

Charity registration number 1098281

Company registration number 04765158 (England and Wales)

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

CHARITY COMMISSION
FIRST CONTACT

- 2 DEC 2024

ACCOUNTS
RECEIVED

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	T Jackson M Relf Mrs R Jones Mrs C Fredriksson R Kelly
-----------------	--

Charity number	1098281
-----------------------	---------

Company number	04765158
-----------------------	----------

Registered office	Community Wise Ocklynge Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1PY
--------------------------	--

Independent examiner	Holland Harper LLP 26 High Street Battle East Sussex TN33 0EA
-----------------------------	---

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 3
<hr/>	
Independent examiner's report	4
Statement of financial activities	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7 - 13

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects are the advancement of the Christian faith in Eastbourne, the UK and the world. The charity also seeks to give relief to persons in need, to advance the Christian education of young people and also to play an active role in social transformation.

Through worship and prayer, learning about the gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus, we try to help people to live out the good news of Jesus in the community, enabling them to see how our faith affects our relationship with God, other people and the environment. Our outreach work is part of our desire to bring holistic transformation to our communities.

Achievement and performance Charitable Activities

The activities of the Charity continue to be expressed through our two congregations, each with their own character and leadership. The visible expression of these congregations is their regular Sunday worship. Old Town Community Church (OTCC) meet at Old Town Community Centre with Living Stones Community Church (LSCC) meets at the Community Wise Centre. These gatherings are characterised by engaging worship, prayer and relevant bible teaching within an informal setting which encourages participation of all. Children and families play an important part in the life of one congregation and both congregations also seek to be safe places for marginalised and vulnerable people. The power of the gospel of Jesus to transform lives is at the heart of all we do and are. Community engagement is a key part of our vision and purpose, with activities throughout the year to engage and bless the community both in Old Town and across Eastbourne.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake. The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity.

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Old Town Community Church

The congregation, which consists of around 30 regular attendees, meets on Sunday mornings. The Sunday meetings this year have been focused on the life of Jesus, with an in depth look at the parables he shared, along with a series on the impact Jesus had on the lives of the people he encountered while he was on earth.

The church has expanded its corporate prayer opportunities, with a Thursday morning meeting alongside the long-standing Tuesday evening Zoom prayer meeting. The church now also offers a monthly shared lunch for regulars and visitors.

Old Town's Tuesday Friendship Café is flourishing, with around 20 regulars meeting for fun and friendship as well as to support each other where needed.

The church regularly welcomes speakers from the various charities and groups that we support to bring us up to date with their current needs.

Regular 'teaching' services are interspersed with a week when the fellowship celebrates Communion and another week when they have an opportunity to share personal testimonies.

The four Home Groups continue to meet regularly for Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

The weekly time of 'chaplaincy' on Albert Parade continues despite one member having been very poorly, other folk from OTCC or other churches have maintained the witness.

OTCC took the lead in organising domestic abuse training, which was offered to churches from across the town. The sessions focused on spotting the signs of abuse both in and out of the church context and providing appropriate support.

The church's leadership group now consists of four members who meet fortnightly to plan for upcoming services and to address pastoral and practical issues as they arise.

Living Stones Community Church

Living Stones has seen a year of growth and change.

The Sunday meetings are attended by between 30 and 50 people. The church continues to be a beacon for those who might be considered on the margins of society, which has given many of the fellowship new opportunities to engage and support them.

The church's rhythm sees a café-style service on the first Sunday of the month, with Communion on the third Sunday. On the second and fourth Sunday, a combination of home-grown and guest speakers focused on the book of 1 Peter.

Children and families continue to be a major focus on the church and its outreach. Alongside weekly Sunday school and family time slots, community outreach includes the ever-popular Livewires Youth Club and School's Out craft activity mornings.

The annual Church Camp at Dalesdown attracted some 50 campers of all ages. Emma McPhail provided the morning talks, looking at the importance of rest to re-energise and reinforce relationship with God. Camp remains highly popular with the younger members of the church and assorted children from friends and family who join for the weekend.

Five Life Groups continue to meet regularly, providing teaching, reflection and pastoral care. The groups are not following a specific theme, with some focusing more on prayer and support while others focus on Bible study.

The men of the church meet occasionally for meals together including breakfasts with speakers.

LSCC's alternative Hallowe'en evening was again a very popular occasion with more and more local families joining. We are glad to be able to co-ordinate with other churches in Old Town for this. Leadership prayer lunches with other churches in Old Town have been welcome chances to share information, discuss issues of common concern and to plan events when we can work together.

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Several folk still support and volunteer with Community Wise, our sister charity, which is going from strength to strength. A great development has been our provision of Food and Friendship parties for the students and staff of the weekly school of English.

Living Stones joined the domestic abuse training coordinated by Old Town Community Church.

Church leaders Rob and Caz Kelly meet regularly with Martyn and Sue Relf, erstwhile leaders of 40 years, as well as the SAGE team to ensure a range of views and inputs are represented in the running of the church.

Financial review

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to two month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

T Jackson

M Relf

Mrs R Jones

Mrs C Fredriksson

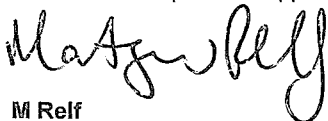
R Kelly

The board has the power to appoint new trustees who can only be appointed if they are familiar with the affairs of the charity. The existing trustees provide informal training in that respect.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The work of the charity is delivered primarily through its two congregations. Separate leadership teams are responsible for the oversight of these congregations with founding leader, Martyn Relf, maintaining a close link with both of them. The congregations are separately represented at trustee level and reports are received from them at trustee meetings.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



M Relf

Trustee

Dated: 31 October 2024

TO THE TRUSTEES OF LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	72,605	32,300	104,905	67,652	18,723	86,375
Investments	4	678	323	1,001	70	20	90
Total income		73,283	32,623	105,906	67,722	18,743	86,465
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	62,243	32,366	94,609	85,243	860	86,103
Total expenditure		62,243	32,366	94,609	85,243	860	86,103
Net income and movement in funds		11,040	257	11,297	(17,521)	17,883	362
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		108,757	43,718	152,475	126,278	25,835	152,113
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		119,797	43,975	163,772	108,757	43,718	152,475

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		56		70
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		164,808		153,473	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(1,092)		(1,068)	
Net current assets			163,716		152,405
Net assets			163,772		152,475
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	12	43,975		43,718	
Unrestricted funds		119,797		108,757	
		163,772		152,475	

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 31 October 2024



M Relf
Trustee

Company registration number 04765158 (England and Wales)

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Living Stones, Eastbourne is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Community Wise, Ocklynge Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 1PY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1.5 Resources expended

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 a transfer or economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under relevant headings.

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% reducing balance
----------------------------------	----------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are measured at transaction price.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are also recognised at transaction price.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	72,605	32,300	104,905	67,652	18,723	86,375

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Income from donations and legacies

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts						
Donations	62,848	32,300	95,148	60,385	18,723	79,108
Tax claim	9,757	-	9,757	7,267	-	7,267
	<u>72,605</u>	<u>32,300</u>	<u>104,905</u>	<u>67,652</u>	<u>18,723</u>	<u>86,375</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable	<u>678</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>1,001</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>90</u>

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5 Charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs	17,036	12,256
Depreciation and impairment	14	20
Rent	12,749	20,849
Insurance	-	625
Speakers/musicians	740	580
Food/events	1,344	1,838
Equipment/resources	1,462	2,353
Mission/ministry	52,846	36,481
Support	-	1,885
Children/youth	1,006	1,139
Subscriptions	576	539
Church camp	2,663	2,363
7 Central Avenue expenses	-	2,325
By the way	-	(100)
Telephone	346	1,280
Accountancy	1,092	1,068
Post, stationery, publicity and adverts	253	108
Administration	728	(87)
Professional fees	492	304
Training	941	-
Away days	321	326
	<u>94,609</u>	<u>86,103</u>
	<u>94,609</u>	<u>86,103</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	62,243	
Restricted funds	<u>32,366</u>	
	<u>94,609</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2023		
Unrestricted funds		85,243
Restricted funds		<u>860</u>
		<u>86,103</u>

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6 Net movement in funds

2024
£

2023
£

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements

1,092

1,068

Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets

14

20

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number employees during the year was:

2024
Number

2023
Number

Charitable work

2

1

Employment costs

2024
£

2023
£

Wages and salaries

17,036

12,256

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	5,860
At 31 March 2024	5,860
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2023	5,790
Depreciation charged in the year	14
At 31 March 2024	5,804
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	56
At 31 March 2023	70

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	1,092	1,068

12 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
	43,718	32,623	(32,366)	43,975
Previous year:				
	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2023 £
	25,835	18,743	(860)	43,718

LIVING STONES, EASTBOURNE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	108,757	73,283	(62,243)	119,797
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	126,278	67,722	(85,243)	108,757

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible assets	56	-	56
Current assets/(liabilities)	119,741	43,795	163,716
	119,797	43,795	163,772
Old Town	81,065		
Living Stones	38,732		
	119,797		

15 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

