

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD (RCCG)

STRONG TOWER PARISH



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TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD (RCCG)

STRONG TOWER PARISH

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Corporate Information

Registered Charity Number: 1084588

Registered Office: 923 – 927 Oldham Road, Newton Heath, Manchester M40 2EB

Principal Office: 923 – 927 Oldham Road, Newton Heath, Manchester M40 2EB

Pastor in Charge: Pastor Wellington Obadimeji

Board of Trustees: Pastor Musa Bako - Chairman

Mr Taiwo Adegbola

Mrs Aderonke Edem

Mrs Bola Adewusi

Mr Feyisayo Afolabi

Bankers: Barclays Bank Plc
Manchester University Branch
137 Oxford Road
Manchester
M1 7DY

Board of Trustee's Report

Introduction

The Trustees present their annual report and the financial statements of The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) Strong Tower Parish (the Charity) for the period ended 31 December 2023. The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit "Charities and Public Benefit".

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a parish of The Redeemed Christian Church of God which has parishes all over the world. The parish's relationship with other parishes is governed by an 'Agreement for Common Purposes'.

The charity was constituted under a trust deed dated 11th December 2000 and is registered in England and Wales with charity number 1084588

Appointment or Election of Trustees

Trustees are elected and or co-opted under the terms of the trust deed.

Policies Adopted for the Induction and Training of New Trustees

The induction process for a newly appointed trustee comprises an initial meeting with the Chair and other Trustees, followed by short meetings with the Pastor in Charge on the powers and responsibilities of the Trustees.

Organisational Structure and Decision Making

The charity is organised so that the Trustees meet regularly to manage its affairs. The Pastor in Charge manages the day to day administration of the church.

Objectives and Activities

The principal object is the advancement of Christian faith worldwide and the relief of poverty. To promote any charitable activity for the benefit of the local people. To achieve its objectives, the church adopted the following strategies:

- Running seminars in the church with proven ministers of the faith to guide members in the various aspect of Christian faith.
- Support for other Charities and Christian events
- Involving in community development by reaching out to the youth and the elderly through outreaches.

Board of Trustee's Report

The activities for achieving its objectives include:

- Community outreach events
- Conferences and events
- Welfare support to members and general public, and
- Various missionary activities

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular to its supplementary public benefit guidance advancing religion and relieving poverty when reviewing the charity's aim and objectives and in planning future activities and grant making policy for the year.

Achievements and Performance

Aim and purpose

The aim of RCCG Strong Tower Church is to advance the Christian faith locally and nationally in alignment with the doctrines established by our parent church - The Redeemed Christian Church of God Worldwide. Strong Tower Parish Manchester actively collaborates with the council and wider community to foster faith, love, and charitable initiatives in Newton Heath and its surrounding areas.

Objectives

Strong Tower Church remains steadfast in its commitment to facilitate worship experiences and community integration for a diverse group of individuals. Through a variety of activities, the church endeavours to engage its members, involving them in parish life. The leadership, along with church workers, continuously oversee worship activities, incorporating suggestions from various groups within the church to enhance services. Our worship services emphasize the practical application of faith through prayer, scripture, and music.

Activities

In planning the 2023 activities, the church aimed to encompass a broad spectrum of individuals, including various gender groups, children, families, and aligning with the council's guidance on public benefit and religious charity. These actions were structured to enable ordinary individuals to actively live out their faith within the church community, focusing on Worship, Word, Prayers, and Evangelism.

Unique services are conducted every Sunday, including a dedicated thanksgiving service on the first Sunday of each month. The second Sunday features an interactive session designed for couples, singles, single mothers, and families to address everyday questions that many Christians may typically avoid.

The Parish Pastor provides a platform during Wednesday services for upcoming ministers to impart teachings. This serves as both a training opportunity and a means for the attendees to deepen their understanding of the gospel while fostering relationships between scholars and church members.

Board of Trustee's Report

The church is blessed with dedicated prayer warriors and spiritual supporters who uplift the pastorates and congregation. By leveraging social media, including the church website, YouTube live streaming, and recorded messages, we maintain outreach to the community, especially for those unable to attend physically. The technical team continuously enhances technology utilization to increase engagement with members and community friends.

The Children's Church continues to thrive, actively participating in church programs and events. The children showcase their talents through song, dance, mime, and drama presentations, and are consistently involved in Sunday sessions. They join the adult service during Thanksgiving and Youth Sundays. Sunday School lessons, guided by the RCCG children and teens manual, focus on Bible stories and teachings, with an average weekly attendance of 40 children, and up to 80 on Thanksgiving and special Sundays. A notable highlight was the celebration of Children's Day on May 28, 2023, where the children led the majority of the service, ministering through songs, drama, memory verses, and sermons.

The Children's Church achievements this year include providing Christian education for ages 3-11, engaging them during services, offering spiritual and intellectual counselling, and nurturing future leaders who are well-grounded in the Word of God. The church has raised confident, morally upright, and goal-oriented children, who positively impact the community.

The youth department, known as GDep, caters to younger youth aged 11-18, while those 19 and above serve as youth leaders, offering opportunities for personal growth and leadership development. A major event in 2023 was "GDep's Got Talent" in August, which saw significant attendance from local youths and participants from Greater Manchester. The event included mimes, musical dramas, dancing, singing, and band performances. This was followed by the annual residential retreat in September, where many youths attended, accompanied by their leaders. These events aimed to recharge the youth after the school exam season and prepare them for the talent show.

GDep Friday sessions focus on addressing the spiritual, physical, mental, and material needs of the youth, with activities such as games, educational sessions, skill development, and mentoring. The third Sunday of each month is designated as "Youth Sunday," empowering youth to lead the service and build their confidence, leadership, and public speaking skills.

The Young Professionals group, "Revive," engages members through WhatsApp and Zoom, where they participate in catch-up sessions, group discussions, prayers, interactive games, and bi-weekly Bible studies. These activities support the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of members while also providing career guidance, mentoring, and networking opportunities.

The church's Men of Valour (MoV) and Women of Dignity (WoD) ministries continue to serve as crucial support systems for social and spiritual care, helping maintain balance within families and the broader community. These ministries are vital in evangelism, welfare networking, and empowerment for men and women in the church and community.

Board of Trustee's Report

MoV, with support from other members, organised various events throughout the year. Highlights include the Couples Retreat from May 5th to 7th at the Village Hotel in Bolton, which featured prayers, Q&A sessions and discussions on future careers. Father's Day was celebrated in June with men choir ministrations, career talks, and drama presentations. The MoV also held successful night vigils, interceding for men, marriages, jobs, children, and newcomers. Additional activities included mini parties in the park in July and August and the launch of the men's football team, promoting fitness and monthly discussions on health, finance, career, family and spirituality.

The WoD continues to meet monthly via Zoom, offering a platform for women to discuss topics ranging from marriage and children to careers, investments, and personal development.

Lastly, the church participated in its annual Community Christmas engagement program, distributing gifts to households in the vicinity and to first-time attendees, bringing joy and support to the most vulnerable during the Christmas season. The Lord continues to bring new members to the church from various parts of the world, each with diverse experiences in ministry. Many have now settled in and are actively contributing to the work of God, adding tremendous value to the church. We are continually blessed by testimonies of God's faithfulness, motivating the church to press forward in its mission to serve the community.

Grant Making Policy

The church supports visiting ministers of the gospel both within and outside the United Kingdom. The church supports other charities and missionary that shares its objects in advancement of Christian faith and relief of poverty.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied the systems are in place to mitigate our exposures to the major risks.

Financial Review

The church continues to enjoy tremendous growth in its physical and spiritual life during the year, and in the advancement of Christian faith in accordance with the doctrines set out in the Statement of Faith as contained in our Trust deed.

During the year to 31st December 2023, the church had a total income of £233,203. Total operating charitable expenditure was £198,615 giving an operating surplus of £34,589.

The Charity's principal funding sources has been provided mainly through tithes and offerings by church members and through gift aid. Pledges are also taken for specific projects.

Board of Trustee's Report

Investment Policy

The Trustees have decided that at present, funds should be retained in Banks and Building Societies, and as far as possible in interest bearing accounts.

Reserves Policy

The trustees' policy is to have unrestricted and uncommitted funds (free reserves) to cover 3 to 6 months of resources expended which equals to roughly £20,000 to £40,000 in general funds. They feel that this would enable the current activities to continue if there is a significant drop in funding. It would obviously be necessary to then consider how the funding would be replaced or activities changed. The trustees have set aside £30,000 as free reserve within its policy range but the trustees are continuing to seek additional unrestricted funds to build up its reserves.

Volunteers

The church is grateful to its volunteers who gave their services for free to the charity. It is estimated that over 3,000 hours were provided by volunteers during the year. If this is conservatively valued at £10.44 per hour, the volunteer's effort will amount to over £31,300.

Future Development

The charity continues to explore various ways of spreading the gospel of Christ in an effective manner. The charity is also looking to grow in membership and continue to develop its members to make life-changing impact in society.

Board of Trustee's Report

Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income or expenditure of the charity for the year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material
- departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to
- presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 07 November 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Full Name: Musa Bako

Signature:

Position: Chairman

Date: 30 October 2023

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of: The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) Strong Tower Parish
On accounts for the year ended: 31st December 2023
Charity No: 1084588

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

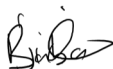
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 30 October 2023

Name: Tobi Labeodan, for and on behalf of Chedders Ltd

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ACCA

Address: Ground Floor, Synium House, r/o 94-96 High Street, Henley in Arden B95 5FY

Statement of Financial Activities: Year Ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income:							
Donations and legacies	1	201,191		201,191	159,711	-	159,711
Other income (Grants)	1	32,013	-	32,013	49,711	-	49,711
Total Income		233,203	-	233,203	209,422	-	209,422
Total Income		233,203	-	233,203	209,422	-	209,422
Expenditures on:							
Charitable Activities	2	169,225	-	169,225	145,286	-	145,286
Other Charitable Activities	2	28,470	-	28,470	30,903	-	30,903
Other Costs	2	920	-	920	1,990	-	1,990
Total Expenditures		198,615	-	198,615	178,179	-	178,179
Net income/(expenditure)		34,589	-	34,589	31,243	-	31,243
Transfers between funds							
Other recognised gains/(losses):							
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets				-			-
Gains/(losses) on investment assets				-			-
Net movement in funds		34,589	-	34,589	31,243	-	31,243
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward at 1 Jan 2023		222,928	-	222,928	191,685	-	191,685
Total funds carried forward at 31 Dec 2023		257,517	-	257,517	222,928	-	222,928

Statement of Financial Position: Year Ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Asset			
Tangible assets	3	354,847	371,103
Total Fixed Asset		354,847	371,103
Current Assets			
Loans & Advances		-	-
Accrued Income		39,780	49,780
Cash at bank and in hand		58,137	13,114
Other Debtors		-	-
Total Current Assets		97,917	62,894
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Other Creditors		17,045	17,911
Other Current Liabilities		920	920
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		17,965	18,831
Net current assets (liabilities)		79,952	44,063
Total assets less current liabilities		434,799	415,166
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
Other Non-Current Liabilities		177,282	192,238
Total Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		177,282	192,238
Total net assets (liabilities)		257,517	222,928
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted Reserve		-	-
General reserves		222,928	191,685
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		34,589	31,243
Total charity funds		257,517	222,928

Accounting Policies

Scope and Basis of the Financial Statements

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities published in March 2005.

Income

Revenue is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt once the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Expenses

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) on an accruals basis and is recognised at the point when a legal or constructive obligation arises. The majority of costs are directly attributable to specific activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets with an individual purchase of £500 or more are capitalised and stated at cost less depreciation which is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	20%
Equipment	20%
Vehicles	20%
Building	2%

Notes

1. Income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Donations and legacies	201,191	159,711
Restricted Income	-	-
Total donations & legacies	201,191	159,711
Other income		
Gift Aid Receipts	31,923	22,780
Other income	90	26,931
Total other income	32,013	49,711
Total Income	233,203	209,422

2. Expenditures

	2023	2022
	£	£
Charitable Activities		
Premises	7,181	6,581
Utilities	9,245	5,245
Travel	720	719
Motoring & Transportation	10,679	13,751
Insurance	3,427	2,093
Administration	64,193	57,529
Advertising	598	516
Operations	16,962	20,369
Finance Charges	12,545	7,440
Depreciation	23,070	14,830
Honorarium	20,603	16,211
Total Charitable Activities	169,225	145,286
Other Charitable Activities		
Outreach	2,649	4,932
Central Office	8,050	13,400
Welfare & Benevolence	10,870	8,848
Charitable Donations	6,900	3,723
Total Other Charitable Activities	28,470	30,903
Other Costs		
Professional fees and services	-	970
Other costs		
Legal fees		
Accountancy fees	920	1,020
Total Other Costs	920	1,990

Notes

3. Tangible Assets

	Property	Motor Vehicle	Machinery & Equipment	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1st Jan 2023	440,000	50,450	56,491	45,445	107,927	700,313
Additions		-	5,497	-	1,317	6,814
Disposals				-		-
Revaluations				-		-
At 31st Dec 2023	440,000	50,450	61,988	45,445	109,244	707,127
Depreciation						
At 1st Jan 2023	132,000	3,363	49,162	45,445	99,240	329,210
Charge for the year	8,800	10,090	2,251		1,929	23,070
Adjustments			-	-	-	-
At 31st Dec 2023	140,800	13,453	51,413	45,445	101,169	352,280
Net Book Value						
At 1st Jan 2023	308,000	47,087	7,329	-	8,687	371,103
At 31st Dec 2023	299,200	36,997	10,575	-	8,075	354,847

4. Related Party Transactions

During the year, the church made donations and contributions to other RCCG and charitable organisations as shown in note 3 under Central Office and Charitable Giving.

5. Trustee Remuneration & Expenses

During the year, there were not payments or reimbursement of expenses to trustee members.

6. Staff cost and numbers

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in the year.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	53,480	46,885
Other benefits	9,600	9,600
	63,080	56,485
Average number of staff		
	2023	2022
Pastoral	2	2
Charity administration		
	2	2