

# Stour Valley Vineyard Church

Report and Accounts  
Year ended 31 December 2023

Stewardship   
*Active generosity*

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB  
[www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)

**STOUR VALLEY VINEYARD CHURCH**  
**LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE	Suite 1 & 2 Sudbury Business Centre Chilton Industrial Estate Milner Road Sudbury CO10 2XG
GOVERNING DOCUMENT	Constitution for a charitable incorporated organisation from 27 August 2020.
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER	1131617
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE CHARITY	J Taylor K Taylor K Roychowdhury (resigned 17th January 2023) R Pennington (resigned 17th January 2023) R Woodman I Copeman (appointed 17th January 2023) C Vernon (appointed 17th January 2023) H Forth (appointed 31st July 2023)
BANKERS	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Ajay Rajani FCIE Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage LONDON EC1Y 8AB

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## Trustee Report on 2023 Accounts

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The Trustees have pleasure in submitting the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### Objects of the charity

In summary, the principal objects of the charity (as set out in the governing document) are:

- (a) to advance the Christian faith
- (b) to further Christian education
- (c) to relieve sickness and financial hardship

The Church seeks to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by reaching out with God's love; Sunday services; prayer ministry; pastoral groups; youth and children's ministries; prayer for the sick within and without the church; providing financial and practical help, food and support to those in need; ministry training; life-skills and personal development; biblical studies; in the Stour Valley area.

Our vision is to be a people who seek to encounter the presence of the living God. We are changed when we are in His manifest presence and when our lives are submitted to the authority of His Word. We want to live like Jesus and be His hands and feet to the poor and the marginalised. Our mission is to grow vibrant Christian communities in the Stour Valley Area, to bring healing and hope in Jesus' name.

### Governance

The policy and operating decisions of the charity rest with the Trustees who meet regularly to monitor the activities of the Organisation.

In planning activities, the trustees have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

### Review of Activities

#### *Church Life*

The church is growing and has doubled in size since 2022. There are multiple Sunday teams that operate each week in order to support the Sunday meeting. These teams include set up team, venue management, welcome team, café team, worship team, kids team and youth team. We now have 5 weekly HOME groups that meet; these groups are growing and enjoying the benefit of fellowship, community life and social support.

The toddler group that is run for the community each week is growing and young mums are finding it incredibly helpful in supporting their well-being. The group of volunteers for the toddler group is continuing to grow. The toddler group has a great reputation and there are days when we have up to 30 mums and 30+ children.

Until November 2023 all our church services, our office base, Storehouse and Little Wonders were all situated at our rented premises - Vineyard Centre in Tudor Road. However that venue was no longer going to be available after the end of 2023 and so new locations had to be found. We have relocated church services to Tudor Primary School, Little Wonders has moved to the scout hut in central Sudbury and a new office / Storehouse venue has been rented at Sudbury Business Centre, Chilton Industrial Estate.

#### *Storehouse Foodbank*

The move in November 2023 to our new location was communicated to the community and we have managed to seamlessly transition without missing one week of service. The team has changed and adapted; and volunteers have grown in resilience. Storehouse continues to bless the community, sign posting individuals to the many support services offered in Sudbury. We continue to feed an average of approximately 350 men, women and children per month. Funding for Storehouse in 2023 included grants from Suffolk Community Foundation through its Food & Drink Fund and Private Fund- PFF.

#### *Surrounding Area*

We are continuing to run East Anglia worship nights which draw people from the surrounding churches as well as further afield such as Cambridge, Norwich, and Thetford. It's been an encouragement and hugely impactful as we've seen physical and emotional healings in each event.

#### Finances and Reserves

During the year income increased by £2,756 to £146,245, and expenditure increased by £8,184 to £143,915. As a result the charity has reported a surplus of £2,329 (2022: £7,757) and the cash held by the charity increased by £2,329, to £88,529. This comprised unrestricted cash of £46,807 and cash of £41,722 held for restricted purposes (mainly for Storehouse).

#### Reserves Policy

The trustees have determined that the charity should aim to unrestricted cash equivalent to 3 to 6 months of general fund expenses in the charity's designated contingency fund and in unrestricted general funds. This would equate holding cash of somewhere between £18,000 to £36,000 in these funds. The trustees are satisfied that this level of reserves would be sufficient to allow the charity to continue to operate smoothly should income fall, or expenditure increase, unexpectedly. At the year-end the charity held cash of £41,481 in these funds and the charity is complying with its reserves policy.

#### Risk Statement

The charity is exposed to various risks - be they operational, financial or reputational. The trustees review the charity's activities regularly to identify significant risks and, where possible, they take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks.

### Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires us as Trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.

We are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

### Approval

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*R A Woodman*  
R A Woodman (Jun 30, 2024 23:05 GMT+1)  
.....  
R Woodman – Trustee

Jun 30, 2024  
.....  
Date

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF**  
**STOUR VALLEY VINEYARD CHURCH**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stour Valley Vineyard Church ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 on pages 6 to 9 following.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity'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 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Ajay Rajani*  
Ajay Rajani (Jul 1, 2024 12:33 GMT+1)

Ajay Rajani FCIE  
Stewardship  
1 Lamb's Passage  
LONDON  
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Jul 1, 2024

**STOUR VALLEY VINEYARD CHURCH**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Notes	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	2023	2022
		General Funds	Designated Funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
<b><i>Income receipts</i></b>						
Donations and grants including gift aid		74,813	8,323	60,382	143,517	142,810
Income from charitable activities		1,861	-	-	1,861	495
Bank interest		94	-	772	866	183
<b><i>Total receipts</i></b>		<b><u>76,768</u></b>	<b><u>8,323</u></b>	<b><u>61,154</u></b>	<b><u>146,245</u></b>	<b><u>143,489</u></b>
<b><i>Payments</i></b>						
Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly	2	72,253	-	62,892	135,145	115,896
Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others	3	-	8,771	-	8,771	14,370
		<u>72,253</u>	<u>8,771</u>	<u>62,892</u>	<u>143,915</u>	<u>130,266</u>
Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	5,465
<b><i>Total payments</i></b>		<b><u>72,253</u></b>	<b><u>8,771</u></b>	<b><u>62,892</u></b>	<b><u>143,915</u></b>	<b><u>135,731</u></b>
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		4,514	(448)	(1,737)	2,329	7,757
Transfers between funds	6	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b><u>4,514</u></b>	<b><u>(448)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,737)</u></b>	<b><u>2,329</u></b>	<b><u>7,757</u></b>
Cash funds as at last year end		11,628	31,113	43,459	86,200	78,441
<b>Cash funds at this year end</b>	A	<b><u>16,142</u></b>	<b><u>30,665</u></b>	<b><u>41,722</u></b>	<b><u>88,529</u></b>	<b><u>86,200</u></b>

The notes on pages 8 to 9 form part of these accounts.

**STOUR VALLEY VINEYARD CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted funds £	2023 £	2022 £
	General funds £	Designated funds £			
<b>A Cash funds</b>					
Cash at bank with immediate access	16,142	30,665	41,722	88,529	86,200
	<u>16,142</u>	<u>30,665</u>	<u>41,722</u>	<u>88,529</u>	<u>86,200</u>
<b>B Other monetary assets</b>					
Gift aid due to charity	139	-	608	746	1,094
Prepayments and other debtors	320	-	800	1,120	2,000
	<u>459</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,408</u>	<u>1,866</u>	<u>3,094</u>
<b>C Liabilities</b>					
<b>Falling due within one year</b>					
Other creditors	600	-	-	600	-
Independent examiner's fee for preparing and examining the accounts	660	-	660	1,320	1,260
Payroll related creditors	615	-	-	615	-
	<u>1,875</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>2,535</u>	<u>1,260</u>

**D Assets retained for charity's own use**

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost £	Current Value £
Air-conditioning units	Restricted	10,050	2,000
Portacabin	Unrestricted	12,474	2,000
Equipment & fittings	Unrestricted	7,325	3,240
Equipment & fittings	Restricted	850	-
		<u>30,699</u>	<u>7,240</u>

The charity's portacabin was sold shortly after the year end for £2,000. The current values of the charity's other assets have been estimated by the trustees.

**F Guarantees and secured debts**

The charity has not given any guarantees and has not provided its assets as security for any liabilities.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

RA Woodman  
RA Woodman (Jun 30, 2024 23:05 GMT+1)

R Woodman

Date: Jun 30, 2024

The notes on pages 8 to 9 form part of these accounts.



**STOUR VALLEY VINEYARD CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**1 Accounting policies**

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	General funds	Designated funds			
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>2 Payments in relation to charitable activities undertaken directly</b>					
<i>Direct expenditure on activities</i>					
Advertising	469	-	130	599	1,172
Equipment	2,278	-	393	2,671	4,363
Other ministry costs	5,873	-	429	6,301	4,439
Other Storehouse expenses:					
Items purchased for distribution	-	-	6,909	6,909	7,489
Consumables	-	-	1,396	1,396	1,688
Repairs, maintenance and cleaning	1,412	-	872	2,284	1,969
Staff costs	52,498	-	44,509	97,007	80,087
Training and conferences	3,072	-	140	3,212	2,646
Venue hire	3,360	-	6,150	9,510	7,250
	<u>68,961</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60,929</u>	<u>129,890</u>	<u>111,102</u>
<i>Support costs</i>					
Independent examiner's fee	630	-	630	1,260	1,200
Insurance	470	-	470	939	914
Office costs	1,413	-	206	1,619	1,469
Phone and internet	779	-	658	1,437	1,212
	<u>3,292</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,963</u>	<u>5,255</u>	<u>4,794</u>
	<u>72,253</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,892</u>	<u>135,145</u>	<u>115,896</u>

**3 Grants paid in relation to charitable activities undertaken by others**

Grants for:

Church planting and mission support	-	-	-	-	5,000
Assistance given to individuals	-	4,350	-	4,350	2,410
Other charities	-	-	-	-	2,000
Suffolk Community Foundation (returned grant)	-	4,421	-	4,421	4,960
Vineyard Churches UK & Ireland	-	8,771	-	8,771	14,370
	<u>-</u>	<u>8,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,771</u>	<u>14,370</u>

**4 Transactions with related parties**

Mr & Mrs Taylor serve as church pastors and received employment benefits totalling £38,172 (2022: £37,158) for serving in that capacity, not for serving as trustees; these payments are permitted by the charity's governing document.

**STOUR VALLEY VINEYARD CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**5 Non-monetary resources**

During the year the charity was donated food and other items with an estimated value of £94,000 (2022: £85,000) for distribution by the charity's Storehouse Foodbank to those in need.

**6 Movement on designated funds and restricted funds**

		Balance at 31 Dec 2022 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Dec 2023 £
Building fund	Designated	3,154	-	-	-	3,154
Building fund	Restricted	-	736	-	-	736
		<u>3,154</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,890</u>
Contingency fund	Designated	25,339	-	-	-	25,339
Storehouse fund	Restricted	43,459	60,418	(62,892)	-	40,986
Tithe fund	Designated	2,620	8,323	(8,771)	-	2,172
Total for all designated funds		<u>31,113</u>	<u>8,323</u>	<u>(8,771)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,665</u>
Total for all restricted funds		<u>43,459</u>	<u>61,154</u>	<u>(62,892)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,722</u>

**Designated funds**

- i) The **Contingency fund** represents funds set aside to help cover unexpected variances in income and expenditure.
- ii) The **Building fund** represents funds set aside by the trustees to provide or improve facilities used by the charity.
- iii) The **Tithe fund** represents funds set aside by the trustees to help fund grant giving to other charities and individuals.

**Restricted funds**

- i) The **Storehouse fund** was created from donations and grants received to help fund the Storehouse compassion ministry of Stour Valley Vineyard Church including the Storehouse foodbank, aiming to help local families and individuals in crisis. At the year end the carried forward balance on this fund includes a contingency of £9,000 to help ensure that Storehouse could continue to operate smoothly should income and / or expenditure vary adversely.
- ii) The **Building fund** was created from donations received to help provide or improve facilities used by the charity.