

## **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 2024, 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

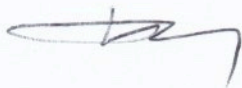
### **Independent examiner's statement**

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: Mrs Lucy A Parry BSc ACA

Address: Langdowns DFK, Fleming Court, Leigh Road, Eastleigh SO50 9PD

Date : 10 March 2025



# DUNCAN ROAD CHURCH TRUST

Charity Registration Number : 1092876

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

The trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2024.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The Trust was constituted by a Declaration of Trust dated 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. With its activities the church aims to both introduce individuals to the Christian faith and to support and encourage existing believers

The church has continued to welcome new visitors attending the Sunday morning All Age Service. Many of the visitors from previous years continue to attend Sunday services, some on a fairly frequent basis. We continue to be encouraged by new visitors attending the All Age Service and hope to see some of these visitors make the decision to become formal members of the church.

Our midweek meetings continue to be well received by the local community, with many regulars attending our children's activities on a weekly basis. A variety of midweek meetings cater to the needs of children, young people, carers with young children, parents & toddlers, as well as meetings for men and women of all ages. A midweek meeting launched in the previous financial year, Welcome Wednesdays, has recently been renamed to Wednesday Drop-In and has continued to grow after an initially slow start last year.

During the year the All Age Service continued to be held each Sunday morning, with a live-stream available on YouTube. Services are also made available for on-demand viewing on YouTube after the event, to help meet the needs of those unable to join in for the livestream or those that wish to watch the service again at a later date. Our weekly house group for Bible study and prayer has also continued.

During this financial year, one of the trustees, David McNeish, unfortunately resigned from the Trust due to his family relocating to the north of England. This leaves the trust with only two trustees, and we are actively working to increase the number of trustees to ensure resilience of the trust for the future. We have identified a few candidates for this role and are currently working to change the legal structure of the charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) at the same time.

### **Administrative Information**

The address of the Trust for correspondence is Duncan Road Church, Duncan Road, Park Gate, Southampton, SO31 1BD.

The current trustees of the Trust are:

Mr P Donaghy

Mr S Gunter (Treasurer)

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 2024 is attached on page 3. The Account shows a surplus for the year of £1,799 (2023: a surplus of £7,566) and funds' balances carried forward of £96,359 represented by amounts held on bank current and deposit accounts as well as cash.

#### *Receipts*

General receipts, such as from collections and donations, increased by £624 over the previous year's amounts. Gift Aid tax recovered decreased by £1,386 and other income increased by £731.

#### *Payments*

Overall costs have decreased by £4,495 compared to the previous year. The church building & equipment has continued to be maintained, including the replacement of the church's piano at a cost of £4,400. This piano purchase accounts for the majority of the difference in cost from the previous year.

#### *Funds*

Following the surplus for the year, funds balances have increased to £96,359 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 and Future Plans under Consideration

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 the trustees are considering appointing a part/full time pastor to assist the church in its ministry. Any person appointed would be an employee of the church. The church is in the process of changing the legal structure to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to prepare for this change. Such an appointment will need ongoing funding for several years to support the post, over and above the current level of income that is donated. As a result reserves are being retained to cover such potential ongoing additional costs.

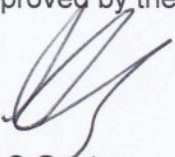
### Investment Policy

The trustees' policy on investing the funds of the Trust is that funds not needed to meet day to day expenses will be held in an interest-earning deposit account. The trustees have chosen at present to hold such funds in an interest-earning account with Kingdom Bank, which is a Christian bank aligned to the purpose of the church. This choice means that the church earns interest at a slightly lower rate than similar notice accounts, as it enables us to support the provision of more affordable support to gospel ministries across the UK, which is in keeping with our charitable purpose.

### 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 S Gunter

Date : 18 Jan 2025



# DUNCAN ROAD CHURCH TRUST

Charity Registration Number : 1092876

## Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31 October 2024

	Note	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>			
Collections etc	1	22,272	21,640
Tax reclaimed under Gift Aid		5,254	6,640
Other Income	2	1,245	514
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>28,771</b>	<b>28,794</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Gifts to speakers	3	10,850	10,949
Premises project expenditure	4	4,400	0
Combined operating costs	5,6,7	8,738	8,544
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>23,988</b>	<b>19,493</b>
<b>SURPLUS before Larger value donations</b>		<b>4,783</b>	<b>9,301</b>
Exceptional Costs : Donations to Christian Organisations	8	2,984	1,735
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>1,799</b>	<b>7,566</b>
Fund balances brought forward at start of year		94,560	86,994
Fund Balances carried forward		<u>96,359</u>	<u>94,560</u>

Assets	Monetary Assets	£
	Cash box	179
	Cash at Bank	19,343
	Kingdom Bank	76,837
	Current Account	
	Interest earning Account	
		<u>96,359</u>
	Other Assets	
	Gift Aid tax recoverable	2,796

Approved by the Trustees on 18 January 2025

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

  
Mr S J Gunter