 Babbacombe Road Torquay Devon TQ1 1HG
Bankers	HSBC Bank Plc 4 The Strand Torquay Devon TQ1 2AB
Independent examiner	Martin Hobbs BSc ACA Francis Clark LLP Chartered Accountants Sigma House Oak View Close Edginswell Park Torquay TQ2 7FF
Trustees	Anita Wise Rev Ian Williams Christine Slaney Mark Slaney Mike Benson (Chairman) John Ward Rev Jordan Williams Rev Jonathan Baldwin

# **Riviera Life Church**

## **Financial Statements**

Year Ended 31 December 2023

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## **Riviera Life Church**

### **Trustees' Report**

Year Ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees of Riviera Life Church have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023:

#### **Governing Document**

The Governing Document of the charitable company is its constitution adopted on 25 April 1999, as amended on 6 August 2000.

#### **Objects of the Charity**

- (1) The advancement of the Christian religion by the proclamation and furtherance of the Word of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ the Lord and the preaching and teaching of the Word of God by the Church in accordance with the Statement of Fundamental Truths of Assemblies of God in Great Britain as approved by the General Council from time to time (the Statement).
- (2) Such other charitable purposes as shall further the attainment of the above objectives of the Church or any other objective put forward.
- (3) The furtherance of the other charitable work of the Church consistent with the statement.
- (4) The furtherance of the work of Assemblies of God in Great Britain and Ireland and the promotion of the spiritual teaching and the maintenance of the statement and the promotion of religious observances that manifest the Statement.

#### **Organisational Structure**

Riviera Life Church Trustees are appointed to the board by recommendation of the Chairperson and by a subsequent majority vote of existing Trustees. Bi-monthly Trustee (Church Management) meetings make decisions in relation to the affairs of the Charity Compliance, to ensure that all activities and achievements provide benefit to the community. The Church Management Team authorises the delegation of limited powers to the Core Leadership Team (CLT) in order to enable faster decision-making. This includes spending authorisation up to a pre-approved level. The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding which activities the Charity should undertake.

#### **Sunday Services**

We have seen numbers attending Church services steadily increase during the last twelve months. Sunday School (renamed Glow Kids in 2018) is provided during the service. We also operate a session for our Youth group called "Pursue", this too is held during the service most weeks, except when it is felt the Youth would further benefit from staying in the main auditorium. In addition, one Sunday evening prayer meeting is hosted each month. Baptismal and Partnership services were also held as regularly as possible during 2023. From March 2020 we have been streaming our services live with the added facility to watch later (or again) if required. This was started during the pandemic but was always a part of the long-term plan for Riviera Life Church so life could carry on for our Church family via Live Streaming services and Zoom Prayer meetings and Life Groups etc.

#### **Children's Department**

**Glow Kids** for ages 3-11 (Sunday School) takes place during our Sunday morning service.

**Jelly Babies** (a parent led crèche facility) continues to provide parents/guardians a place to go during our service on a Sunday morning.

#### **Youth Department**

**Unite** - (Friday) runs on a weekly basis during school term times and caters for young people between 11 years and 18 years old. Unite offers a safe place for its numbers and consists of games, social time, snacks and a short devotional time each week. We have seen a steady number in Unite throughout 2023.

**Pursue** - (Sunday mornings – during service) this is a discipleship group for 11-18 year olds that runs in conjunction with the Sunday morning service. The purpose of the group is to encourage, support and provide building blocks to live life well.



## **Riviera Life Church**

### **Trustees' Report**

Year Ended 31 December 2023

#### **Worship Department**

The Worship Team has again continued to support the Church's main services throughout 2023 including serving at AoG GB Regional events, weddings, funerals and other mainstream events within the Christian calendar. The team has grown its numbers again during the year with many talented musicians, singers and technicians being encouraged to stretch themselves in their gifting. The leadership within the worship team has again invested significant time, energy and resources into the development of the group and has attracted a number of new team members from across all generations. Considerable effort has also been made to further upgrade the media streaming abilities of RLC during 2023, with options to live stream sermons and other events as required. This facility will mean that Church community members will never have to miss out if they are ever unable to attend in person for whatever reason.

#### **Other Activities with Riviera Life Church**

**Social Activities\_-** everyone connected to Riviera Life Church is encouraged to engage in a wide and varied social calendar that helps build friendship, and a caring and supportive community. During 2023 there were several occasions where social events were held for the Church community, these would normally include (but are not limited too), BBQ's and picnic's in the park during the summer months and a Christmas party night etc. During the last twelve months, new initiatives have been started with a ladies social group and then a men's social group, these groups meet regularly for breakfasts and fellowship and other social events that differ depending on seasons (walk with ice creams, BBQ's etc in the summer and a curry night in the winter for example).

**Welcome Department\_-** the stewarding and refreshment teams serve on a weekly basis during our Sunday services and are invaluable in making church attendees feel comfortable and welcome at all church activities and programmes. A new area added to the Welcome Department during 2017 was a Newcomers Team, the members of which are there to make sure that anyone in Church for the first time is chatted to and made aware of the different groups and activities that we have in place that might be of interest. This area had again seen a steady stream of people welcomed through as new to the Church during 2023, some have come back (via Live Streaming etc.) and some haven't as we would expect, those that have come back have been encouraged by the whole Church Family approach (some of those that haven't come back were holidaying in Torbay).

**Life Groups -** Life Groups have a variation of meeting times and geographical locations allowing more people to engage and participate. Life Groups continue to implement the "3 Qs" programme to strengthen teaching and improve pastoral care. During 2023 we have again, seen growth within the life groups and we have opened additional life group venues as a result.

**XLR8** (for 18-30s) met twice a month, at 7.30pm on the third Saturday evening of the month for social and pastoral support and one Sunday evening a month for discipleship development during the year. This group has expanded its numbers over the year and endeavors to provide a vibrant and healthy environment for the attendees to nurture authentic relationships.

**Training -** Riviera Life Church had planned ongoing training during 2023. The planned training was varied and diverse in its content and where held via Zoom (Alpha Course etc) it was delivered to a high standard. In addition, we have continued to look at another course on Safeguarding within the Church environment. This is a very important course to our Church Family members that haven't yet attended (new volunteers since last course). This is a compulsory attendance for anyone working with children and/or vulnerable adults) each new volunteer in 2023 was taken through the Safeguarding steps on a one-to-one basis and will be expected to attend the next training event.

#### **Activities and Achievements for Public Benefit**

The main achievements of the Charity during the year have been the continuation of welfare support, teaching and outreach to all who come into contact with the Charity or its partners. The Charity has fulfilled its ongoing objectives in advancing the Christian faith to all age groups and has worked alongside other charitable agencies to provide assistance and help within its community and beyond. Riviera Life Church continued to open its doors every Thursday to vulnerable people from the individual to entire family, who are in a time of need to their "Storehouse" Project. This sees those who turn up directed to sources of valuable information, to provision of food hampers and various household items depending on their need(s). This has proven to be an invaluable area of

## Riviera Life Church

### Trustees' Report

Year Ended 31 December 2023

community support and is well known by the appropriate external agencies throughout Torbay as somewhere to direct people knowing they will be looked after.

#### Community Events

The Church has also again been involved in various outreach events during the year, connecting with vulnerable members of the local community and working in partnership with agencies such as "Redeeming Our Communities" (ROC), and Linx Christian Youth Trust. RoC and Linx were also supported via gifting and continue to be supported financially monthly.

#### Support Provided

Riviera Life Church continues to have Welfare and Gift Funds available. The Welfare Fund is designated to help those who are experiencing hardship within the Charity's local community, with the Gift Fund being used to meet needs within the wider community/world. Both Funds are released at the discretion of the Trustees and through recommendations from Riviera Life Church congregation members and partnering agencies. An increased number of organisations/individuals have received gifts during 2023 to help facilitate their mission or support their everyday living. In addition to this, during the 2023 Christmas period we provided in excess of 220 Christmas hampers to local families experiencing hardships that were caused by the current cost of living crisis and job losses etc. Also, we assisted financially several local families with gifts ranging from £50 to £200 depending on need, as part of our "Make Christmas Great" initiative.

Riviera Life Church have continued to help finance and support "Redeeming our Communities" (RoC), and Linx Schools Team within Torbay secondary schools.

#### Other information.

The Church has maintained a presence both for the Church family and the surrounding communities through another tough year. The cost-of-living crisis imposed on us all meant that people were to go without but through the generosity of various partners, Riviera Life Church were able to assist many individuals and families with various items, including a venture where we have set up a branch of Storehouse for families with babies, where they can get new and used items for babies, food and formula milk etc. This has been well used since March 2020 and again throughout 2023.

#### Finances

The Charity has remained financially viable through the generous giving of its partners and supporters and the careful managing of resources. Additional financial planning is still being implemented including the close analysis and setting of budgets for each department and spending limits.

#### Reserves

Much of the Charity's reserves are tied up in its properties. The Trustees plan to retain a modest level of free reserves (unrestricted reserves that are freely available to the Charity) as a contingency fund against future demands on the Charity, which are, to a certain extent, unpredictable in nature. During 2023 it was agreed by the Core Leadership Team and Church Management Team to release one of its properties (The RoC Centre in Chelston Torquay). The property was placed on the open market and quite quickly an offer was received for the property, negotiations around that offer led to an increased offer which the Church Management Team considered "as good as was going to be achieved" so was agreed. The completion of this sale is due to take place in the first quarter of 2024. The monies raised from this sale will be placed into secure bank accounts in preparation for the future of Riviera Life Church. Free reserves at 31st December 2023 were £362,825 (2022 - £361,315).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Mike Benson  
Trustee (Chairman)

7th May 24.



## Riviera Life Church

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

Year Ended 31 December 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Riviera Life Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

#### 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 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 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 Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



**Martin Hobbs BSc ACA**

Francis Clark LLP

Chartered Accountants

Sigma House

Oak View Close

Edginswell Park

Torquay

TQ2 7FF

11 June 2024

## Riviera Life Church

### Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 December 2023

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>								
Collections	140,176	15,636	9,587	165,399	111,199	14,355	7,903	133,457
Gift aid	23,687	2,632	-	26,319	20,917	2,324	-	23,241
Interest received	7,940	-	-	7,940	3,155	-	-	3,155
Other income	1,954	-	-	1,954	711	-	-	711
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,757</b>	<b>18,268</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>201,612</b>	<b>135,982</b>	<b>16,679</b>	<b>7,903</b>	<b>160,564</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>								
Wages and salaries	88,144	-	-	88,144	78,278	8,914	1,086	88,278
Giving	17,792	-	9,673	27,465	2,015	9,241	6,750	18,006
Administrative expenses	5,056	-	-	5,056	5,254	-	-	5,254
Premises expenses	32,140	-	-	32,140	40,956	-	-	40,956
Church activities	28,262	-	-	28,262	21,695	-	-	21,695
Subscriptions and licences	6,712	-	-	6,712	6,384	-	-	6,384
Other expenses	15,454	-	-	15,454	12,322	-	-	12,322
<b>Total</b>	<b>177,977</b>	<b>15,583</b>	<b>9,673</b>	<b>203,233</b>	<b>166,904</b>	<b>18,155</b>	<b>7,836</b>	<b>192,895</b>
<b>Net (Expenditure)/ Income</b>	<b>(4,220)</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>(86)</b>	<b>(1,621)</b>	<b>(30,922)</b>	<b>(1,476)</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>(32,331)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>	<b>(814)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(419)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Movement in funds</b>	<b>(5,034)</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>(1,621)</b>	<b>(31,341)</b>	<b>(1,476)</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>(32,331)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>								
Funds brought forward	636,487	24,811	22,863	684,161	667,828	26,287	22,377	716,492
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>631,453</b>	<b>27,496</b>	<b>23,591</b>	<b>682,540</b>	<b>636,487</b>	<b>24,811</b>	<b>22,863</b>	<b>684,161</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>								
Tangible fixed assets	296,124	-	-	296,124	299,983	-	-	299,983
Current assets	342,433	27,496	23,591	393,520	340,431	24,811	22,863	388,105
Current liabilities	(7,104)	-	-	(7,104)	(3,927)	-	-	(3,927)
	<b>631,453</b>	<b>27,496</b>	<b>23,591</b>	<b>682,540</b>	<b>636,487</b>	<b>24,811</b>	<b>22,863</b>	<b>684,161</b>



# Riviera Life Church

## Balance Sheet

31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets	4	296,124	299,983
		<u>296,124</u>	<u>299,983</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	5	4,494	3,855
Cash at bank and in hand		389,026	384,250
		<u>393,520</u>	<u>388,105</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	6	(7,104)	(3,927)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>386,416</u>	<u>384,178</u>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>682,540</u>	<u>684,161</u>
		<u>682,540</u>	<u>684,161</u>
 The funds of the charity			
General funds	7	631,453	636,487
Designated funds	7	27,496	24,811
		<u>658,949</u>	<u>661,298</u>
Unrestricted funds		658,949	661,298
Restricted funds	7	23,591	22,863
		<u>682,540</u>	<u>684,161</u>
Total charity funds		<u>682,540</u>	<u>684,161</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 7th May 24 and signed on their behalf by

  
 .....  
**Mike Benson**  
 Trustee

# Riviera Life Church

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 1. Accounting policies

#### (a) Basic of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The functional and presentational currency of these financial statements is sterling.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### (b) Income recognition

The income shown in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) represents amounts receivable during the period. Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

#### (c) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measure reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT.

#### (d) Pension contributions

The charity contributes to the defined contribution pension schemes on behalf of certain employees. The amount charged to the SOFA represents the amounts of contributions made during the year.

#### (e) Fixed assets and depreciation

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of fixed assets other than freehold land by equal annual instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

- Freehold buildings 50 years
- Equipment and fixtures 5 years

#### (f) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds which have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are those which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

# Riviera Life Church

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### (h) Financial instruments

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for, according to the substance of the contractual arrangement, as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities. The charity holds the following financial instruments, all of which are considered to be basic:

- Short term debtors and creditors
- Cash and bank balances

### 2. Income

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent examiner's fees:		
For independent examination	500	500
For other accountancy services	3,490	3,136
	<u>3,990</u>	<u>3,636</u>

### 3. Staff costs

Wages and salaries	84,497	84,270
Social security costs	390	302
Pension contributions for five (2022 four) employees	3,257	3,706
	<u>88,144</u>	<u>88,278</u>

The charity employed an average of four members of staff during the year (2022 six).

During the year, remuneration was paid to the trustees (including their connected persons) under the authority given in the charity's constitution as follows:

	Salary £	Pension costs £	2023 £	Salary £	Pension costs	2022
Anita Wise	18,043	1,083	19,126	17,391	1,044	18,435
Ian Williams, including remuneration paid to Mrs Jackie Williams	-	-	-	10,535	-	10,535
Jordan Williams	31,023	1,241	32,264	29,901	1,196	31,097
Jon Baldwin	16,924	677	17,601	16,312	652	16,964
	<u>65,990</u>	<u>3,001</u>	<u>68,991</u>	<u>74,139</u>	<u>2,892</u>	<u>77,031</u>

In addition, expenses totalling £1,360 (primarily for travel and telephone costs) were reimbursed to three trustees (2022 - £1,551 to four trustees).

# Riviera Life Church

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

### 4. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Equipment and fixtures £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January 2023	347,038	42,788	389,826
Additions	-	1,308	1,308
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>347,038</b>	<b>44,096</b>	<b>391,134</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January 2023	48,447	41,396	89,843
Charge for the year	4,155	1,012	5,167
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>52,602</b>	<b>42,408</b>	<b>95,010</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>294,436</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>296,124</b>
At 31 December 2022	298,591	1,392	299,983

Tangible fixed assets for the year ended 31 December 2022 included a depreciation charge of £4,155 on freehold property and £1,887 on equipment and fixtures. There were additions of £1,421 of equipment and fixtures.

### 5. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Gift aid receivable	4,225	3,586
Other debtors	269	269
	<b>4,494</b>	<b>3,855</b>

### 6. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
AOG creditor	476	427
PAYE & NI creditor	1,811	-
Accruals	4,817	3,500
	<b>7,104</b>	<b>3,927</b>



## Riviera Life Church

### Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

7. Funds	1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 December 2023 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Unite	497	1,407	(1,424)	-	480
Unite Sponsored Walk	110	-	-	(110)	-
Building fund	18,629	620	-	-	19,249
Ladies' Events Fund	341	1,900	(2,054)	-	187
Men's Events Fund	100	734	(812)	-	22
Youth Adult Conference	784	75	(206)	-	653
D Williams Legacy fund	1,390	-	(995)	-	395
Jellytots Revenue & Expense	20	-	-	(20)	-
Worship Team	123	-	(216)	93	-
UKC & HYC Donations	869	-	-	130	999
RLC/RLL Income/Expenses	-	451	(60)	(391)	-
Unite Compassion	-	1,476	(413)	(20)	1,043
Unite Youth Lions	-	995	(2,035)	1,040	-
Impact General	-	666	(262)	-	404
Earthquake Fund	-	490	(582)	92	-
Men's Uganda Fund	-	253	(253)	-	-
Riviera Toddlers	-	159	-	-	159
Alan Peart donations	-	41	(41)	-	-
Limitless	-	320	(320)	-	-
	<u>22,863</u>	<u>9,587</u>	<u>(9,673)</u>	<u>814</u>	<u>23,591</u>
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Gift account	24,811	18,268	(15,583)	-	27,496
<b>General funds</b>	<u>636,487</u>	<u>173,757</u>	<u>(177,977)</u>	<u>(814)</u>	<u>631,453</u>
	<u>684,161</u>	<u>201,612</u>	<u>(203,233)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>682,540</u>

# Riviera Life Church

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 December 2022 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Unite	120	987	(610)	-	497
Unite Sponsored Walk	110	-	-	-	110
Building fund	18,249	380	-	-	18,629
Ladies' Events Fund	341	-	-	-	341
Men's Events Fund	100	-	-	-	100
Youth Adult Conference	961	205	(382)	-	784
D Williams Legacy fund	1,390	-	-	-	1,390
Jellytots Revenue & Expense	20	-	-	-	20
Gift Collection	1,086	-	(1,086)	-	-
Worship Team	-	123	-	-	123
Ukraine Fund	-	1,075	(1,075)	-	-
Ultimate Kids Camp (UKC)	-	1,798	(1,798)	-	-
Heatree Youth Camp (HYC)	-	1,795	(1,795)	-	-
UKC & HYC Donations	-	975	(106)	-	869
Janet Hickley Thanksgiving	-	505	(505)	-	-
RLC/RLL Income/Expenses	-	60	(451)	391	-
Compassion (Unite)	-	-	(28)	28	-
	<u>22,377</u>	<u>7,903</u>	<u>(7,836)</u>	<u>419</u>	<u>22,863</u>
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Gift account	26,287	16,679	(18,155)	-	24,811
<b>General funds</b>	<u>667,828</u>	<u>135,982</u>	<u>(166,904)</u>	<u>(419)</u>	<u>636,487</u>
	<u><u>716,492</u></u>	<u><u>160,564</u></u>	<u><u>192,895</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>684,161</u></u>