

South West Gospel Partnership

Charity number: 1126798

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 August 2024

South West Gospel Partnership

CONTENTS

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 - 4
Receipts and Payments Accounts	5-6
Report of the Independent Examiner	7

South West Gospel Partnership

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and the financial statements of South West Gospel Partnership ("SWGP" or "the Trust") for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name	South West Gospel Partnership
Charity registered number	1126798
Status	Trust Registered as a charity with effect from 19 November 2008
Registered office	SWGP c/o St Bartholomew's Church 1 King Edward Road Oldfield Park Bath BA2 3PB

Trustees

The names of the Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out below:

Ian Lewis (Chairman)
Mike Cain (resigned 23/06/24)
Simon Dowland
Tim Howlett (Treasurer)
Jim Walford (22/05/24)
Brian Whittaker (06/03/24)
Spencer Shaw
Adrian Taylor-Weekes (Secretary - resigned 22/05/24)
Jenny Singh (Secretary)

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the Trust and all served without remuneration in their capacity as Trustees.

Bankers	Lloyds Bank 20 Badminton Road Downend Bristol BS16 6BW
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Independent Examiner	D Goode 48 Oolite Road Bath BA2 2UU
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South West Gospel Partnership

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

SWGP is a registered charity governed in accordance with its Declaration of Trust made on 7 November 2008.

The Charity Commission granted SWGP registered charity status on 19 November 2008.

Organisational structure

SWGP is governed by the Trustees who comprise ministers and members of evangelical churches from across the South West region of England. The Trustees meet at least twice (usually 4-5 times) a year to set policy and review the activities of the Trust.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are nominated and appointed by a vote of the existing Trustees and may serve for a period of up to five years after which time they are eligible for re-appointment. None of the Trustees receive remuneration or any other benefit from their work with SWGP.

In July 2024 the Trustees appointed Adrian Taylor-Weekes as Operations Manager for one day per week. As he had been a trustee (resigning in May 2024) the trustees were required to obtain Charity Commission consent which was granted on 4th July 2024

Risk Management

The Trustees examine the major strategic and operational risks which SWGP faces at each of their meetings. They seek to manage and mitigate these risks within acceptable levels wherever possible.

Objectives and Activities

The objective of SWGP is to advance the Christian faith for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively through evangelism, ministry, theological education and the planting and restoration of church fellowships in accordance with its statements of belief.

During the year SWGP incurred staff costs for a part-time Ministry Training Course director, a part-time Development Officer, and a part-time administrator. SWGP also gratefully received voluntary assistance from individuals and partnership churches, without which the effectiveness of SWGP would be severely limited. The main activities of the Trust during the year are summarised below.

Partnership Meetings

SWGP organises quarterly partnership meetings for ministers and Gospel workers from partnering churches, to encourage them through sharing, praying, welcoming visiting speakers and planning activities together.

Ministry Training Course ("MTC")

The academic year 2023/2024 was SWGP's 18th year of its Ministry Training Course. As in previous years, during the year ended 31 August 2024, two year groups studied the Bible, learning how to teach it to others. Course student numbers were around 26 for the year. Students attended the MTC from many different churches spread across the South West with some travelling each week during term time. Students included pastors, church workers, apprentices, student workers, home group leaders, as well as church members who were able to take time off from work to come on the course, or who are retired.

South West Gospel Partnership

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the year ended 31 August 2024

Objectives and Activities (continued)

We are privileged to have many able Bible teachers in the area, and the teaching is shared by about 12-15 different speakers, including visiting national speakers from time to time. MTC offers two afternoon workshop tracks – one for preachers and one for helping people to lead Bible studies. There is also a short course in Biblical Hebrew added on at the end of the day for those who wish to stay. Each year there are two tours of the British Museum and British Library to study items relating to the Bible.

The MTC course was largely funded from student fees received during the year, which were set at £225 per term for the 2023/24 academic year. The course made a loss of £4,795 this year, having covered its costs in the previous year. A bursary continues to be in use to further widen access to the course by offsetting fees for those unable to afford them.

South West Men's Convention

The 2023 Men's Convention was an in-person conference held on Saturday 14th October 2023, with the title, "Finished: Men secure in the victory of the cross" with around 350 delegates attending at the St Michael's Centre in Stoke Gifford, Bristol. The main speaker was Andrew Sach with a testimony slot given by Mike Cain, and feedback was very positive. The Convention covered costs as budgeted.

Other Activities

Bristol and Bath Women's Conferences

SWGP has oversight of the Bristol and Bath Women's Conferences, an annual conference day for women. The 2024 Conferences were attended by over 550 women over the Bristol and Bath events. The main speaker was Ellidh Cook.

Ministers' Retreat

SWGP ran a 24hr ministers' retreat in the Ammerdown Christian Retreat Centre in April. This was the first time we ran this. Around 12 ministers attended and we had talks from John Samuel. Feedback was positive and we will look to

MTC Lite

This is a mini version of MTC, taking place in the evenings, for those who cannot attend MTC for a day in the week and ran in November 2023

SOLID

SWGP organises fun and interactive teaching days for children and young adults aged 11-18 and their youth leaders. The SOLID Day event took place on Saturday 6th July and was attended by around 90 young people with their youth leaders. The price (£5) is intentionally set to be affordable to all.

Public Benefit

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit. As set out in our objectives, the Trust exists for the benefit of individuals primarily in the South West region of England through the promotion and advancement of the evangelical protestant Christian religion. Working closely with its partner churches, SWGP seeks to make its courses and events affordable to ensure that they are accessible to all.

South West Gospel Partnership

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 August 2024

Financial Review

The financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and should be reviewed in conjunction with this Trustee Report.

Income is derived primarily from charges for events and training courses, and also through donations from partner churches and individuals. Expenditure includes staff costs and costs associated with running events and training courses. The training course failed to cover its costs during this year.

SWGP's total receipts in the year ended 31 August 2024 were £45,293 (2023: £54,554), and its total payments were £50,728 (2023: £47,793), resulting in net receipts of -£4,985 (2023: £6,761).

Gifts and donations received from churches and individuals during the year were £7,821 (2023: £19,885). This decrease is, in part, due to our not sending out reminders to churches for their donations. SWMC income was slightly down on 2022, probably due to when the funds reach our account as the number of ticket sales was similar.

Ministry Training Course receipts were £17,709, equivalent to around 26 students per term @ £225 per term. Bursary funds of £200 were used to offset costs for one attendee. Payments of £5,333 and staff costs of £17,371, totalling £22,704 resulted in net payments of -£4,795 (2023: £104) for the year. In addition, costs of £1,515.10 were incurred in relation to SWGP's partnership meetings, and £1,383.52 for IT services and subscriptions including £302.97 for a Fluro replacement project. The Development Officer cost this year was £11,187 (2023: £14,710). This decrease is due to the fact that Tom Underhill ended his employment and the replacement AD Taylor-Weekes only works 1 day and not 2.

South West Men's Convention ticket sales of £5,840 and direct costs of £2,429 resulted in a net surplus of £3,411. This was used to contribute to SWGP general funds. Women's Conference ticket sales of £10,908 and costs of £6,669 resulted in a surplus of £4,239. £1,000 was kept in general funds (£500 cross charge per conference) and the balance moved into restricted funds for the women's conferences (now at £8,195)


As at 31 August 2024 SWGP's cash funds were £10,316, comprising unrestricted General Funds of £913 (2023: £9,137), restricted funds for MTC Bursaries of £1207.97 (2023: £1,408) and restricted funds relating to the Women's Conference of £8,195 (2023: £4,956).

Reserves Policy

The Trustees are committed to maintaining a level of reserves for General Funds that will cover at least three months' staff costs (*about £5,200 at current rates*), subject to sufficient funding being available to achieve this, while not hampering the ongoing development of the SWGP's activities. **As at 31 August 2024 SWGP now holds sufficient General Funds in respect of its stated Reserves Policy.**

Declaration

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

<u>I R Lewis</u>	and	<u></u>	on	<u>11th June 2025</u>
Ian Lewis		Jenny Singh		Date
Chairman		Secretary		

South West Gospel Partnership

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 August 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total	2023 Total £
Receipts				
Gifts and donations	7,821	-	7,821	19,885
Grants	0	-	-	-
Ministry Training Course fees	17,709	-	17,709	17,605
South West Men's Convention income	5,840	-	5,840	7,707
MTC Bursary gifts	-	-	-	-
Women's Conference reserve transfer	-	-	-	-
Women's Conference income	7,669	3,239	10,908	6,819
Other Events income	3,015	-	3,015	2,538
Sub total	42,054	3,239	45,293	54,554
Asset and investment sales, etc.				-
Total receipts	42,054	3,239	45,293	54,554
Payments				
Ministry Training Course costs				
Room hire	2,100	-		3,325
Speakers	1,172	-		741
Printing, stationary, adverts, sundries	1,471	-		1,241
Refreshments	347	-		334
Book costs	242	-		
	5,333			5,641
SWGP staff costs (J Clark/C Ward)	17,371	-		12,233
SWGP staff costs (T Underhill & A T-W)	11,187	-		14,710
PAYE overpayment				368
SWGP Donations	300	-		600
SWGP partnership meetings	1,834	-		1,453
Women's Conference costs	6,669	-		5,043
South West Men's Convention costs	2,429	-		3,317
Other Events and overheads	5,155	-		4,428
Sub total	50,278	0		47,793
Asset and investment purchases, etc.				-
Total payments	50,278	-		47,793
Net receipts / (payments)	(8,224)	3,239		6,761
Transfers between funds		(200)		-
Cash funds last year end	9,137	6,364	15,501	8,740
Cash funds this year end	913	9,403	10,316	15,501

South West Gospel Partnership

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 August 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

		As at 31 August			
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
		£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
Lloyds Bank plc	<i>Total cash funds</i>	913	9,403	10,316	15,501
Other monetary assets					
PAYE overpayment		-	-	-	-
Investment assets					
		-	-	-	-
Assets retained for the charity's own use					
Lenovo Ideapad (written off as obsolete)		-	-	-	-
Liabilities					
Supplier accounts not yet paid		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

I R Lewis

on

Ian Lewis
Chairman

Date

South West Gospel Partnership

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SOUTH WEST GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP

I report on the financial statements of South West Gospel Partnership for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 5 and 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's statement

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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the 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 financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention 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 financial statements did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the financial statements did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (financial statements and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Dominic Goode
Independent Examiner
48 Oolite Road
Bath BA2 2UU

Signed: **Dominic Goode**
Date: 11th June 2025