

# Rushden Mission Church

## Statutory Information

### Legal Status

Rushden Mission Church is an unincorporated association with Managing Trustees appointed by a meeting of the Members

### Principal Office

Rushden Mission Church  
Wellingborough Road  
Rushden NN10 9TA

### Registered Address

1 St Peters Ave  
Rushden  
NN10 6XW

### Charity Trustees

Mrs Linda Jane Crawley  
Mr David Lloyd Rooksby  
Mrs Gillian Lindsey Russell  
Mrs Thandiwe Washoma  
Mr David McGrath  
Mr Thomas Joseph Poulton (Appointed 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

### Property Holding Trustees

Mrs Linda Jane Crawley  
Mr David Lloyd Rooksby  
Mrs Gillian Lindsey Russell  
Mrs Thandiwe Washoma

### Minister of the Church

Pastor Ian Fall

### Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC  
9 Midsummer Place  
MILTON KEYNES  
MK9 3GB

Co-operative Bank Plc  
P.O. Box 101  
Manchester  
M60 4EP

### Solicitors

Wilson Browne  
The Manor House  
Market Square  
Higham Ferrers  
NN10 8BT

### Independent Examiner

Mr Robert French

## **The Trustees Report**

### **Year ended 31st October 2021**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st October 2021.

### **Charitable Objects**

The Charity is governed by a constitution adopted 1st April 2009. The Objects of the Church are:

- To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees (acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members) from time to time may think fit.
- To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods, or services of any kind, including through the provision of advice and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees (acting as aforesaid) from time to time may think fit.
- To advance Christian education and pursue and promote general charitable purposes consistent with the Christian faith in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees (acting as aforesaid) from time to time may think fit.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the above listed Property Holding Trustees and the Trust is entirely compatible with the above objects.

### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees consider that the activities of the Charity are conducted for the public benefit, in particular, two of the charitable purposes as set out by the Charity Commission in its general guidance on public benefit are met:

- The advancement of education and
- The advancement of religion

An explanation of these activities is given below in the section Objectives and Activities.

### **Organisational Structure and Decision-making processes.**

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution, which requires them to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ and to subscribe and adhere to, in belief and lifestyle, the Statement of Beliefs.

The Members meeting normally takes place four times per year and has responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the Members appoint Trustees who accept responsibility for the legal aspects of the Charity. The constitution states that there should be a minimum of three Trustees but does not stipulate a maximum number. The Church Meeting also appoints up to six Church Leaders, who together with the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer, are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness. All members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective. In accordance with the constitution a person may serve as both a Trustee and Church Leader, or any other officer of the Church.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church meeting by the Trustees for guidance or may be raised by Members in Church meeting for further consideration by the Trustees. Though the Constitution permits decisions to be made at Church meetings by appropriate majorities, the Church seeks to work by consensus wherever possible.

The Church is a member of The Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted regarding the Disclosure and Barring Service and Safeguarding Policies in place for both Children and Vulnerable Adults.

The Church is affiliated to Rushden & Higham Council of Churches, the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs, and the East Northants Faith Group.

### **Objectives and Activities**

To achieve the Principal Objective, which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord.

The pattern of activity prior to the Covid 19 outbreak in March 2020 was:

- The provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services took place each Sunday at both 10.45 am and 17.30pm. There were also occasional services at other times which were advertised on the Church Notice Board and the website at [www.rushdenmission.co.uk](http://www.rushdenmission.co.uk). A children's programme operated during the morning services. The Church sought to be a friendly and welcoming community, and anyone was welcome to attend any of these services.
- The Church operated two house groups each week, and two monthly men's groups to encourage the growth of faith and discipleship.
- Two Prayer Meetings were held each week. We are a Church who believe in the power of prayer and the need to lift all matters before God.
- The Church also offered a lace making group, an art group, a ladies book club, a Lunch Club for single retired folk and a group for young children and their carers.

All of these groups were open to the general public.

- The Church provided accommodation for the Rushden Mission Brass Band.

The Church was proud to be involved with and support these groups, with the purpose of assisting the community and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ.

### **Impact of the Covid Pandemic.**

The covid pandemic has had a significant effect on both Church activities and finance.

Throughout the year the Church has amended activity to comply with Government Guidance and Instruction prevailing at the time, with additional procedures in place where necessary.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes in numbers alone, either by headcount or by financial performance, but also in less tangible areas such as fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that 2021 has been a year of many challenges, however they feel that the church has met these challenges and will continue to do so, learning new lessons but also being able to continue to meet people's needs and engage with new people, the Trustees believe that the church will be able to continue its mission purposes in 2022 with determination and enthusiasm.

**Sunday Worship** recommenced in the Church building on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020 in strict compliance with Government Guidelines, the service was broadcast by livestream on Facebook for those who could not attend. These broadcasts attracted a wide audience in addition to our Church regulars. During the November lockdown Sunday Services returned to livestream only, returning to "in Church" on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Services were held in Church until Christmas, however our usually well attended Christmas celebration services did not take place due to concerns over Covid safety. After Christmas, when the Government asked people to stay at home, even though Places of Worship could meet, we chose to stay at

home and revert to livestream until Easter (4<sup>th</sup> April). From Easter Worship in Church recommenced and livestream continued.

Attendance on Sunday mornings has increased during the year, with some new people joining us, and some not yet ready to return in person, but watching online.

During the period when singing indoors by the congregation was not allowed, we held outdoor Carol Singing, Easter Morning Worship, and a monthly time of sung worship on the church car park, whilst adhering to all Covid laws and guidelines.

**Youth and Children's Work.** The Church has a committed youth team who encourage spiritual growth, support, and friendship for children of the church and their families and seek to welcome and engage with the local community and friends through a variety of mission activities throughout the year.

The team lead a Sunday morning children's group, Sudz, providing a fun and relaxed atmosphere to help the children and young people develop in their faith.

The Sudz Nativity in December 2020 was held online via YouTube and has now had 365 views. The Christingle Service also moved online with kits being issued to allow participants to assemble their own Christingles. Sudz held a family orientated Easter Hunt. Sudz began a phased return to face to face meetings on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May.

**Prayer Meetings and the Home Group** met via Zoom until a return to Face to Face for Prayer Meetings in August and the Home Group, meeting in Church, from September. During the winter, an Online Alpha group was held with involvement from a wide range of participants. This gave the opportunity of teaching the principles of the Christian faith.

**"Father to Father" and "Curry Club,"** the two men's groups met in public parks and in church on occasions when allowed by Government guidelines. The groups, which encourage the growth of faith and discipleship, have also maintained contact and support with one another using a WhatsApp group.

**Pillowtalk**, the Lace Group began meeting again in September 2021. **Rushden Mission Band** recommenced practices in August 2021, but currently in another church hall where social distancing can be achieved. Pillow Talk, and Rushden Mission Brass Band provide a way to encourage the learning and development of new skills in a Christian environment.

The Art group, The Ladies Book Club, Lunch Club, and the group for young children and their carers, have not yet recommenced meeting since the pandemic.

We are honoured that our Pastor is the Padre of **858 Squadron - Rushden - Air Training Corps**, he was able to attend "virtual" parades and latterly in person. In this role our Pastor has been able to support the young people and their leaders with spiritual and emotional needs.

The Church was not able to reach out into the community and visit homes as usual during the pandemic but have delivered leaflets and offered support.

The Church is available to serve the community with funeral services. This year seven funerals have been held. These services gave the Pastor and other members of the Church the opportunity to comfort and support the bereaved at difficult times in their lives. We are also available for wedding services, where we can celebrate with the couple and their families, although none have been held in this year. We seek to draw close to the community in the key events and moments of their lives.

Rushden Mission Church engages in prayerful and financial support for the work of the Luwero Community Projects in Uganda and a Church based community project in Nagpur in India.

During the year, the Church has financially supported the work of the local Homeless Night Shelter and by way of gifts of food and money we have supported the local Food Bank.

Church Membership currently stands at thirty-five, a decrease of four since last year.

### **Financial Review**

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to conduct its activities, from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The most significant area of expenditure relates to the employment of Pastor Ian Fall as Minister of the Church. Ian's role is to lead and co-ordinate the Church's activities including the Sunday Services. He provides pastoral care for the congregation and other people. He helps equip and encourage the membership in their life, Christian witness, and service.

This Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the Church's own charitable purpose.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the Church's activities. Many of the activities run with little or no impact on the Church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the Church's objectives. The Trustees wish to express their thanks for all of the hard work which makes this possible.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted, are set out in the accompanying financial statements.

During the year £27,471 was received by the Church as a share of the sale of the Dickins Memorial Hall, a church in the Wellingborough Circuit of the Wesleyan Reform Union.

Following the concern expressed by the Trustees in last year's report the 20% Fund was reduced to a 10% Fund. This fund is to enable a designated percentage of regular offerings to be given to causes outside of the Church, this amendment was agreed by a Church Meeting and reduced expenditure by £3,113.

The Trustees report a net cash surplus for the year of £23,510. Weekly offerings for the increased from £28,677 per year to £31,132. Total annual income increased by £29,282 from £43,045 to £72,327. Total annual expenditure has increased by £4,179 from £44,638 to £48,817.

The church building is now 121 years old and whilst generally in good order there are matters that continue to require attention. In the year £9,178 was spent on repairs and refurbishment of Church and Manse.

The Trustees remain concerned that the current level of expenditure is unsustainable beyond the medium term unless the falling trend of offering income over the past few years can be reversed. The proceeds from the sale of the Dickins Church have given some comfort and increased reserves, but further support is being considered by way of a grant to improve sustainability.

The Trustees have established a Reserves Policy of holding approximately six months of costs in hand and are satisfied that the unrestricted reserves of £72,698, including £45,312 in bank and debtors (HMRC), together with forecasts and projections, are adequate to enable the Church to function and meet its Charitable Objectives. The Church membership are fully aware of the situation, and the Trustees will keep the matter under constant review to prevent the Church from entering a situation where it cannot fully meet its liabilities as and when they fall due. The Trustees will make every effort to take corrective action to improve the ongoing financial situation and thus to maintain an adequately funded operation.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks facing the church and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.

Signed by .....David McGrath..... 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Signed by ...Thomas Joseph Poulton.... 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

On behalf of the Trustees of Rushden Mission Church



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2021

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including General Receipts and Payments Account)

		2021	2020
		Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	notes	Funds*	Funds*
<b>Receipts:</b>			
Weekly offerings		31,132	28,677
Donations and other income	2	5,682	5,499
Income tax recovered on gifts		8,042	7,751
Share of Sale of Dickins Church		27,471	
Catering Income		0	1,117
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>72,327</b>	<b>43,045</b>
<b>Payments:</b>			
Ministry	3	25,105	25,304
Fixed Assets	7	0	0
Upkeep of and improvements to Church & Manse	10	13,725	6,989
Administration		3,985	5,240
Donations made	4	5,956	6,870
Catering Expenditure		0	36
Sunday School & Youth Work		47	200
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>48,817</b>	<b>44,638</b>
<b>Cash movement for the year</b>		<b>23,510</b>	<b>(1,593)</b>
<b>Cash and Bank balances brought forward</b>		<b>14,102</b>	<b>15,695</b>
<b>Cash and Bank balances carried forward</b>		<b>37,612</b>	<b>14,102</b>

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE END OF THE PERIOD

		2021	2020
			Unrestricted
	notes		Funds*
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>			
Church Building	7	27,849	27,849
Manse Building	7	880	880
Fixtures & Fittings	7	329	435
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>29,058</b>	<b>29,164</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Sundry Debtors	8	7,700	8,042
Bank & other cash balances		37,612	14,102
		<b>45,312</b>	<b>22,144</b>
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,672)	(1,641)
<b>Total Net Assets:</b>		<b>72,698</b>	<b>49,667</b>
<b>Funds:</b>			
Unrestricted Funds*		72,698	49,667
<b>Total Funds:</b>		<b>72,698</b>	<b>49,667</b>

\* All Funds are Unrestricted

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue

Trustee.....

Trustee.....

Signed by Linda Jane Crawley

Signed by David Lloyd Rooksby

Date: 9/3/22

Date: 9/3/22

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2021

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 1. Basis of accounts:

- a) These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis
- b) There were no restricted or designated or endowment funds during the year.

2. Donations and other income:	notes	2021	2020
Donations to Church		3,777	2,808
Special Donations	6	196	1,241
Thank Offering		1,147	1,045
Other items		562	406
		<u>5,682</u>	<u>5,499</u>

3. Ministry:	notes	2021	2020
Minister's stipend		21,101	21,435
Pension contribution		1,691	1,658
Manse Rates etc.		2,312	2,211
		<u>25,105</u>	<u>25,304</u>

4. Donations made:	notes	2021	2020
Donations from 20% Fund	5	5,760	5,629
Special Donations	6	196	1,241
Other Donations			0
		<u>5,956</u>	<u>6,870</u>

## 5. Donations 20% Fund:

The Church intends that 20% of weekly offerings be donated to Good Causes.

	notes	2021	2020
Amount allocated not yet donated b / fwd		4,209	4,103
20% Allocation for year		3,113	5,735
Less: Donations made in year	4	(5,760)	(5,629)
Amount allocated not yet donated c / fwd		<u>1,562</u>	<u>4,209</u>

The amounts not yet donated are not designated and could be re-allocated should the Church Meeting so elect.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2021

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

6. Special Donations Fund:	notes	2021	2020
Amount not yet donated b / fwd		605	605
Donations received in year	2	196	1,241
Less: Donations made in year	4	(196)	(1,241)
Amount received not yet donated c / fwd	9	<u>605</u>	<u>605</u>

7. Fixed Assets:		2021	2020
Church Building and additions at cost brought forward		27,849	27,849
Additions during year		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Church Building and additions at cost carried forward		<u>27,849</u>	<u>27,849</u>
Manse Building at cost		880	880
<u>Fixtures and Fittings</u>			
Cost brought forward		22,255	22,255
Additions during year		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Cost carried forward		<u>22,255</u>	<u>22,255</u>
Accumulated depreciation brought forward		21,820	21,500
Depreciation for year		<u>106</u>	<u>320</u>
Accumulated depreciation carried forward		<u>21,926</u>	<u>21,820</u>
Net book value carried forward		<u>329</u>	<u>435</u>

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Buildings	0% per year
Fixtures and Fittings	10% per year

8. Sundry Debtors:	notes	2021	2020
HMRC - Gift Aid		<u>7,700</u>	<u>8,042</u>

## 9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Special Donations	6	605	605
Other taxation and social security		250	251
Other creditors and accruals		<u>817</u>	<u>786</u>
		<u>1,672</u>	<u>1,641</u>

## 10. Upkeep of and improvements to Church &amp; Manse

General Upkeep		4,547	5,481
Repairs and Renewals		3,802	1,508
Replacement Dormer Window		<u>5,376</u>	
		<u>13,725</u>	<u>6,989</u>



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES/ MEMBERS OF RUSHDEN MISSION CHURCH

Report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2021

Charity no: 1130048

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the  
Rushden Mission Church ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 October 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

As the charity's trustees of the Trust, 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts did not accord with the accounting records

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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by:

R G FRENCH FCCA

Date: 9/3/22

29 Pevensey Grove, Flitwick, Bedford, MK45 1SD