

DUNCAN ROAD CHURCH TRUST

Charity Registration Number : 1092876

Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2020.

Objectives and Activities

The Trust was constituted by a Declaration of Trust dated the 31 May 2002. The object of the Trust is the furtherance of the religious and other charitable activities of the church fellowship known as Duncan Road Church.

During the year the Trust has supported the church fellowship which has met at the property occupied by the church, located in Duncan Road, Park Gate, Southampton, SO31 1BD.

The charitable aim of Duncan Road Church is the advancement of the Christian religion. The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, particularly the guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In normal circumstances the church's activities, which are open to all, would include church services for worship, preaching and teaching of the Christian faith held each Sunday, including an 'all-age' family oriented service. Other regular services would include meetings for children, young people, carers with young children, and senior citizens. Special events which would normally be held include a Holiday Club for children held during the Easter holiday period. With such activities the church aims to both introduce individuals to the Christian faith and to support and encourage existing believers.

In addition the church normally seeks to benefit the local community by including in its ministry, as explained above, activities for various age groups such as weekly children and young people's clubs, a popular and busy weekly session for carers and their children to get together, quarterly senior citizen teas and monthly lunches.

The Impact of Covid Restrictions

Under the covid restrictions affecting places of worship, the church had to close down all of its activities normally held in the church building from March to July 2020. These were replaced in part by providing online activities such as an All Age Service each Sunday, weekly-held house groups for Bible study and prayer, and social get-togethers.

The church re-opened in August 2020, but only to offer a weekly All Age Service on a Sunday for those who wished to attend the service in person. The service was also livestreamed and recorded. No other activities have yet re-started in the building. Communication with church members and other community contacts was maintained via phone, e-mail and online contact. The carers and children's activity is being delivered online via Facebook.

It is clear that the church's ministry has been severely impacted by the restrictions.

Administrative Information

The address of the Trust for correspondence is 14 Southampton Road, Park Gate, Southampton, SO31 6AF.

The current trustees of the Trust are:

Mr A McCann (Secretary and Treasurer)
Mr P Donaghy
Mr S Gunter (appointed June 2020)

The following resignations of trustees have taken place since November 2019:

Mr D New (resigned November 2019)
Mr M Fielder (resigned March 2020)

Under the Declaration of Trust, new trustees are appointed by a resolution of the existing Trustees.

Financial Review

The Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 October 2020 is attached on page 3. The Account shows a surplus for the year of £2,528 (2019: a surplus of £1,845) and funds' balances carried forward of £80,152 represented by amounts held on bank current and deposit accounts.

Receipts

General receipts such as from collections, gift aid recovered and donations, reduced by £3,455 over the previous year's amounts. There were no significant one-off receipts in this year. Receipts from collections were impacted by the closure of the church building during lockdown, for example the resulting fall in Sunday cash collections from congregational giving.

Payments

Overall costs have decreased by £4,138 compared to the previous year, of which £4,905 is represented by reduced donations from surplus funds to christian based charities. The trustees had agreed a policy to increase the Trust's charitable donations towards the furtherance of the Christian faith. However this policy was suspended in view of the financial uncertainty caused by the covid restrictions.

Funds

Following the surplus for the year, funds balances have increased to £80,152 at year end. All funds are represented by a General Unrestricted Fund. There are no designated or restricted funds in place at year end.

Reserves Policy

Since the Trust's income is from voluntary donations which are variable, some level of general unrestricted reserves are needed to ensure that funds are available to meet expenditure commitments. The trustees' policy is to hold an amount equivalent to no more than 6 month's typical expenditure in the General Fund. However, with an unspent amount remaining from a legacy received in previous years, reserves are standing at a higher level. The trustees have an open vacancy for a 'community link worker' to assist the church in its ministry and any person appointed would be an employee of the Trust. It is considered that such a position would advance the work of the church, but will need ongoing funding for several years to support the post, over and above the normal level of funding that might be available. As a result reserves are being retained to cover potential ongoing costs.

Investment Policy

The trustees' policy on investing the funds of the Trust is that funds not needed to meet day to day expenses will be held on an interest earning deposit account.

Future Plans and Issues

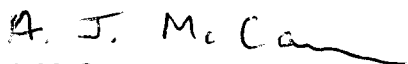
The trustees had been considering potential alterations to the church building to give additional useable inside space. However such plans are on hold at present in view the uncertainty surrounding when church life might get back to normal.

The covid restrictions have seriously affected the church's activities and mission in the year to October 2020 and continue to do so in the current year. To date the financial impact has been limited because some church members have continued to make donations to church funds via bank transfers, but donations via Sunday collections have effectively ceased. It is not yet clear how the church's finances will be affected in the 2021 financial year.

Thanks

The trustees would like to thank everyone who has supported the work of the church during the year.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:



Mr A J McCann

Date : 11 February 2021

DUNCAN ROAD CHURCH TRUST

Charity Registration Number : 1092876

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31 October 2020

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
	£	£
Receipts		
Collections etc	21,146	25,094
Tax reclaimed under Gift Aid	5,208	5,721
Legacy	0	55
Other Income	2,863	1,802
TOTAL RECEIPTS	29,217	32,672
Payments		
Gifts to speakers and other Christian workers/organisations	11,664	10,143
Larger value premises expenditure	3,656	4,563
Other premises costs & costs of holding services	8,357	8,726
Sundry expenses	1,012	490
TOTAL PAYMENTS	24,689	23,922
SURPLUS before Larger value donations	4,528	8,750
Exceptional Costs : Larger value donations	2,000	6,905
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR / (2019 : SURPLUS)	2,528	1,845
Fund balances brought forward at start of year	77,624	75,779
Fund Balances carried forward	<u>80,152</u>	<u>77,624</u>

Assets	Monetary Assets	£
	Cash at Bank	5,063
	Current Account	11
	Deposit Account	75,078
	Stewardship	<u>80,152</u>
	Interest earning Account	
	Other Assets	
	Gift Aid tax recoverable	1,867
	Net credit on electricity and gas budget accounts	131

Approved by the Trustees on 11 February 2021

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

A. J. M. C.

Mr A J McCann

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Duncan Road Church Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') (Charity Number 1092876) for the year ended 31 October 2020, which are set out on page 3.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees 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 Trust's accounts carried out under s 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s 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 which cause me to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act or
- 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.

Signed: 

Name: Mr D J C Hancock BSc FCA

Address: Parry Hancock, Webb House, 20 Bridge Road, Park Gate, Southampton, SO31 7GE

Date: 29/7/21