



swindon
evangelical
church

Swindon Evangelical Church
Trustees' Annual Report 2022

Registered Charity No. 1129912

1. REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The trustees, who are the church officers named in 1.3 including the Pastors, have pleasure in presenting this report of the church for the year ended 31st December 2022. The information set out above regarding the trust forms part of our report and the attached accounts are the accounts of the church which we have prepared and were adopted by church members at the AGM on 28th March 2023.

1.1 Name & Address:

Swindon Evangelical Church
17-19 Devizes Road,
Swindon.
SN1 4BH

1.2 Registration with the Charity Commission:

The church is registered directly with the Charity Commission, no. 1129912.

1.3 Trustees during the period:

Holding Trustee: The Fellowship Property Trust Ltd
41 The Point, Rockingham Road, Market Harborough, LE16 7QU.

Managing Trustees: Brian Whittaker, Pastor
Paul Williams, Associate Pastor
Mark Trafford, Elder
Richard Foster, Elder and Chair of Trustees
Jonathan Redhead, Elder (appointed July 2022)
John Baker, Deacon
Duncan Thew, Deacon
Luke Moody, Deacon
Michel Crabol, Deacon
Barney Main, Deacon
Timothy Mann, Deacon
Paula James, Deacon (appointed January 2022)
Alex Tibitwenda, Deacon (resigned April 2022)
Sacha Childs-Clarke, Deacon (resigned February 2022)

1.4 Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, WEST MALLING ME19
4JQ and
Lloyds Bank plc, 5 High Street, SWINDON SN1 3EN

1.5 Independent Examiner:

Paxton Software Ltd
61a High Street South
Rushden
Northants
NN10 0RA

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 Governing Documentation:

Swindon Evangelical Church Constitution, November 2008.

A - Chapel, 17 & 18 Devizes Rd - Conveyance (and Declaration of Trust), 17th March 1927.

B - Meeting Rooms, 19 Devizes Rd - Conveyance (and Declaration of Trust), 30th April 1955.

A & B – Charity Commission Scheme (appointing FIEC Ltd as Trustee), 11th May 1993.

Church Rules, June 2009.

2.2 Members and Employees

The church is an independent body made up of members who, on public profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and acknowledgment of His authority over their lives, voluntarily agree to adhere to the church Basis of Faith and Constitution.

The membership on 31st December 2022 stood at 139 members, eight of whom joined the church during 2022. During the year two members resigned and two died.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 22nd March, with four other Members' Meetings held on the 28th June, 27th September, 22nd November, and 6th December 2022.

On 4th September Brian Whittaker was recognised as the Lead Pastor, and Paul Williams as Associate Pastor (a reversal of roles in preparation for the retirement of Paul Williams in 2023).

The church employed a full-time Pastor, a full-time Associate Pastor, the Associate Pastor's wife on a part-time basis, a part-time Ladies' Worker, a part-time Women's Ministry and Development Worker (from 1st November), a part-time Administrator, and a part-time Children's and Youth Worker.

2.3 Volunteers

The church continues to benefit from committed people who are willing to give their time to help in the work of the church across the range of activities.

3. OBEJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

3.1 Aims and Objectives

The church exists for the:

- worship of God through the preaching and teaching of God's Word, praise and prayer;
- encouragement of spiritual growth in the lives of its members;
- promotion of fellowship between the members;
- organisation of evangelistic efforts to tell other people the good news of the Gospel;
- support of missionary activities both at home and abroad;

in accordance with the governing documentation.

3.2 Public Benefit

The trustees consider that they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

4.1 Church Activities

The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was faithfully preached throughout the year by our Pastor, Associate Pastor and members of the church, as well as a number of visiting preachers and speakers.

Sunday services were held in the church building but also broadcast online for the benefit of a number of worshippers who would normally be unable to attend meetings due to age or infirmity.

Meetings held by the church during the year were:

Weekly & Fortnightly

- Sunday services of public worship, both morning and evening.
- Adventurers and Explorers (Sunday School) and Ignite (for teenagers) each Sunday.
- Care Groups (house groups) for Bible Study, prayer & fellowship on alternate Tuesdays.
- Church Prayer Meeting on alternate Tuesdays.
- Stepping Stones parent-toddler group on Wednesday mornings during school terms.
- Women's Fellowship meeting on Wednesday afternoons.
- Ladies' Bible Study on Thursday mornings.
- Men's Bible Study on Thursday mornings.
- Mums Connect met weekly during term time for mums of young children for fellowship, Bible Study and prayer.
- One-Way Club and Pathfinders outreach clubs for children on Thursdays during school term.
- Oasis (formerly known as Friday Fellowship) outreach & lunch on alternate Fridays.
- Rooted, the group for teenagers (age 14+) on Wednesdays.
- 20+ group for Bible Study, prayer & fellowship on Friday evenings.

Other regular meetings

- Triple-C card making club held once per month.
- Women's Breakfast meeting roughly every 4 months on Saturdays.
- Men's Breakfast meeting roughly every 4 months on Saturdays.
- Ladies Together fellowship for all women every 6 months.

Other special meetings or events:

- There were nine baptisms, two funerals, but no weddings
- 99th Church Anniversary service on 9th January, with speaker Ben Midgley
- Easter Cracked outreach to primary schools, five days in March and April
- Good Friday service, 15th April
- Easter Day Service, 17th April
- Holiday Bible Club 19th to 23rd April
- Quiz Nights outreach on 1st April and 2nd December
- Hope Explored course, in January and May
- Great Brick Challenge outreach, 7th May
- Football Tournament outreach, 11th June
- Holiday at Home outreach to older people, 25th to 29th July
- Harvest Thanksgiving service, 25th September
- Light Party for children, 31st October
- Christmas Unwrapped outreach to primary schools, 5 days in November and December
- Christmas Lunch for older people, 16th December
- Carol Singing outside local shop, 10th December
- Carol Service on 11th December
- Children's Christmas Service on 18th December
- Christmas Day Service on 25th December

Other ministries include outreach using posted literature; visitation of the sick and elderly; and practical care including collections for Swindon Food Bank.

4.2 Missionary Support

The church supports missionary organisations both practically and financially. We support Sarah Deacon, a youth worker in Slovenia and member of the church, via ECM. Organisations regularly supported are Barnabas Aid which supports persecuted Christians worldwide; 20Schemes in the UK; Cranford Baptist Church, in the UK; UFM in Asia; Baptist Church in Myanmar and International Mission to Jewish People.

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW

5.1 Financial Review and Policies

God always provides for our needs when we seek to trust Him and follow in obedience to the way He leads. We have seen that many times in the past and have seen how God has provided for us in the year.

Total funds increased by £52K during the year and this was as a result of receiving the balance of the legacy and takes our total funds to just under £2 million.

Donation income in the General Fund increased by just under 8% and expenditure increased by 9% (as expected) which gave a small deficit if take the legacy out. Trustees have designated the excess funds in the General Fund to provide funds for training and AV equipment with the balance designated to the Building Funds. This, along with increased giving in that fund has enable the church to bid on some property that has become available next to the church (see below) as the fund stand at £1.1m. General Funds now stand at £161K which is more in line with our reserves policy given that £100K is held as a long-term debtor.

5.2 Principal Funding Sources

The principal source of funding is from our members who generously give to support the work of the church in seeking to meet its charitable objectives.

5.3 Reserves policy

Our current reserves policy is to hold unrestricted reserves that are at least equal to three months operational expenditure. We thank God that our current level of reserves are higher than this.

5.4 Investment Policy

Income is generally received to support the work of the church so any surplus income is held in relatively accessible current or short-term deposits accounts.

5.5 Going Concern

The trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and believe that sufficient resources are available to fund the activities for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern.

5.6 Building Together Project

A major milestone in the Building Together Project was realised in 2022 when a site adjacent to the existing church property became available for development on the open market. On 6th December the church membership voted for the church to enter negotiations to purchase 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon (office buildings) for a price no greater than £1.5million. The bid for the site was submitted in January 2023 for less than that and has been accepted and we are currently working through the contractual process. Since then another piece of garden land adjacent to the church has become available and the church's bid has been accepted.

5.7 Risk Management

The church has a risk management strategy involving an annual review and update by the trustees of identified operational, personnel, financial and reputational risks. The trustees are satisfied that appropriate systems and procedures are in place to monitor, manage and, where appropriate, mitigate these risks.

Richard Foster
Chair, on behalf of the Managing Trustees
19th April 2023

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Swindon Evangelical Church		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2022	Charity no (if any)	1129912
Set out on pages	Trustees' report 1 to 7 and accounts pages 1 to 11		
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>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 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine the accounts 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 independent examiner's statement	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 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 accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act <p>have not been met; or</p> 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. 		
Signed:	Darren Warren	Date:	10 May 2023
Name:	Darren Warren		
Address:	61a High Street South, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0RA		

Swindon Evangelical Church
Report and Financial Statements - 31 December 2022

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2022 £	2021 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies		241,066	51,294	175	292,535	457,566
Interest		688	12,515	-	13,203	4,055
Total		<u>241,754</u>	<u>63,809</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>305,738</u>	<u>461,621</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	3	192,968	56,247	-	249,215	189,182
Total		<u>192,968</u>	<u>56,247</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>249,215</u>	<u>189,182</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>48,786</u>	<u>7,562</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>56,523</u>	<u>272,439</u>
Transfers between funds	10	(4,621)	4,621	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>44,165</u>	<u>12,183</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>56,523</u>	<u>272,439</u>
Total funds brought forward	10	671,973	702,251	537,500	1,911,724	1,639,285
Total funds carried forward	10	<u><u>716,138</u></u>	<u><u>714,434</u></u>	<u><u>537,675</u></u>	<u><u>1,968,247</u></u>	<u><u>1,911,724</u></u>

Swindon Evangelical Church
Report and Financial Statements - 31 December 2022

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible assets	6	8,204	-	437,500	445,704	448,439
Investments	7	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
		<u>8,204</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>537,500</u>	<u>545,704</u>	<u>548,439</u>
Current assets						
Debtors	8	131,642	19,539	25	151,206	252,722
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>582,500</u>	<u>695,034</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>1,277,684</u>	<u>1,115,813</u>
		<u>714,142</u>	<u>714,573</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>1,428,890</u>	<u>1,368,535</u>
Current liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(6,208)	(139)	-	(6,347)	(5,250)
Net current assets		<u>707,934</u>	<u>714,434</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>1,422,543</u>	<u>1,363,285</u>
Total net assets		<u>716,138</u>	<u>714,434</u>	<u>537,675</u>	<u>1,968,247</u>	<u>1,911,724</u>
Funds of the charity						
Endowment funds	10	-	-	537,675	537,675	537,500
Restricted income funds	10	-	714,434	-	714,434	702,251
Unrestricted funds	10	716,138	-	-	716,138	671,973
Total funds		<u>716,138</u>	<u>714,434</u>	<u>537,675</u>	<u>1,968,247</u>	<u>1,911,724</u>

Approved by the Trustees on _____ and signed on their behalf by:

Richard Foster
Chairman

Swindon Evangelical Church
Report and Financial Statements - 31 December 2022

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Basis of preparation

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Swindon Evangelical Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The church has free reserves in excess of two years' annual expenditure. The trustees are happy the church prepares accounts on a going concern basis.

2. Accounting policies

a) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations receivable without further specified purpose and are available as general funds. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. Details of the nature and purpose of each fund is set out in note 12.

b) Income

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gift Aid is recognised on the date of the donation and recovered on an annual basis. The Trust also makes use of the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Support and governance costs are recognised in the costs of the charitable activities of the church.

d) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing (excluding land and buildings) more than £1,000 are capitalised and valued at historical cost. Depreciation is charged on the assets at the following rates:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% per annum on a straight line basis
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Land and buildings are not depreciated as the trustees believe the property's market value is in excess of the carrying value.

e) Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments unless fair value cannot be measured reliably, in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.

Swindon Evangelical Church
Report and Financial Statements - 31 December 2022

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 (cont'd)

3. Charitable expenditure (including support and governance costs)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Ministry	124,702		124,702	113,917
Outreach and mission	25,350	53,167	78,517	33,777
Premises	15,290	3,080	18,370	16,165
Admin	25,332		25,332	19,390
Other costs	1,415		1,415	663
Governance costs	879		879	5,270
	<u>192,968</u>	<u>56,247</u>	<u>249,215</u>	<u>189,182</u>

4. Governance costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Governance costs include:		
Independent examiner's fees	<u>510</u>	<u>474</u>

5. Staff costs and numbers

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	118,042	107,877
Employer's National Insurance contributions	5,188	4,392
Pension costs	9,070	8,627
	<u>132,300</u>	<u>120,896</u>

The average number of employees during the year:

	2022	2021
Charitable activities	6	6
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received total emoluments (excluding employer pension costs) above £60,000.

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Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 (cont'd)

6. Tangible Fixed Assets

Used by the Charity	Freehold land & buildings £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Total £
Cost			
As at 1 January 2022	437,500	49,287	486,787
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2022	<u>437,500</u>	<u>49,287</u>	<u>486,787</u>
Depreciation			
As at 1 January 2022	-	38,348	38,348
Charge for year	-	2,735	2,735
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-
As at 31 December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>41,083</u>	<u>41,083</u>
Net book value			
As at 31 December 2022	<u>437,500</u>	<u>8,204</u>	<u>445,704</u>
As at 31 December 2021	<u>437,500</u>	<u>10,939</u>	<u>448,439</u>

7. Fixed Asset Investments

	Other investments £
Carrying value at 1 January 2022	100,000
Revaluations	-
Less: impairments	-
Carrying value at 31 December 2022	<u>100,000</u>

8. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Loan to trustee	105,000	214,500
Income Tax recoverable for Gift Aid donations	31,303	29,580
Prepayments	3,100	1,970
Accrued income	11,803	6,672
	<u>151,206</u>	<u>252,722</u>

Loan was made to Brian Whittaker, Associate Pastor in 2021 to enable his relocation to Swindon. This loan was for £105,000 at 0% interest with an equal interest in any property revaluation.

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Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 (cont'd)

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	6,347	5,250
	<u>6,347</u>	<u>5,250</u>

10. Movements in funds

	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
Endowment funds:						
Church Premises	437,500	-	-	-	-	437,500
Manse Trust Fund	100,000	175	-	-	-	100,175
Total endowment funds	<u>537,500</u>	<u>175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>537,675</u>
Restricted funds:						
Building fund	656,566	27,370	(3,080)	-	-	680,856
Other restricted funds	45,685	36,439	(53,167)	4,621	-	33,578
Total restricted funds	<u>702,251</u>	<u>63,809</u>	<u>(56,247)</u>	<u>4,621</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>714,434</u>
Unrestricted funds:						
General funds	620,972	241,754	(164,883)	(536,255)	-	161,588
Building fund provision	-	-	-	436,959	-	436,959
Other unrestricted funds	51,001	-	(28,085)	94,675	-	117,591
Total unrestricted funds	<u>671,973</u>	<u>241,754</u>	<u>(192,968)</u>	<u>(4,621)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>716,138</u>
Total funds	<u>1,911,724</u>	<u>305,738</u>	<u>(249,215)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,968,247</u>

11. Related party transactions

The following trustees received remuneration:

Name	Legal Authority	Salary £	Pension £	Total £	2021 £
Paul Williams	Church constitution	42,937	3,377	46,314	44,691
Ruth Williams	Church constitution	5,859	419	6,278	5,540
Brian Whittaker	Church constitution	37,143	2,904	40,047	32,288
Rebecca Whittaker	Church constitution	2,522	157	2,679	-
Deborah Baker	Church constitution	11,636	874	12,510	11,569

Trustees were reimbursed for the following expenses in the year:

Travel expenses	1,248	705
Accommodation expenses	-	-
	<u>1,248</u>	<u>705</u>

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period.