

RIVER CHURCH SUTTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1104168

Details

Other names	SUTTON FAMILY CHURCH
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	2004-06-07
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Highfield Hall 320 Carshalton Road Surrey SM5 3QB
Phone	02082969785
Email	hello@riverchurchsutton.org
Website	www.riverchurchsutton.org

Activities

Objects: I) TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENTS OF BELIEFS APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON AND ITS ENVIRONS AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT.II) TO RELIEVE PERSONS WHO ARE IN CONDITIONS OF NEED OR HARDSHIP OR WHO ARE AGED OR SICK AND TO RELIEVE THE DISTRESS CAUSED THEREBY IN THE SAID AREA AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT.III) TO PROMOTE AND FULFIL SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE SAID AREA OR IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT.

Activities: To advance the Christian faith in word and deed. To help relieve persons who are in conditions of need or hardship in the UK and overseas. To promote such charitable purposes as which benefit the local community. To build community and sense of family.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL AND OVERSEAS
- Sutton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£228,693	£200,657	-	-
2023-12-31	£288,967	£191,555	-	-
2022-12-31	£185,321	£152,618	-	-
2021-12-31	£175,349	£150,596	-	-
2020-12-31	£169,141	£173,673	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
STEPHEN MUSTERS	Chair	2013-01-02
Eduardo Rodriguez Garcia		2022-03-29
ROZ ULLMAN		
Simon Waters		2020-06-01

RIVER CHURCH SUTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1104168

Accounts



River Church Sutton

Trustees' Annual Report

1 January 2024 to 31st December 2024

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Independent Examiner's Report

Charity Contact information

River Church Sutton

Charity Registration Number: 1104168

Principal office

River Church Sutton
Highfield Hall
320 Carshalton Road
Sutton
SM5 3QB

Trustees

Steve Musters
Roz Ullman
Simon Waters
Ed Rodriguez

Independent Examiner

David Pestell ACA
Peach Accounting

Bankers

Santander Business Banking Centre,
287-301 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow
G2 5NT

Objectives of the charity

- i) To advance the Christian faith and express God's love through practical support and compassion for those in physical, mental and spiritual hardship, without discrimination or passing judgment.
- ii) To promote such charitable purposes as which benefit the local community and those overseas, bringing hope through the message of Jesus Christ.

Achievements and performance

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Review of activities

2024 marked the church's 20th anniversary. A special celebration was held in February, welcoming back founding members and leaders. It was an encouragement to reflect on how the church has grown in size and influence in the local community.

Worship and Discipleship

- **Sunday Services** remained the main expression of church life, continuing to grow in size and diversity. Teaching focused on the names of God, identity in Christ, and a series on 1 Peter, emphasising unshakable hope in uncertain times.
- A **Weekend Away** at Otford Manor was a highlight of the year, with focused teaching, worship, and fellowship. People came to faith, were baptised, and grew spiritually.
- **Kids' Church** expanded, requiring more trained volunteers and space for multiple groups.
- **Youth Work** grew significantly, with highlights including the *NewDay* summer camp, where some young people made faith commitments. Several were baptised at the church weekend away.
- **Midweek Groups** met both in person and online, providing Bible study, prayer, and activity-based fellowship.
- **Prayer** remained central, beginning with a week of prayer focused on justice and mercy, with ongoing weekly and monthly gatherings.
- Two **Alpha Courses** ran during the year, providing a safe environment for people exploring the Christian faith.

Mission and Community Engagement

- Internationally, the church continued to support **IGC Church (Philippines)**, began financial and prayer support for **Raízes Church (Brazil)**, and developed links with churches in **Sri Lanka** and **Uganda**. Support for **Newfrontiers** also continued, particularly in the areas of church planting and leadership development.
- **Highfield Hall** remained a vital community hub, hosting toddler groups, dance classes, exercise classes, creative workshops, and children's parties. The free badminton club encouraged fitness and friendship, while hall hire provided a valuable revenue stream.
- As part of the **New Ground** family of churches, the church gave financial support towards leadership training and church planting, while also benefiting from training and accountability.

- The church supported **Sutton Community Works**, both financially and through volunteers, contributing to Sutton Foodbank, Foodshop, Street Pastors, School Pastors, and homeless ministries. Free office space was also provided at Highfield Hall. This year, the church hosted a **winter shelter** for rough sleepers and supported three major donation drives for those in temporary accommodation and need.

Church Life and Events

- **Men's Ministry** included regular "Curry Nights" for fellowship and encouragement.
- **Women's Ministry** hosted several conferences throughout the year.
- **Seasonal events** included summer picnics, BBQs, International Sundays, and well-attended Easter services. Christmas was a particular highlight, with guest speaker Adrian Holloway at the main carol service, many responding to the gospel, hampers distributed to local families, and a carol service held in a local care home.

Future plans

Looking ahead to 2025 we plan the following:

- To continue to build community and serve our borough through acts of service.
- To continue to encourage and equip members to participate in every part of church life – gathering, serving, giving, praying and reaching out to those around them.
- To develop our building to accommodate growth – particularly for kids and youth.
- To develop our coffee shop ministry as a signposting and support hub.
- To continue to raise leaders and develop small groups

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Trust Deed dated 29 October 2003 as amended on 13 June 2016

River Church Sutton is a registered charitable trust, number: 1104168.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees and receive relevant training.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

River Church Sutton is a charismatic evangelical Church, which has been established in Sutton since 2004. The trustees delegate responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to the Leadership Team personnel. Trustees approve an annual budget each year, with non-regular items outside of budgeted amounts that exceed £250 requiring additional trustee approval.

Related party relationships

River Church Sutton is a separate and self-governing church, but is also part of the New Ground group in the NewFrontiers family of Churches and a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

We enjoy great working partnerships with several other local churches in the borough through which Sutton Community Works was founded.

Financial risk management

The Trustees have carried out a risk assessment regarding the Church's operations and are continually taking action to ensure that the risks are minimized as much as possible.

Reserves Policy

The Church's Reserves Policy is to retain approximately 3 months of essential operating expenditure, which would be approximately £30,000.

Principal funding

River Church Sutton receives the majority of its income as donations from members who have informally or formally committed to regular giving. Ongoing financial support is encouraged of new and existing members, but such support is not a requirement of membership and there is no pressure to give.

The Church also holds 'gift days' from time to time to support specific projects or fundraising targets. A majority of church members use the HMRC 'Gift Aid' scheme where possible. Hall hire also contributes to our income. We offer competitive rates and prioritise charitable and community focused events.

Financial review

The financial statements show total incoming resources of £228,693, a decrease of 20% on 2023 (£288,967) due to large gifts in the previous year. Underlying annual growth is c10% (2019: £185,321) when removing exceptional gifts. The Church has continued to grow its income from charitable activities through hall hire and the coffee shop introduced in 2023.

Expenses for the year totalled £200,657, an increase of 4.8% on 2023 (£191,555). This was driven by increased staffing costs of £24,594 and offset by savings on hall repairs of £15,137. All other costs were well controlled and not materially different to 2023 despite high inflation in the period.

The result was a surplus of £28,037 for the year. Total accumulated reserves stood at £392,085, of which net current assets account for £137,512 (2023: £115,554), demonstrating that the Charity has the liquidity to cover its reserves policy and debt obligations referred to below.

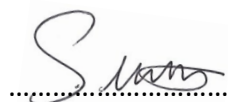
At the time of signing the report, the interest rate continues to be high at 4.5% which is unlikely to decrease materially in the short term due to inflation sticking above the governments intended target. The impact of increased rates has already been felt by the Church in the 2023 and 2024 accounts and has shown to still be in a surplus.

Note that the charity has no restricted funds which restrict assets from being used to manage debt during this period of high interest.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



.....

Chair - Steve Musters

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Income and endowments from		
Donations	151,445	222,251
Charitable activities	76,365	66,271
Investment income	883	445
Total	228,693	288,967
Expenditure on		
Charitable activities	200,657	191,555
Net income	28,037	97,412
Reconciliation of Funds		
Accumulated Funds Bfwd	364,048	266,636
Accumulated Funds Cfwd	392,085	364,048

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note		
Fixed Asset			
Tangible Assets	2	521,261	521,094
Current Assets			
Debtors	3	9,369	8,034
Cash and cash equivalents		144,734	125,819
		154,103	133,853
Current Liabilities	4	(16,592)	(18,299)
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		137,512	115,554
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		658,773	636,648
Non-Current Liabilities	5	(266,688)	(273,311)
Net Assets		392,085	363,337
Accumulated Funds		392,085	364,048

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity is entitled to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Building and improvements are held at cost and revalued periodically at the discretion of the board of trustees.

Equipment and other assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life of the asset concerned at 25% per annum on a straight line basis.

Taxation

The Company is a registered Charity and, in the opinion of the trustees, is exempt from corporation tax on its surpluses on financial activities in accordance with section 486 of the corporation tax act 2010.

2 Tangible Assets

	Buildings and improv.	Equipment and other assets	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	517,298	9,197	526,495
Additions	-	3,288	3,288
At 31 December 2024	517,298	12,485	529,783
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	-	5,401	5,401
Charge in the year		3,121	3,121
At 31 December 2024	-	8,522	8,522
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2024	517,298	3,963	521,261
At 31 December 2023	517,298	3,796	521,094

3 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Hall Rent	694	680
Gift Aid Receivable	8,675	7,354
	<u>9,369</u>	<u>8,034</u>

4 Current Liabilities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	1,991	4,556
Deposits Held	2,160	1,770
Tax and Social Security	5,007	2,158
Accruals	510	2,891
Capital Lease Obligations	6,924	6,924
	<u>16,592</u>	<u>18,299</u>

5 Non-current Liabilities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Capital Lease Obligations LT	266,688	273,311
	<u>266,688</u>	<u>273,311</u>

6 Average Number of Employees

During the year the average number of employees was 5 (2023: 3).

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations		
Gift Aided Giving	106,592	170,050
Non Gift Aided Giving	17,612	12,456
Tax Reclaimed	27,241	39,745
	<u>151,445</u>	<u>222,251</u>
Charitable Activities		
Rental Income	70,106	63,421
Other Income	6,259	2,850
	<u>76,365</u>	<u>66,271</u>
Investment Income		
Interest Received	883	445
	<u>883</u>	<u>445</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>228,693</u>	<u>288,967</u>

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONT)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries		
Salaries, Wages and Benefits-in-Kind	106,987	92,222
Social Security Costs	4,385	2,696
Pension Costs	10,439	2,299
	<u>121,811</u>	<u>97,217</u>
Property Costs		
Rate and Utilities	1,808	1,604
Light and Heat	10,638	10,346
Repairs and Maintenance	5,001	20,138
	<u>17,447</u>	<u>32,088</u>
Conference Expenses		
Registrations	3,796	2,129
Travel and Subsistence	9	15
	<u>3,805</u>	<u>2,144</u>
Church Activity Costs		
Evangelism	532	432
Books and Publications	114	0
Childrens Work	1,793	78
Hospitality	1,396	1,488
Gifts and Donations	14,477	15,900
Coffee Shop Expenses	4,036	4,600
Miscellaneous Expenses	274	548
	<u>25,475</u>	<u>25,653</u>
Church Running Costs		
Telephone and Internet	1,413	1,511
Subscriptions	995	754
Insurance	2,905	2,814
Office Supplies	897	951
Audio/ Visual	3,299	3,481
Professional Fees	1,077	1,210
Depreciation	3,121	2,299
	<u>13,764</u>	<u>13,350</u>
Finance Costs		
Interest Payable	18,355	21,103
Total resources expensed	<u>200,657</u>	<u>191,555</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>28,037</u>	<u>97,412</u>



Director:
David Pestell, ACA

25 September 2025

The Members

River Church Sutton
Highfield Hall
320 Carshalton Road
SURREY
SM5 3QB

Client Ref: RIV01

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of River Church Sutton

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Pestell

David Pestell ACA
Director



RIVER CHURCH SUTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1104168

Accounts

River Church Sutton

Trustees' Annual Report

1 January 2023 to 31st December 2023

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Independent Examiner's Report

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Trustees

Steve Musters
Roz Ullman
Simon Waters
Ed Rodriguez

Independent Examiner

Peach Accounting

Bankers

Santander Business Banking Centre,
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Objectives of the charity

- i) To advance the Christian faith and express God's love through practical support and compassion for those in physical, mental and spiritual hardship, without discrimination or passing judgment.
- ii) To promote such charitable purposes as which benefit the local community and those overseas, bringing hope through the message of Jesus Christ.

Achievements and performance

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Review of activities

2023 was a year of numerical growth as new people decided to call River Church home. As with the previous year we wanted to focus on building community and unity in our increasing cultural diversity. We also opened our new coffee shop to offer our local community a safe welcoming space.

- **Sunday Morning Services:** These are a key way we serve our community by gathering together to worship, listen to teaching from the bible and offer prayer. We continued to livestream our services on a private link. This helped those who could not physically attend our services to still engage, while encouraging those that could, to gather in person. We started the year focussing on the subject of identity and who we are in Christ before then going on later in the year to look at how we are called to live out that new identity in Christ. Attendance numbers steadily grew throughout the year and it has been wonderful to see an increase in diversity, with people from many different cultures and backgrounds joining us.
- **Kids:** Our kids work continues to offer a full curriculum on Sunday mornings. We are looking to increase the number of groups to facilitate more targeted
- **Youth:** Several of the older kids moved up to youth this year. This has increased the age range of the group but there is a great sense of unity with the older youth welcoming the younger. Once again, their summer camp “NewDay” was a hugely significant time with the ticket price covered by generous donations from the congregation.
- **Mid-Week Groups** continued to meet in person and on Zoom. We are looking to expand the number of groups as some have become quite large. The aim of these diverse groups is to build friendship, encourage people in their faith, and equip people to serve their neighbourhood.
- **Prayer** continues to underpin all that we do as a church. We held a week of prayer with different members of the congregation recording daily devotionals. We also ran a prayer course over the summer.
- **The Alpha Course** offers people an opportunity to explore faith and spirituality in a safe and relaxed environment. We once again ran two well attended courses this year.
- **International:** This year we developed links with a church in Sao Paulo, Brazil, financially supporting some of their leaders to attend a UK New Ground conference. We continue to support IGC church in the Philippines. We continue to give financially to Newfrontiers family of churches to support international church planting and aid projects.

Review of activities (cont.)

- **Highfield Hall:** This year we were able to employ an operations manager to help look after general logistics and maintenance of Highfield Hall. Our building continues to be a hub for the community hosting dance classes, toddler groups, exercise classes, creative workshops as well as kids' parties at the weekends – we even held our first wedding ceremony! Our free badminton club continues to encourage fitness and develop friendships. The hall also continues to be a good revenue stream for us.
- **Community:** This year we used our coffee shop as a winter "Warm Space" to help those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. As with the previous year, we ran a 'Winter Hug' event donating household items and warm clothes for those in temporary accommodation. We continue to support both financially and through volunteers, Sutton Community works, the charity through which several churches in the borough operate initiatives such as Sutton Foodbank, Foodshop, Street Pastors, School Pastors and homeless ministries. We also offer them office space at Highfield Hall for no cost.
- **New Ground:** We continue to be part of New Ground family of churches. We give regular financial support, which goes towards church planting and equipping leaders, nationally and internationally. We also receive training, support and accountability from the New Ground team. This year we paid for four people to attend the New Ground Leadership Academy.
- **Men's and women's ministries:** Regular men's and women's events were held throughout the year. These included Pizza Nights, walks and afternoon teas to build friendship. The women's book club continues to grow and a good number went to the "Courage" women's conference.
- **Mental Health Support:** The very real need to support those caring for loved ones with mental health needs continues with our monthly group called "Space to Breathe" to facilitate open and honest conversation and support. We plan next year to offer time and space in our coffee shop as a wellbeing venue.
- **Seasonal:** All our easter services were well attended with a very moving Good Friday reflective service. Christmas was a real highlight with our best ever attended family carol service. We were able to bless many local families through a present donation initiative based in the coffee shop. We finished the year off with a New Year's Day brunch.

Future plans

Looking ahead to 2024 we plan the following:

- To continue to build community and serve our borough through acts of service.
- To continue to encourage and equip members to participate in every part of church life – gathering, serving, giving, praying and reaching out to those around them.
- To develop our coffee shop further increasing its community impact.
- To continue to raise leaders and develop small groups

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Trust Deed dated 29 October 2003 as amended on 13 June 2016
River Church Sutton is a registered charitable trust, number: 1104168.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees and receive relevant training. We welcomed Ed Garcia to the board of trustees at the beginning of this year.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

River Church Sutton is a charismatic evangelical Church, which has been established in Sutton since 2004. The trustees delegate responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to the Leadership Team personnel. Trustees approve an annual budget each year, with non-regular items outside of budgeted amounts that exceed £250 requiring additional trustee approval.

Related party relationships

River Church Sutton is a separate and self-governing church, but is also part of the New Ground group in the NewFrontiers family of Churches and a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

We enjoy great working partnerships with several other local churches in the borough through which Sutton Community Works was founded.

Financial risk management

The Trustees have carried out a risk assessment regarding the Church's operations and are continually taking action to ensure that the risks are minimized as much as possible.

Reserves Policy

The Church's Reserves Policy is to retain approximately 6 months of essential operating expenditure, which would be approximately £65,000.

Principal funding

River Church Sutton receives the majority of its income as donations from members who have informally or formally committed to regular giving. On going financial support is encouraged of new and existing members, but such support is not a requirement of membership and there is no pressure to give.

The Church also holds 'gift days' from time to time to support specific projects or fundraising targets. A majority of church members use the HMRC 'Gift Aid' scheme where possible. Hall hire also contributes to our income. We offer competitive rates and prioritise charitable and community focused events.

Financial review

The financial statements show total incoming resources of £288,967, an increase of 56% on 2022 (£185,321). This was driven by a small number of large donations received by the Church during the period, as well as a 6% increase in income from charitable activities with strong hall rent income and the introduction of a coffee shop as the Church looks to diversify its income streams.

Expenses for the year totalled £191,555, an increase of 25% on 2022 (£152,618). This was driven by the introduction of another staff member, repairs to the Church, and increased borrowing costs on the loan due to the economic climate. This was partially offset by a decrease in gifts and donations during the year as the Church looked to manage its costs.

The result was a surplus of £97,412 for the year, a significant improvement over 2022 by +300%, driven again by the large donations received. Total accumulated reserves stood at £364,048, of which net current assets account for £116,265 (2022: £82,747), demonstrating that the Charity has the liquidity to cover its reserves policy and debt obligations referred to below.

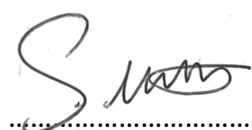
At the time of signing the report, the BOE interest rate had started to decrease to 5% after one year at 5.25%. Although there is unlikely to be any immediate impact, the Church may see a reduction in its borrowing rates later in the year and into 2025 should more rate decreases be announced.

Note that the charity has no restricted funds which restrict assets from being used to manage debt during this period of high interest.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:


.....

Chair - Steve Musters

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Income and endowments from		
Donations	222,251	122,954
Charitable activities	66,271	62,336
Investment income	445	31
Total	288,967	185,321
 Expenditure on		
Charitable activities	191,555	152,618
 Net income	97,412	32,703
 Reconciliation of Funds		
Accumulated Funds Bfwd	266,636	233,933
Accumulated Funds Cfwd	364,048	266,636

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Fixed Asset	Note		
Tangible Assets	2	521,094	522,909
 Current Assets			
Debtors	3	8,034	17,489
Cash and cash equivalents		126,530	82,050
		134,564	99,539
 Current Liabilities	4	(18,299)	(16,792)
 Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		116,265	82,747
 Total Assets less Current Liabilities		637,359	605,656
 Non-Current Liabilities	5	(273,311)	(339,020)
 Net Assets		364,048	266,636
 Accumulated Funds		364,048	266,636

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity is entitled to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Building and improvements are held at cost and revalued periodically at the discretion of the board of trustees.

Equipment and other assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life of the asset concerned at 25% per annum on a straight line basis.

Taxation

The Company is a registered Charity and, in the opinion of the trustees, is exempt from corporation tax on its surpluses on financial activities in accordance with section 486 of the corporation tax act 2010.

2 Tangible Assets

	Buildings and improv.	Equipment and other assets	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	517,298	8,713	526,011
Additions	-	484	484
At 31 December 2023	517,298	9,197	526,495
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	-	3,102	3,102
Charge in the year		2,299	2,299
At 31 December 2023	-	5,401	5,401
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2023	517,298	3,796	521,094
At 31 December 2022	517,298	5,611	522,909

3 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Hall Rent	680	669
Gift Aid Receivable	7,354	16,820
	<u>8,034</u>	<u>17,489</u>

4 Current Liabilities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposits Held	1,770	2,226
Tax and Social Security	2,158	520
Accruals	2,891	6,886
Capital Lease Obligations	6,924	7,160
	<u>18,299</u>	<u>16,792</u>

5 Non-current Liabilities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Capital Lease Obligations	273,311	339,020
	<u>273,311</u>	<u>339,020</u>

6 Average Number of Employees

During the year the average number of employees was 3 (2022: 2).

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations		
Gift Aided Giving	170,050	91,871
Non Gift Aided Giving	12,456	8,115
Tax Reclaimed	39,745	22,968
	<u>222,251</u>	<u>122,954</u>
Charitable Activities		
Rental Income	63,421	62,336
Other Income	2,850	0
	<u>66,271</u>	<u>62,336</u>
Investment Income		
Interest Received	445	31
	<u>445</u>	<u>31</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>288,967</u>	<u>185,321</u>

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONT)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries		
Salaries, Wages and Benefits-in-Kind	92,222	60,597
Social Security Costs	2,696	1,694
Pension Costs	2,299	4,548
	97,217	66,839
Property Costs		
Rate and Utilities	1,604	862
Light and Heat	10,346	7,108
Repairs and Maintenance	20,138	6,808
	32,088	14,778
Conference Expenses		
Registrations	2,129	3,138
Travel and Subsistence	15	122
	2,144	3,260
Church Activity Costs		
Evangelism	432	283
Hospitality	1,488	871
Gifts and Donations	15,900	31,984
Coffee Shop Expenses	4,600	
Miscellaneous Expenses	548	682
	25,653	38,554
Church Running Costs		
Telephone and Internet	1,511	1,840
Subscriptions	754	1,499
Insurance	2,814	2,552
Office Supplies	951	643
Audio/ Visual	3,481	3,161
Professional Fees	1,210	858
Depreciation	2,299	1,074
	13,350	11,627
Finance Costs		
Interest Payable	21,103	17,560
Total resources expended	191,555	152,618
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	97,412	32,703



Director:

David Pestell, ACA

7 August 2024

The Members

River Church Sutton
Highfield Hall
320 Carshalton Road
SURREY
SM5 3QB

Client Ref: RIV01

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of River Church Sutton

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Pestell

David Pestell ACA

Director



RIVER CHURCH SUTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1104168

Accounts

River Church Sutton

Trustees' Annual Report

1 January 2022 to 31st December 2022

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Charity Contact information

River Church Sutton

Charity Registration Number: 1104168

Principal office

River Church Sutton
Highfield Hall
320 Carshalton Road
Sutton
SM5 3QB

Trustees

Steve Musters
Roz Ullman
Simon Waters
Ed Rodriguez

Independent Examiner

Peach Accounting

Bankers

Santander Business Banking Centre,
287-301 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow
G2 5NT

Objectives of the charity

- i) To advance the Christian faith and express God's love through practical support and compassion for those in physical, mental and spiritual hardship, without discrimination or passing judgment.
- ii) To promote such charitable purposes as which benefit the local community and those overseas, bringing hope through the message of Jesus Christ.

Achievements and performance

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Review of activities

2022 was a year of consolidation after many months of Covid disruption. The key aim was to build community and strengthen our sense of family together. We did this through:

- **Sunday Morning Services:** These are a key way we serve our community by gathering together to worship, listen to teaching from the bible and offer prayer. We made the decision to continue to livestream our services but on a private link. This helped those who could not physically attend our services to still engage, while encouraging those that could, to gather in person. We introduced a 'creative worship board' to help people to express their worship in different ways. We kicked off the year reminding people of our core values (Empowered, Engaged and Extravagant), before exploring themes of restoration and hope using the books of Ezra and Ruth. Attendance numbers steadily grew throughout the year and it has been wonderful to see an increase in diversity, with people from many different cultures and backgrounds joining us.
- **Kids:** It was great to re-establish our vibrant kids' program and have seen an increase in numbers. This has required an increase in competent helpers and relevant training.
- **Youth:** Our youth group continues to grow and this year had a wonderful time at their summer camp "NewDay". Many of the youth made commitments to Jesus and we had the joy of baptising nine of them in water in the autumn term.
- **Mid Week Groups** continued to meet back in person and on Zoom. Two new groups started this year and we look to establish another two next year. The aim of these diverse groups is to build friendship, encourage people in their faith, and equip people to serve their neighbourhood.
- **Prayer** continues to underpin all that we do as a church. We held a week of prayer along with regular monthly prayer meetings. It was also a joy to gather with other local churches for a prayer day for our borough.
- **The Alpha Course** offers people an opportunity to explore faith and spirituality in a safe and relaxed environment. We ran two courses this year along with a newly developed discipleship course which served as a great next step after Alpha.
- **International:** It has been a privilege to support IGC church in the Philippines for several years and we were able to see via Zoom their new church building that we helped to finance. This will provide a vital hub for their community. We took part in coordinating financial support for the churches in Ukraine as part of our Newfrontiers family of churches.

Review of activities (cont.)

- **Highfield Hall:** continues to be a hub for the community hosting dance classes, toddler groups, exercise classes, creative workshops as well as kids' parties at the weekends. Our free badminton club continues to encourage fitness and develop friendships. The hall also continues to be a good revenue stream for us.
- **Community:** This year we ran a 'Winter Hug' event donating household items and warm clothes for those in temporary accommodation – including the many Ukrainian families fleeing the war. We continue to support both financially and through volunteers, Sutton Community works, the charity through which several churches in the borough operate initiatives such as Sutton Foodbank, Foodshop, Street Pastors, School Pastors and homeless ministries. We also offer them office space at Highfield Hall for no church.
- **New Ground:** We continue to be part of New Ground family of churches. We give regular financial support, which goes towards church planting and equipping leaders, nationally and internationally. We also receive training, support and accountability from the New Ground team.
- **Men's and women's ministries:** This year we relaunched regular men's and women's events. These included Guy's Curry Nights to build friendships and encourage one another and several women's conferences throughout the year.
- **Mental Health Support:** The very real need to support those caring for loved ones with mental health needs continues with our monthly group called "Space to Breathe" to facilitate open and honest conversation and support.
- **Seasonal:** We were able to host a wonderful easter egg hunt and craft afternoon this year. All our easter services were well attended. We enjoyed summer picnics and a trip to the seaside, again building a sense of family. Christmas was a real highlight with a well-attended family carol service and a separate service in a local care home. We were able to bless many local families with hampers of Christmas treats. We finished the year off with a wonderful New Year's Eve party.

Future plans

Looking ahead to 2023 we plan the following:

- To continue to build community and serve our borough through acts of service.
- To continue to encourage and equip members to participate in every part of church life – gathering, serving, giving, praying and reaching out to those around them.
- To recruit a part time facilities and operations manager to look after our venue and to manage our proposed coffee shop.
- To continue to raise leaders and develop small groups

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Trust Deed dated 29 October 2003 as amended on 13 June 2016
River Church Sutton is a registered charitable trust, number: 1104168.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees and receive relevant training. We welcomed Ed Garcia to the board of trustees at the beginning of this year.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

River Church Sutton is a charismatic evangelical Church, which has been established in Sutton since 2004. The trustees delegate responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to the Leadership Team personnel. Trustees approve an annual budget each year, with non-regular items outside of budgeted amounts that exceed £250 requiring additional trustee approval.

Related party relationships

River Church Sutton is a separate and self-governing church, but is also part of the New Ground group in the NewFrontiers family of Churches and a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

We enjoy great working partnerships with several other local churches in the borough through which Sutton Community Works was founded.

Financial risk management

The Trustees have carried out a risk assessment regarding the Church's operations and are continually taking action to ensure that the risks are minimized as much as possible.

Reserves Policy

The Church's Reserves Policy is to retain approximately 3 months of essential operating expenditure, which would be approximately £30,000.

Principal funding

River Church Sutton receives the majority of its income as donations from members who have informally or formally committed to regular giving. On going financial support is encouraged of new and existing members, but such support is not a requirement of membership and there is no pressure to give. Most Church members have been able to continue their regular giving despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Church also holds 'gift days' from time to time to support specific projects or fundraising targets. A majority of church members use the HMRC 'Gift Aid' scheme where possible. Hall hire also contributes to our income. We offer competitive rates and prioritise charitable and community focused events.

Financial review

The financial statements show total incoming resources of £185,321, an increase of 5.7% on 2021 (£175,349). Giving reduced in 2021 however rental income rose by 169% as a result of demand post-covid. It is expected that rental income will continue to increase in 2023 at a lesser rate as activity returns to pre-COVID levels.

Expenses in the year totalled £152,618, a decrease of 4.5% on 2021 (£159,757). Operating costs were consistent with 2021 with the exception of giving and donations which reduced to £31,984 (2020: £56,248) which is the main driver for the decrease year-on-year.

The result was a surplus of £32,703 for the year, a significant improvement of 210% over 2021 (£15,592). The total accumulated reserves stood at £266,636 of which net current assets account for £82,747 (2021: £57,519) demonstrating the Charity has liquidity to cover its reserves policy and debt obligations referred to below.

At the time of signing the report the BOE interest rate has increased to 5.25% vs a low of 0.25% in 2021. This is expected to substantially increase the cost of debt held, however the Charity has received substantial post-balance sheet donations and has adequate reserves to cover the interest exposure in the short-term.

Note that the charity has no restricted funds which restrict assets being used to manage debt during this period of high interest.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Musters', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Chair - Steve Musters

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2022	(Restated) 2021
	£	£
Income and endowments from		
Donations	122,954	138,489
Charitable activities	62,336	36,858
Investment income	31	2
Total	185,321	175,349
Expenditure on		
Charitable activities	152,618	159,757
Net income	32,703	15,592
Reconciliation of Funds		
Accumulated Funds Bfwd	233,933	218,341
Accumulated Funds Cfwd	<u>266,636</u>	<u>233,933</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note		
Fixed Asset			
Tangible Assets	2	522,909	522,593
Current Assets			
Debtors	3	17,489	14,816
Cash and cash equivalents		82,050	60,997
		<u>99,539</u>	<u>75,813</u>
Current Liabilities	4	(16,792)	(18,294)
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		<u>82,747</u>	<u>57,519</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>605,656</u>	<u>580,112</u>
Non-Current Liabilities	5	(339,020)	(346,179)
Net Assets		<u>266,636</u>	<u>233,933</u>
Accumulated Funds		<u>266,636</u>	<u>233,933</u>

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity is entitled to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Building and improvements are held at cost and revalued periodically at the discretion of the board of trustees.

Equipment and other assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life of the asset concerned at 25% per annum on a straight line basis.

Taxation

The Company is a registered Charity and, in the opinion of the trustees, is exempt from corporation tax on its surpluses on financial activities in accordance with section 486 of the corporation tax act 2010.

2 Tangible Assets

	Buildings and improv.	Equipment and other assets	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2022	517,298	7,323	524,621
Additions	-	1,390	1,390
At 31 December 2022	517,298	8,713	526,011
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	-	2,028	2,028
Charge in the year		1,074	1,074
At 31 December 2022	-	3,102	3,102
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2022	517,298	5,611	522,909
At 31 December 2021	517,298	5,295	522,593

3 Debtors		(Restated)
	2022	2021
	£	£
Hall Rent	669	1,222
Gift Aid Receivable	16,820	13,594
	<u>17,489</u>	<u>14,816</u>

4 Current Liabilities		(Restated)
	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposits Held	2,226	1,915
Tax and Social Security	520	498
Accruals	6,886	5,488
Capital Lease Obligations	7,160	10,393
	<u>16,792</u>	<u>18,294</u>

5 Non-current Liabilities		(Restated)
	2022	2021
	£	£
Capital Lease Obligations	339,020	346,179
	<u>339,020</u>	<u>346,179</u>

6 Average Number of Employees

During the year the average number of employees was 2 (2021: 2).

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		(Restated)
	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations		
Gift Aided Giving	91,871	106,219
Non Gift Aided Giving	8,115	5,727
Tax Reclaimed	22,968	26,543
	<u>122,954</u>	<u>138,489</u>
Charitable Activities		
Rental Income	62,336	36,858
	<u>62,336</u>	<u>36,858</u>
Investment Income		
Interest Received	31	2
	<u>31</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>185,321</u>	<u>175,349</u>

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONT)

		(Restated)
	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and Salaries		
Salaries, Wages and Benefits-in-Kind	60,597	57,430
Social Security Costs	1,694	1,508
Pension Costs	4,548	5,557
	<u>66,839</u>	<u>64,495</u>
Property Costs		
Rate and Utilities	862	1,337
Light and Heat	7,108	5,029
Repairs and Maintenance	6,808	5,099
	<u>14,778</u>	<u>11,465</u>
Conference Expenses		
Registrations	3,138	652
Travel and Subsistence	122	-
	<u>3,260</u>	<u>652</u>
Church Activity Costs		
Evangelism	283	153
Hospitality	871	808
Gifts and Donations	31,984	56,248
Miscellaneous Expenses	682	867
	<u>38,554</u>	<u>58,362</u>
Church Running Costs		
Telephone and Internet	1,840	1,924
Subscriptions	1,499	1,343
Insurance	2,552	3,222
Office Supplies	643	539
Audio/ Visual	3,161	3,439
Professional Fees	858	450
Depreciation	1,074	588
	<u>11,627</u>	<u>11,505</u>
Finance Costs		
Interest Payable	17,560	13,278
Total resources expended	<u>152,618</u>	<u>159,757</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>32,703</u>	<u>15,592</u>



Director:
David Pestell, ACA

27 August 2023

The Members

River Church Sutton
Highfield Hall
320 Carshalton Road
SURREY
SM5 3QB

Client Ref: RIV01

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of River Church Sutton

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Pestell

David Pestell ACA
Director



RIVER CHURCH SUTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1104168

Accounts

River Church Sutton

Trustees' Annual Report

1 January 2021 to 31st December 2021

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Charity Contact information

River Church Sutton

Charity Registration Number: 1104168

Principal office

River Church Sutton
Highfield Hall
320 Carshalton Road
Sutton
SM5 3QB

Trustees

Steve Musters (Chair)
Roz Ullman
Simon Waters

Independent Examiner

Peach Accounting

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change our Independent Examiner which has caused a delay in finalising the financial statement and lead to us filing late this year.

Bankers

Santander Business Banking Centre,
287-301 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow
G2 5NT

Objectives of the charity

- i) To advance the Christian faith and express God's love through practical support and compassion for those in physical, mental and spiritual hardship, without discrimination or passing judgment.
- ii) To promote such charitable purposes as which benefit the local community and those overseas, bringing hope through the message of Jesus Christ.

Achievements and performance

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit.

Review of activities

Some activities have had to be altered or suspended during the year due to the lockdown rules and government advice.

- **Sunday Morning Services** are a key way we serve our community by gathering together to worship, listen to teaching from the bible and offer prayer. This year started with a lockdown, due to the Covid pandemic, that prevented gathering in numbers. However, we were able to live-stream our services that helped people connect. We preached on looking after our wellbeing. From Easter we gathered in-person at Highfield Hall once again, observing government guidance at all times, while also continuing our online service for those unable to attend in person.
- **Kids and Youth.** We were able to run an online kids program every Sunday and the youth group met online each week. This proved invaluable, particularly for the youth as they were offered emotional and spiritual support.
- **Mid Week groups** continued to meet on Zoom and, along with WhatsApp group chats, helped people feel connected. Our group leaders did an amazing job ensuring no one felt left out.
- **Prayer** continues to underpin all that we do as a church. We were able to hold two weeks of prayer online along with regular monthly prayer meetings.
- **The Alpha Course** offers people an opportunity to explore faith and spirituality in a safe and relaxed environment. We ran two courses this year which were a huge success, with several people finding faith and developing deep friendships.
- **Church Planting:** In February 2021 we launched a new church in Epsom called Gateway Church. We sent out two key leaders along with around 15 church members, to start this new work in the town of Epsom. We continue to support them financially and in prayer.
- **Highfield Hall** continues to be a hub for the community and this year has hosted dance classes, toddler groups, exercise classes, creative workshops as well as kids parties at the weekends. We started a free badminton club to encourage fitness (post lockdown) and develop friendships. The hall also continues to be a good revenue stream for us.
- **Community Foodshop:** We had the privilege of hosting the Sutton Community Foodshop at Highfield Hall while its own premises, in the St. Nicholas Centre, was in lockdown. This allowed people on low incomes to access good quality food. The Foodshop moved back to the St. Nicholas Centre at the end of April as restrictions lifted.

Review of activities (continued)

- **Sutton Community Works:** We continue to support both financially and through volunteers, Sutton Community works, the charity through which several churches in the borough operate initiatives such as Sutton Foodbank, Foodshop, Street Pastors, School Pastors and homeless ministries. We also offer them office space at Highfield Hall for no charge.
- **New Ground:** We continue to be part of New Ground family of churches. We give regular financial support, which goes towards church planting and equipping leaders, nationally and internationally. We also receive training, support and accountability from the New Ground team.
- **Welcoming people from Hong Kong:** Sutton is a key place for people from Hong Kong to relocate to. As a church we signed up with Welcome churches to be a "Hong Kong friendly church".
- **Mental Health Support:** As we emerged from lockdown it became clear that there was a real need to support those caring for loved ones with mental health needs. We launched a monthly group called "Space to Breathe" to facilitate open and honest conversation and support.

Future plans

Looking ahead to 2022 we plan the following:

- To continue to build community and serve our borough through acts of service.
- To continue to encourage and equip members to participate in every part of church life – gathering, serving, giving, praying and reaching out to those around them.
- To develop Highfield Hall Coffee Lounge into a 'Safe Space' for those who feel isolated or vulnerable.
- To recruit a weekend caretaker to look after the weekend bookings.
- To continue to raise leaders and develop small groups

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Trust Deed dated 29 October 2003 as amended on 13 June 2016

River Church Sutton is a registered charitable trust, number: 1104168.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the charity. New trustees are recruited and appointed by the existing trustees and receive relevant training. Tom Lawton and Vlada Rakin have stepped down from being trustees and Simon Waters has been appointed. We are currently looking to recruit one or two more trustees at the beginning of 2022 to gain a broader mix of skills.

Organisational structure and decision-making policies

River Church Sutton is a charismatic evangelical Church, which has been established in Sutton since 2004.

The trustees delegate responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity's activities to the Leadership Team personnel. Trustees approve an annual budget each year, with non-regular items outside of budgeted amounts that exceed £250 requiring additional trustee approval.

Related party relationships

River Church Sutton is a separate and self-governing church, but is also part of the New Ground group in the NewFrontiers family of Churches and a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

We enjoy great working partnerships with several other local churches in the borough through which Sutton Community Works was founded.

Financial risk management

The Trustees have carried out a risk assessment regarding the Church's operations and are continually taking action to ensure that the risks are minimized as much as possible.

Reserves Policy

The Church's Reserves Policy is to retain approximately 3 months of essential operating expenditure, which would be approximately £30,000.

Principal funding

River Church Sutton receives the majority of its income as donations from members who have informally or formally committed to regular giving. On going financial support is encouraged of new and existing members, but such support is not a requirement of membership and there is no pressure to give. Most Church members have been able to continue their regular giving despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Church also holds 'gift days' from time to time to support specific projects or fundraising targets. A majority of church members use the HMRC 'Gift Aid' scheme where possible.

Hall hire also contributes to our income. We offer competitive rates and prioritise charitable and community focused events.

Financial review

The financial statements show total incoming of £175,349, an increase of 3.5% on 2020 (£168,928). Giving reduced marginally in 2020 however rental income rose by over 50% as a result of demand post-covid. This trend continues into 2022.

Expenses in the year totalled £150,596, a decrease of 5.1% on 2020 (£158,721). Strong control over costs was exercised over the period, with savings in payroll costs due to reduced headcount which enabled the Charity to donate more as a result with donations up to £56,248 (2020: £27,509).

The result was a surplus of £15,592 for the year, a significant improvement over 2020 which showed a deficit of £3,714. The total accumulated reserves stood at £233,933 of which net current assets account for £57,519 demonstrating the Charity has liquidity to cover its reserves policy.

The charity still benefits from low interest rates, however at the time of writing the Bank of England (BOE) base rate has increased to 4.25% vs 0.25% at the reporting date which will impact the Charities cost of debt held. The Charity however believes it can manage the additional cost.

In preparing the financial statements in the recommended SORP format, the new accountants highlighted a number of mis-postings for previous years which have been restated for 2020, the most significant of which is to increase the asset position of the charity by £15,030. A reconciliation can be found in note 7 of the financial statements.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Musters', written over a dotted line.

Chair - Steve Musters

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2021	(Restated) 2020
	£	£
Income and endowments from		
Donations	138,489	145,356
Charitable activities	36,858	23,509
Investment income	2	63
Total	175,349	168,928
Expenditure on		
Charitable activities	159,757	172,642
Net income	15,592	(3,714)
Reconciliation of Funds		
Accumulated Funds Bfwd	218,341	222,055
Accumulated Funds Cfwd	233,933	218,341

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note		
Fixed Asset			
Tangible Assets	2	522,593	511,621
Current Assets			
Debtors	3	14,816	18,239
Cash and cash equivalents		60,997	63,129
		75,813	81,368
Current Liabilities	4	(18,294)	(17,219)
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)		57,519	64,149
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		580,112	575,770
Non-Current Liabilities	5	(346,179)	(357,429)
Net Assets		233,933	218,341
Accumulated Funds		233,933	218,341

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity is entitled to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost.

Building and improvements are held at cost and revalued periodically at the discretion of the board of trustees.

Equipment and other assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life of the asset concerned at 10% per annum on a reducing balance basis.

Taxation

The Company is a registered Charity and, in the opinion of the trustees, is exempt from corporation tax on its surpluses on financial activities in accordance with section 486 of the corporation tax act 2010.

2 Tangible Assets

	Buildings and improv.	Equip. and other assets	Total
Cost			
At 1 January 2021	507,438	5,623	513,061
Additions	9,860	1,700	11,560
At 31 December 2021	517,298	7,323	524,621
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2021	-	1,440	1,440
Charged in the year		588	588
At 31 December 2021	-	2,028	2,028
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2021	517,298	5,295	522,593
At 31 December 2020	507,438	4,183	511,621

3 Debtors		(Restated)
	2021	2020
	£	£
Hall Rent	1,222	157
Gift Aid Receivable	13,594	18,082
	14,816	18,239

4 Current Liabilities		(Restated)
	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposits Held	1,915	790
Tax and Social Security	498	2,550
Accruals	5,488	3,081
Capital Lease Obligations	10,393	10,798
	18,294	17,219

5 Non-current Liabilities		(Restated)
	2021	2020
	£	£
Capital Lease Obligations	346,179	357,429
	346,179	357,429

6 Average Number of Employees

During the year the average number of employees was 2 (2020: 3).

7 Prior Period Restatement

During the preparation of the accounts it was discovered that the period period accumulated funds were materially mistated. This has been restated and reconciled below:

Originally reported	207,025
Gift recognised as a long term liability	(5,000)
Restatement of Gift Aid Receivable	17,766
Restatement of PAYE / pension liability	2,165
Restatement of Fixed Assets not capitalised	1,000
Depreciation never recognised	(975)
Immaterial restatements	74
Restated accumulated funds as at 1 Jan 2020	222,055

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

		(Restated)
	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations		
Gift Aided Giving	106,219	109,943
Non Gift Aided Giving	5,727	8,783
Tax Reclaimed	26,543	26,630
	<u>138,489</u>	<u>145,356</u>
Charitable Activities		
Rental Income	36,858	23,404
Events	0	105
	<u>36,858</u>	<u>23,509</u>
Investment Income		
Interest Received	2	63
	<u>2</u>	<u>63</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>175,349</u>	<u>168,928</u>
Wages and Salaries		
Salaries, Wages and Benefits-in-Kind	57,430	98,850
Social Security Costs	1,508	2,461
Pension Costs	5,557	6,248
	<u>64,495</u>	<u>107,559</u>
Property Costs		
Rate and Utilities	1,337	1,463
Light and Heat	5,029	6,673
Repairs and Maintenance	5,099	3,654
	<u>11,465</u>	<u>11,790</u>
Conference Expenses		
Registrations	652	748
Travel and Subsistence	0	281
	<u>652</u>	<u>1,029</u>
Church Activity Costs		
Evangelism	153	217
Books and Publications	286	31
Hospitality	808	447
Gifts and Donations	56,248	27,509
Miscellaneous Expenses	867	1,302
	<u>58,362</u>	<u>29,506</u>

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONT)

		(Restated)
	2021	2020
	£	£
Church Running Costs		
Telephone and Internet	1,924	1,422
Subscriptions	1,343	1,536
Insurance	3,222	3,217
Office Supplies	539	404
Audio/ Visual	3,439	571
Professional Fees	450	1,008
Depreciation	588	465
	<u>11,505</u>	<u>8,623</u>
Finance Costs		
Interest Payable	<u>13,278</u>	<u>14,135</u>
Total resources expensed	<u>159,757</u>	<u>172,642</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>15,592</u>	<u>(3,714)</u>

Director:
David Pestell, ACA

12 April 2023

The Members

River Church Sutton
Highfield Hall
320 Carshalton Road
SURREY
SM5 3QB

Client Ref: RIV01

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of River Church Sutton

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- ☐ the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- ☐ the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- ☐ the accounts did 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Pestell

David Pestell ACA
Director

RIVER CHURCH SUTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1104168

Accounts



FD Business Ltd
9 Lyncroft Gardens
Epsom
Surrey KT17 1UR

M: 07966-532-199
E: peter@fdbiz.co.uk
W: www.fdbiz.co.uk

DATE: 27 October 2021



The Members
River Church Sutton
27 Summerville Gardens
Cheam
SM1 2BU

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of River Church Sutton

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 2.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Stamps', with a stylized, flowing script.

Peter A Stamps. FCMA, CGMA, FIOD, MIOEE
Director

River Church Sutton

Profit and Loss January - December 2020

		2020 Total	2019 Total
Income			
	Gift Aided Giving	98,977.54	108,653.48
	Non Gift Aided Giving	8,553.20	6,640.00
	Tax Reclaimed	27,207.20	21,650.50
	Vision fund gift aided giving	10,965.00	12,040.00
	Vision fund non gift aided giving	230.00	395.00
	Rental Income	23,208.51	57,549.87
Total Income		£ 169,141.45	£ 206,928.85
Expenses			
	Books and Publications	30.97	36.99
	Children's work	255.53	204.81
	Hospitality	446.85	999.31
Conferences			
	Conference registration	748.34	5,551.83
	Travel expenses	280.76	769.95
Total Conferences		£ 1,029.10	£ 6,321.78
Evangelism			
	Other	14.39	131.08
	Publicity	202.16	
Total Evangelism		£ 216.55	£ 131.08
Gifts and Donations			
		27,508.75	11,073.00
Insurance			
	Public Liability	3,217.45	3,201.35
Total Insurance		£ 3,217.45	£ 3,201.35
Interest Expense			
		14,135.25	16,468.48
Miscellaneous			
		1,623.59	375.31
Office Supplies			
		403.57	1,193.87
Payroll Expenses			
		108,453.11	109,764.33
Professional Fees			
	Accounting	1,008.40	903.60
Total Professional Fees		£ 1,008.40	£ 903.60
Reconciliation Discrepancies			
Subscriptions			
		1,535.67	559.75
Sunday			
	Other	0.00	336.15
	Highfield Running	13,211.16	15,820.37
	visiting speakers	0.00	100.00
Total Sunday		£ 13,211.16	£ 16,256.52
Telephone			
			1,273.51
Unapplied Cash Bill Pay			
	Other		
	Worship	348.59	782.42
	Youth work	248.23	
Total Expenses		£ 173,672.77	£ 169,546.11
Net Operating Income		-£ 4,531.32	£ 37,382.74
Other Income			
	Interest Income	63.08	65.18
	Events	105.00	60.00
	Toddler Group Surplus		0.00
Total Other Income		£ 168.08	£ 125.18
Net Other Income		£ 168.08	£ 125.18
Surplus for the year		-£ 4,363.24	£ 37,507.92

River Church Sutton
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2020

		2020	2019
		Total	Total
Fixed Asset	HighDevelopment Cost	69,427.03	69,142.15
	Finance Lease	438,011.23	438,011.23
	Equipment	4,019.61	4,019.61
Total Fixed Asset		£ 511,457.87	£ 511,172.99
Cash at bank and in hand			
	Abbey Current Account	3,688.27	24,296.01
	Abbey Reserve Account	22,863.70	24,483.39
	Santander Vision Fund	36,577.12	29,092.12
Total Cash at bank and in hand		£ 63,129.09	£ 77,871.52
	Trade Debtors	-£ 38.00	£ 2,967.13
Net current assets		£ 63,091.09	£ 80,838.65
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
Current Liabilities			
	Trade Creditors	74.47	74.47
	Deposits Held	790.00	1,400.00
	Tax and NI	7,796.23	9,487.21
Total Current Liabilities		£ 8,660.70	£ 10,961.68
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		£ 8,660.70	£ 10,961.68
Net current assets (liabilities)		£ 54,430.39	£ 69,876.97
Total assets less current liabilities		£ 565,888.26	£ 581,049.96
Creditors over 1 year			
	Long Term Borrowings	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00
	Capital lease obligations	£ 368,226.90	£ 379,025.36
Total net assets (liabilities)		£ 202,661.36	£ 207,024.60
Capital and Reserves			
	Opening Bal Equity	38,970.10	38,970.10
	Retained Earnings	168,054.50	130,546.58
	Profit for the year	-4,363.24	37,507.92
Total Capital and Reserves		£ 202,661.36	£ 207,024.60

Trustees Annual Report 2020

Overview – 2020 Certainly turned out to be a very different year to what was expected. Yet despite the global pandemic we were able to continue serving our church and wider community while learning to be flexible and find new ways of accomplishing our charitable objectives of advancing the Christian faith and serving our community in beneficial ways.

Finances – Total income for the year was £169,141.45. This was a reduction of £37,784.40 from the previous year, mainly due to loss of revenue from hall hire. However our regular member's financial contributions continued at a stable rate for which we are very grateful.

Total expenditure was £173,672.77 leaving a net operating loss of £4,532.32

Thankfully, due to well-managed finances, we were able to call on our reserves, which enabled us to continue operating unaffected throughout the year.

We continued to give to local charities such as Community works, Sutton Schools work as well as to our New Ground family of churches for on going church planting and support globally.

In addition, we continued to take up one off gifts to support national and overseas missions.

Church Planting - A key expense this year was financing our church plant in Epsom. We believe church planting is an excellent model to reach new communities. We plan to launch the church plant in early 2021. With our focus on Epsom we also ran an Alpha course – an introduction to the Christian faith.

Highfield hall – Our premises continues to be a popular facility for running various community activities and social gatherings and continues to have a very positive presence in the borough. We were glad to be able to host the winter homeless shelter, in partnership with Sutton Community Works, once again at the beginning of the year. Those who would otherwise have been homeless received hot evening meals, a warm bed and breakfast to set them up for the day. We were able to build real relationships with them and many were helped into more permanent accommodation. Unfortunately, due to lockdown, we were unable to repeat this at the end of the year. Lockdown also meant that we had to close the building completely for several months – this obviously impacted both on our community and on our finances. Once restrictions allowed, we implemented a full Covid-specific risk assessment, in line with government guidelines, and were glad to welcome socially distanced events when we were able.

Church life/Community – This year we had to find new ways to stay connected during the various lockdowns – particular the vulnerable and elderly. We implemented Zoom meetings for small groups and children's ministries and live-streamed our Sunday services on YouTube. We continued to host the Sutton Community Works charity in our office space as well as supporting their different initiatives including Sutton Foodbank, Street Pastors, 'Linking Lives' and a job

club. As already mentioned, we were also involved in a winter homeless shelter.

Small groups - Our 'Life Groups' really came into their own this year, helping make sure people were not isolated during the lockdown months. Meals were cooked and calls and visits were made, as people found ways to stay connected. Most moved onto the Zoom platform this year. The Book Club continues to grow. And our Badminton club on Friday nights is a popular place for people to exercise and build friendships.

Preaching/teaching - We started the year looking at the book of Hebrews and how we can have faith in a faithful God. This was certainly very timely as we headed into such an uncertain and faith-testing season. It really did help our congregation know they can trust in God even when circumstances are shaken. We then did a series called "Lessons from Lockdown" looking at what we felt God was teaching us through this season.

A key highlight of the year was our international Sunday, celebrating racial diversity – with many contributions brought in different languages and all online!

We also had a key focus on the issue of modern day slavery in partnership with International Justice Mission. We finished the year with a wonderful carol service, both online and in person, celebrating the fact that hope has a name – Jesus Christ.

We continue to be committed to preaching the Word of God in a meaningful and inspiring way equipping the saints for works of service to be a people full of the Word and the Spirit of God.

Leadership/Staff – Steve & Rob continue to serve on staff as full-time elders. Carolyn Dunlop continues to do a great job, overseeing the hire of the building along with additional administration. We also employed someone part time to do the video editing. We continue to invest in leadership and sent three people to the New Ground Academy for training and equipping for future leadership.

Prayer - Prayer truly does ground all that we do as a church community. We started prayer evenings on Zoom to make corporate prayer as accessible as possible. We also held a week of prayer to kick the year off. We also set up a Zoom prayer room for those who wanted specific one-to-one prayer. We continue to see God answer our prayers – whether for provision, healing and comfort.

Kid's Church – After leading our Kids church for four years, Barney and Carolyn Dunlop handed the baton over to Michaela Cucharo in the autumn of 2020. We set up a weekly YouTube kids channel and then transitioned on to Zoom. Our young people continue to grow in their knowledge and understanding of Jesus - and have lots of fun.

Youth - Our youth group continues to thrive under the leadership of Roz Ullman and Naomi Mungroo, helping our young people stay connected via Zoom and in-person where possible. Online school and the various lockdowns have hugely impacted our young people and so having

a supportive community around them has been vital.

Playgroup Group – We had to pause our Playgroup due to Covid for several months – this was a real blow to many parents for whom the social interaction is a life-line. We reopened as and when we could with a full Covid-safe risk assessment.

Overseas –We continue to support the work of New Ground, part of New frontiers, and help with crisis needs and support many new church plants both in prayer and financially. We are also part of the Welcome Churches network helping people from overseas, particularly from Hong Kong, feel welcomed and find a place to worship.

Looking towards 2021

Church planting into Epsom is a key priority for us. We also aim to partner again with Sutton Community Works this time with their community food shop for low-income families. Despite the various Covid restrictions we have seen a real openness in our community for prayer and genuine care. We aim to continue to grow in spreading the love of Jesus to our community.

The trustees of River Church Sutton