

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

SKYLARK CHURCH

(A company limited by guarantee)

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1109961

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 05442866

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SKYLARK CHURCH
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

WORKING NAME	Skylark Church
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1109961
COMPANY NUMBER	05442866
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2023
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2024

John Grayston
Peter Sims
Nicola Sims
Charles Kemp
Wendy Ward
Wayne Bishop

The existing directors appoint any new directors, following the provisions laid out in the Articles of Association

LEGAL STATUS	Company Limited by Guarantee
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	Registered as a Company on 4th May 2005 and as a charity on 10th June 2005.

OBJECTS

The advance of the Christian faith in Essex and other parts of the United Kingdom or the World as the Directors may from time to time think fit and other such purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law in England and Wales and are connected with the charitable work of the Charity.

REGISTERED AND MAIN ADDRESS	Unit 4 Hanbury Way Chelmsford Essex CM1 3AE
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BANKERS	HSBC 99 High Street Chelmsford CM1 1EQ
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS	Xeinadin South East The Old Grange Lordship Road Writtle Chelmsford Essex, CM1 3WT
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LENDERS	Kingdom Bank Ltd Media House Padge Road Beeston Nottingham, NG9 2RS
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SKYLARK CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given to me by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- 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 statement below.

Independent examiners statements

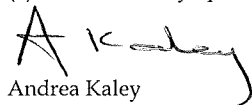
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities; and
- that the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102)

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.



Andrea Kaley
Chartered Accountant
for and on behalf of Xeinadin South East
The Old Grange
Warren Estate
Writtle
Chelmsford
Essex, CM1 3WT

Date: 23 December 2024

**SKYLARK CHURCH
DIRECTORS REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Company for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report and financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Structure, Governance and Management

The Memorandum and Articles of Association administered by a Board of Directors govern the Centre. During the year these Directors were:

John Grayston
Charles Kemp
Peter Sims
Nicola Sims
Wendy Ward
Wayne Bishop

Other Officers of the Centre are:

Secretary: Lesley Kemp

Administrator: N Raggett (resigned 19/10/2023) C Kowlaski (appointed 01/06/2024)

Treasurer: Marcus Ward

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity

Organisational structure and appointment of trustees

Newly appointed directors are provided with an informal induction to the charity and mentoring by established directors.

The company endeavours to maintain a balance of skills and expertise when seeking new or replacement directors. New directors undergo an induction process which involves meeting with directors and senior trust staff and are provided with an information pack detailing their responsibilities, governance, financial and other information relating to the structure and operation of the company. All directors are invited to attend a range of training events relating to both governance issues and specific areas of the charity's work.

The Board is constituted with a number of directors to bring a blend of different experience and capacities to make good judgement and contributions. New directors may be recruited from leaders within the church, key personnel of Skylark International, members of others churches in the locality or Christians in the local business community. Following proposal by one of the existing directors, new directors are appointed after review by the whole board, and are subject to induction training and continuous involvement in viewing the activities of the charity and understanding of its objectives.

The directors present the attached financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

When reviewing the aims and objectives of the centre and when planning future activities, we have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The aims of the Centre are to advance the Christian faith, to further Christian education, to relieve persons in need and to provide facilities for the community. The Church continues its hybrid Sunday Gatherings with between 30 and 80 people watching live online during an average Sunday service, with the ability to engage online after the service has ended. In-person attendance on a Sunday has also continued to grow and we find ourselves nearly at capacity for our larger services throughout the year such as Christmas and Easter. We have run popular connect lunches through the year to encourage connection and relationship within the Church congregation.

Towards advancing the Christian faith, the Church continues its regular Sunday services that are also accessible via Live Stream and after the service has ended. We were able to run an Easter service and multiple Christmas celebration services, all live streamed, which were well attended and received by regular church members and visitors alike.

SKYLARK CHURCH
DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Activities, Achievements and Performance (continued)

We continue to engage in overseas mission, drawing on the resources and experience of several congregational members and partner organisations. We continue to support overseas organisations Cherish Uganda and I Got Shoes, as well as in the UK, Kintsugi Hope, CHESS, Care for the Family and Lighthouse Family Trust.

Towards furthering Christian education, Life Groups remain the principle mid-week meetings for Church and some continue to offer online engagement as well as in person to facilitate older people or families with young children. These provide a smaller forum and enable the congregation to grow together in their education. The groups are flexible in style and content, to cater for a wide range of needs and we currently have 17 groups across the life of the Church.

Within this framework, one group, DNA, exists for the benefit of new members, to give them an overview of the various events and ministries happening within the church and also to find out our core vision and values. We have continued to see new people seek out church after engaging in service online or via social media. The Church has also run a number of mens and womens brunches/breakfasts with between 40 and 80 attendees to foster relationship and discuss and equip people on specific topics relevant to the Christian life.

The senior generation continue their twice monthly in-person meeting, providing a time of worship and fellowship with one another for between 10 and 20 members. Our deaf congregation continue to meet in-person again and have roughly 20 attendees. Monthly BSL interpreted services are provided, and our Christmas and Easter services have online BSL interpretation.

Skylark Kids continues to facilitate kids work at Sunday services. Little Ones toddler group continues, with more than 70 young children and parents/carers attending. There remains over 200 children on our register at present and we have converted a new room to facilitate kids work on a Sunday.

Skylark Youth have expanded their Tuesday evening sessions so as to be more accessible for those young people who don't come to Church, providing a vital link for youth within the Church as well as from our wider local community. Our No Limits wider youth event has run twice and engaged young people from across the community as well as the local church. The Young Adults group continues to meet monthly with between 10 and 15 members undertaking events or being hosted in homes by church members.

For those who are in financial need, the church gives gifts to members and others locally on an ad-hoc basis in response to known circumstances. Meals are also delivered to people who have had new babies, moved house, are unwell due to mental or physical sickness or just having a difficult time. Food box provision has risen with the referral of new families from local schools, whilst we continue to provide pre-paid supermarket cards on an ad-hoc basis and to support families in extreme need over the Christmas period.

The church's pastoral and counselling services have been able to continue. We were also able to continue running online marriage courses as well as a bereavement course to help those struggling with grief. Demand for our flourish self-esteem course continues to grow and we have appointed a new facilitator. We continue to be a Restored "Beacon" Church to support those who are victim to domestic violence, as well as running Kintsugi Hope groups to support those with mental health and wellness challenges. In partnership with the NHS, Sanctus and CHESS we launched a one-stop "healthcare for the homeless" service which has seen over 300 people so far. A new group Belong, has been formed to create intergenerational relationships within the community and a bursary fund setup for schools to access funding for those children and families most in need.

SKYLARK CHURCH
DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Activities, Achievements and Performance (continued)

This year we have continued our work alongside Tesco to regularly distribute food to those in need, including some refugee families, Safer Places Women's Refuge and to Chess, a Chelmsford local homeless charity, along with our food parcels and vouchers. We still maintain our support of Lighthouse Family Trust, an independent charity responding to need in the area of crisis pregnancy and loss.

The church is in healthy relationship with Skylark International, (formerly CGI), a growing organisation currently overseeing a number of churches in the UK and overseas as well as other Christian ministries. The church draws support, encouragement, inspiration from Skylark International and is pleased to give a minimum of 10% of its offering to it to help facilitate the work of our wider movement.

The church remains dependent on volunteers for a great number of its activities. It is impossible to gauge the financial benefits of such acts of service, but the spiritual returns are exponentially greater. Without the volunteers, the church would not be able to function at its current level of output and the directors wish to take this opportunity to express their heartfelt thanks to all who have given freely of their time, talents, resources and energy, and for those who have stepped into new challenges and volunteering roles.

Future Plans

Since taking ownership of the building in Hanbury Road we have assessed the suitability of the building for our future requirements and a number of improvements to the building. Further improvements may take place depending on funding.

We will continue to grow our presence in the community, including looking to start running services in Chelmsford Prison, including a Kintsugi Hope group. We aim to start providing breakfasts for a local school, and to grow Life Groups in number as well as those who are in each group. Another room is in plans to be converted for use with kids on a Sunday to help with growing numbers and we are planning a Christmas Day meal for those within the community who are lonely and isolated on Christmas Day.

Major Risks and Controls

The major risk is in respect of the value and volatility of income, as the charity is dependant on voluntary giving. This is partly managed through cash flow monitoring and altering the timing of expenditure to reflect that on the income.

Financial Review

The Centre's funds are applied to support Christian Mission through local teaching and worship, Christian missionary work in the UK and abroad.

In the year ended 31st March 2024 major expenses were applied as follows:

In support of full and part time staff £284,197

By way of a tithe to Skylark International £54,731

Maintenance of premises for worship and teaching locally, including mortgage interest of £35,230

In support of Christian Ministry workers in the UK and abroad £26,800

During the year there was a surplus of £73,210

Accounting practices remained unchanged for the financial year. The reserves policy is stated in note 15 to the financial statements. Sundry restricted funds were continued during the past financial year for the purposes of raising funds for specified individuals and circumstances, as detailed in the notes to the financial statements.

SKYLARK CHURCH
DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Skylark Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the overall management of the Charity, ensuring compliance with the Charity's objects and relevant legislation and also to define and agree the strategic aims and objectives of the Charity.

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charitable Company's financial activities during the year and its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue to operate

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to Independent Examiners

So far as the Directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charities independent examiner's are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps they ought to have taken as director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant examination information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval of Annual Report

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors on23/12/2024.....



Peter Sims

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

SKYLARK CHURCH
(Company number 5442866)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total to 31	Total to 31
INCOME	Notes	Funds	Funds	March	March
		£	£	2024	2023
				£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Donations and legacies	2a	561,826	27,490	589,316	499,994
Other trading activities	2b	30,655	-	30,655	31,610
Investment income	2c	1,955	652	2,607	447
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	2	594,436	28,142	622,578	532,052
EXPENDITURE					
Cost of generating funds					
Charitable activities	3a	499,535	40,228	539,763	517,760
Governance costs	3b	9,156	450	9,606	8,659
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	3	508,691	40,678	549,369	526,420
NET (OUTGOING) / INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		85,745	(12,536)	73,210	5,632
Transfers between funds	4	(16,858)	16,858	-	-
NET (OUTGOING) INCOMING RESOURCES FOR YEAR		68,887	4,323	73,210	5,632
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	4	382,250	61,491	443,740	438,108
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4	451,136	65,814	516,950	443,740

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements

SKYLARK CHURCH
(Company number 5442866)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31 March 2024 £	Total 31 March 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	6	275,653	490,001	765,654	784,124
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	11,357		11,357	10,470
Cash at bank and in hand	10	167,409	36,478	203,887	124,371
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>178,766</u>	<u>36,478</u>	<u>215,244</u>	<u>134,840</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	18,960	1,531	20,491	20,354
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>159,806</u>	<u>34,947</u>	<u>194,753</u>	<u>114,487</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>435,460</u>	<u>524,948</u>	<u>960,408</u>	<u>898,611</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	12	-	58,587	58,587	53,984
Creditors: amounts falling due after five years	12	-	384,871	384,871	400,887
NET ASSETS		<u>435,460</u>	<u>81,490</u>	<u>516,950</u>	<u>443,740</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted income funds	4	451,136	-	451,136	382,250
Restricted income funds	4	-	65,814	65,814	61,491
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	4	<u>451,136</u>	<u>65,814</u>	<u>516,950</u>	<u>443,740</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit for its financial statements for the financial year ended 31st March 2024 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006
The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and its surplus of deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements , so far as applicable to the company

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 23/12/2024



Peter Sims
Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

The notes on pages 10 to 19 form part of these financial statements

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general activities of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions placed on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

There are no designated funds that the directors have earmarked for specific purposes.

Incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, the directors are virtually certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income), the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resource.

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated services and facilities are included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended), where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

The value of volunteer help received is not included in the Financial Statements, but is described in the director's report.

Investment Income is included in the Financial Statements when receivable.

Resources Expended and Creditors

Liabilities are recognised when incurred or a commitment is made.

Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory financial statements, the costs of director's meetings and legal advice to directors on governance or constitutional matters.

Where the charity has given a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources Expended and Creditors (Cont.)

Grants made or received without performance conditions are only recognised in the SOFA, when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to a grant which remain in the control of the charity.

Support costs including central functions have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Value Added Tax

The Charity's activities are classified as exempt for the purposes of value added tax and the Charity is unable to reclaim the value added tax which it suffers on its expenses. Expenditure in these financial statements is therefore shown inclusive of value added tax.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £500. They are valued at cost or if gifted at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of the tangible fixed asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful life. The rates applied per annum are as follows:

Fixed Asset Class	Depreciation Rate
Freehold Land	0%
Freehold Buildings	2.5%
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	33%
Leasehold building improvements	33%
Motor Vehicles	25%

There has been no changes to the accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) since last year. The legal, banking, valuation and other expenses related to the purchase are expensed rather than capitalised.

Pension Scheme

The charity contributes to a Skylark International group scheme with Royal London at rates set by the scheme actuary and advised to the board by the scheme administrator. The scheme is a multi employer charity Scheme and advice to the board is by the scheme actuary. In accordance with FRS17 the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating lease agreements are charged as expenditure on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at the transaction price, less any impairment.

Financial Instruments

The company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like other debtors, creditors, loans from banks.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

2. INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total to 31 March 2024 £	Total to 31 March 2023 £
a) Donations and Legacies				
General and Weekly Offerings	409,130	10,064	419,194	360,415
Donations and CAF Vouchers *	65,863	17,426	83,289	41,893
Tax Recovered	79,423	-	79,423	84,983
Vision Offerings	7,411	-	7,411	12,703
	<u>561,826</u>	<u>27,490</u>	<u>589,316</u>	<u>499,994</u>
b) Other Trading Activities				
Fees Received	19,153	-	19,153	18,772
Sales	10,337	-	10,337	12,394
Rental Income	1,165	-	1,165	445
	<u>30,655</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,655</u>	<u>31,610</u>
c) Investment Income				
Bank Interest	1,955	652	2,607	447
	<u>1,955</u>	<u>652</u>	<u>2,607</u>	<u>447</u>
d) Other Income				
None	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>594,436</u>	<u>28,142</u>	<u>622,578</u>	<u>532,052</u>

* Donations included this year a legacy totalling £59,130.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

3. EXPENDITURE

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total to March 2024 £	Total to March 2023 £
a) Costs of Charitable Activities					
Salaries National Insurance and Pensions	5)	284,197	-	284,197	285,538
Training and Education		1,250	-	1,250	2,129
Mission and Support Grants:	3 c)	81,431	100	81,531	55,800
Building Mortgage interest		35,230	-	35,230	27,401
Building Repairs and Maintenance		5,919	-	5,919	2,924
Cleaning		4,688	-	4,688	5,982
Security and Safety		2,892	-	2,892	1,132
Water, Heat and Light		12,055	-	12,055	17,158
Bank Charges		496	-	496	481
Books, CD's and DVDs		685		685	359
Computer and Internet		1,166	-	1,166	2,033
Depreciation		4,876	17,922	22,798	23,386
Entertainment and Catering		2,855	133	2,988	3,767
Equipment and Materials		8,314	857	9,171	8,444
Food and Accommodation		18,794	5,994	24,788	21,158
Hire of Facilities		1,445		1,445	3,856
Insurances		8,983		8,983	8,914
Outside Support Services		10,106	6,890	16,996	17,035
Pastoral Gifts and Expenses		804	8,252	9,056	11,660
Postage and Courier		25		25	64
Printing and Stationery		2,921		2,921	4,651
Outside Speakers		750	80	830	1,610
Telephone and Fax		7,527		7,527	6,916
Travel Costs		2,119		2,119	3,352
Vehicle Running Costs		1,071	-	1,071	954
Event & Error Refunds	-	1,064	- -	1,064	1,056
		<u>499,535</u>	<u>40,228</u>	<u>539,763</u>	<u>517,760</u>
b) Governance Costs					
Subscriptions and Licenses		6,653	450	7,103	6,126
Independent Examination fees - current year		2,503	-	2,503	2,533
		<u>9,156</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>9,606</u>	<u>8,659</u>
		<u>508,691</u>	<u>40,678</u>	<u>549,369</u>	<u>526,420</u>

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

3 c) Mission and Support Grants:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total to 31 March 2024	Total to 31 March 2023
Local and UK Organisations				
Skylark International	54,731	-	54,731	37,200
Lighthouse Family Trust	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
CHESS	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Care for the Family	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Kintsugi Hope	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Restored	-	100	100	150
Made for More	3,000	-	3,000	-
Stewardship - Martin Young	2,000	-	2,000	-
Churches Together in Chelmsford	500	-	500	250
Overseas Mission Organisations				
Cherish a Child	6,600	-	6,600	6,600
I Got Shoes	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Bev Murrill	3,000	-	3,000	-
	<u>81,431</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>81,531</u>	<u>55,800</u>

The mission and support grants are for the following purposes:

- The tithe to Skylark International is towards supporting the movement to which SC belongs.
- Lighthouse Family Trust is a pregnancy advice service operating in Chelmsford.
- CHESS is a charity providing shelter and support for the homeless.
- Care for the Family's aim is to promote strong family life and to help those who face family difficulties.
- Kintsugi Hope exists to create safe and supportive spaces for those experiencing mental and emotional health challenges
- Cherish a Child supports AIDs orphans in Uganda.
- Churches Together in Chelmsford arranges joint events and provides a forum for churches and Christian organisations to work together in Chelmsford.
- Made for More provide mental health, mentoring and Christian support to the secondary schools in Chelmsford, Essex.
- I Got Shoes assists and enables the education of children in Uganda, providing grants, supplying shoes, uniforms and school fees.
- Martin Young has been leading and planting churches for 25 years and now works with churches and leaders on creative ways to present the Christian message.
- Bev Murrill co-founded Christian Growth Centre which became Skylark Church and is active in teaching and encouraging church leaders internationally from her home base in Australia - this gift was to assist with further academic study.
- Restored is a charity which speaks up about violence against women and equips churches across the UK to respond to domestic abuse and provide support for victims of abuse.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

4. FUNDS OF THE CHARITY

	Opening Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Closing Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted Funds					
Community Fund	43,228	10,789	(13,268)	(142)	40,607
Pastoral Fund	14,966	17,353	(9,910)	-	22,409
Petchey Achievement Awards	2,338	-	-	-	2,338
Other	959	-	(17,500)	17,000	459
	<u>61,491</u>	<u>28,142</u>	<u>(40,678)</u>	<u>16,858</u>	<u>65,814</u>
Unrestricted Fund	382,250	594,436	(508,691)	(16,858)	451,136
	<u>443,740</u>	<u>622,578</u>	<u>(549,369)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>516,950</u>

The Community fund covers work that Skylark Church performs in and for the Community and includes assets transferred from ROC Chelmsford.

The Pastoral fund holds donations for pastoral care of individuals within the Church and to support individuals in the community and homes run by local charities.

The Petchey achievement awards scheme is to support monthly awards to youth groups.

The Other category contains restricted funds for items related to buildings.

5. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	31-Mar-24 £	31-Mar-23 £
Gross Wages and Salaries	246,031	247,277
Employer's National Insurance	13,613	13,538
Employer's Pension Contribution	24,554	24,723
	<u>284,197</u>	<u>285,538</u>

The average number of employees who were engaged in the year is as follows:

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	13	14
Full time equivalent	7	8

The charity operates a PAYE scheme to pay all employed members of staff. No individual employee received emoluments over £60,000.

The charity contributes to a Pension Fund with Royal London (previously branded as Scottish Life). Contributions are made by the employees at 4% and the employer at 10% for those employees who are members of the scheme.

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Building Renovations £	Fixtures Fittings and Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 31st March 2023	965,074	28,093	114,773	1,107,940
Additions			4,328	4,328
Disposals				-
As at 31st March 2024	<u>965,074</u>	<u>28,093</u>	<u>119,101</u>	<u>1,112,268</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1st April 2023	188,642	24,351	110,823	323,816
Charge for the year	17,500	1,726	3,572	22,798
Elimination on disposals				-
As at 31st March 2024	<u>206,142</u>	<u>26,077</u>	<u>114,395</u>	<u>346,614</u>
Net Book Value				
At 1st April 2023	776,432	3,742	3,950	784,124
At 31st March 2024	<u>758,932</u>	<u>2,017</u>	<u>4,706</u>	<u>765,654</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise of the chapel on Chignal Road, Chelmsford and Unit 4 on Hanbury Road, Chelmsford. The unit at Hanbury Road was purchased for £845,000 in June 2012. The directors have allocated £145,000 to land and £700,000 to the building, with the building being depreciated. Both premises are used for the charity's activities and therefore are included at cost. As there are few similar properties in the area the market value is difficult to calculate. As part of the purchase of Hanbury Road the chapel was valued by the bank securing the loan against it and the directors believe that the valuation is similar to the £120,000 which is included in the above. The additions this year relate to the purchase of further lighting and video equipment to support online broadcasting of services and chairs for counselling rooms.

7. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

The Charity had a rental and copy charges on a photocopier in the office for five years which started in 2017 and was due to expire in April 2022. A renewal of the photocopier rental was agreed in October 2020 with the lease commencing in November 2020. The new lease is due to expire in November 2025.

At year end the minimum lease payments under non cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31-Mar-24 £	31-Mar-23 £
Obligation per annum:		
Within One Year	873	873
Between one and five years	1,454	2,327
	<u>2,327</u>	<u>3,200</u>

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

8. TAXATION

As a charity, Skylark Church is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 478 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (CTA 2010) to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the Charity.

9. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23
	£	£
Tax Recoverable	8,985	8,466
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	2,372	2,004
	<u>11,357</u>	<u>10,470</u>

10. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23
Current Account	13,943	17,106
Deposit Account	153,437	65,883
Community Account	36,478	41,349
Cash	29	34
	<u>203,887</u>	<u>124,371</u>

11. CREDITORS AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23
	£	£
Accruals	2,451	2,941
Audit and Accountancy	2,400	2,310
Credit Cards	3,425	2,998
Mortgage payable within one year	12,215	12,105
	<u>20,491</u>	<u>20,354</u>

12. CREDITORS AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	31-Mar-24	31-Mar-23
	£	£
Mortgage repayable over 30 years to June 2042 due as follows:		
Between one and five years	58,587	53,984
In more than five years	384,871	400,887
	<u>443,458</u>	<u>454,871</u>

The mortgage is a repayment loan and bears a interest of 7.75 % at 31st March 24

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The directors actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The directors have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RELATED PARTIES

The following amounts were paid to or on behalf of related parties:

Related Party	Salary	Pension contributions	Grant	Other	Total to 31 March 2024	Total to 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Peter & Nicola Sims	74,719	7,472	-	493	82,684	78,032
Lesley Kemp	6,067	607	-	-	6,674	6,296
Skylark International	-	-	54,731	-	54,731	37,200
	<u>80,787</u>	<u>8,079</u>	<u>54,731</u>	<u>493</u>	<u>144,089</u>	<u>121,528</u>

Subject to certain conditions, the Memorandum of association permits directors who offer their services to the Charity as a religious pastor, to be remunerated out of income or property of the charity.

In the Related Party list above, Peter & Nicola Sims are Pastors & Trustees, Lesley Kemp is the wife of Charles Kemp who is a trustee.

Skylark International is a charity which supports a network of churches and ministries, organising joint events, leadership conferences and training. Its primary funding comes from contributions made by the churches within the Skylark International network. Skylark Church is one of these churches.

Peter & Nicola Sims are also Leaders & Trustees of Skylark International

Two of the directors have received payment for travel, subsistence and study expenses totalling £374 (prior year £493) in relation to services provided to the Company.

During the year the following amounts were received from related parties:

Related Party	Total to March 2024	Total to March 2023
Skylark International - Payment for Admin Support	15,675	17,167
	<u>15,675</u>	<u>17,167</u>

SKYLARK CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

15. RESERVES POLICY

The directors have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the charity's needs. The directors consider it appropriate to retain a level of reserves held in liquid assets equal to one week of running costs. This is based on the charity's size and the level of commitments held. The directors aim to ensure the charity will be able to continue to fulfil their charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income. The directors will endeavour to not 'sit' on funds unnecessarily.