

ASHWOOD CHURCH
DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021.

COMPANY NUMBER 6946764

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1134945

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
TREVOR STEPHENSON A.C.M.A.
OF ROCKET BUSINESS SERVICES LTD

ASHWOOD CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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ASHWOOD CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Status

Ashwood Church is a private company in England and Wales limited by guarantee with no share capital under section 30 of the Companies Act.

Directors and Trustees

Elaine Torr	Chair
Simon Wright	Company Secretary
Elaine Townsend	
Gaye Locke	

Registered Office

41 Crocus Street,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield,
Nottingham, NG17 7DY.

Legal Advisors

Brown Jacobson Solicitors,
Mowbray House,
Castle Meadow
Road,
Nottingham,
NG2
1BJ.

Bankers

Reliance Bank Ltd
Faith House
23-24 Lovat Lane
London EC3R 8EB

Accountants

Rocket Business Services Ltd,
18 Barleydale Drive,
Trowell,
Nottingham, NG9 3QS.

Report of the Trustees and Directors

Aims and Purposes

The year 2020 – 2021 has been like no other in the church's history with so many uncertainties and so many different approaches being required to negotiate the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic. However, throughout it all Ashwood Church has remained committed to its vision statement of "Loving God, Loving One Another, Loving the World", while maintaining our aim to be a spiritually healthy, growing church that welcomes and includes people of all ages, helping people find and follow Jesus. With this in mind, we are pleased to report the activities of Ashwood Church during this year where we have continued to serve in line with those purposes and the church's objectives.

Achievements and Performance

The Objectives of Ashwood Church, set out in the Church's Memorandum of Association, are to advance the Christian faith, to relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health and to advance education and these continue to guide our use of charitable giving. The bulk of the funds handled by the charity continue to be used to further the work of Ashwood Church in Kirkby in Ashfield and the surrounding area in North Nottinghamshire.

Along with many other organisations Ashwood Church has needed to adapt and change as the world situation has developed, but activities undertaken during the period were planned with due consideration to the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Proverbs 16:3 summarises the year well "Commit to the Lord whatever you do and he will establish your plans"

A Move to Online

The initial lockdown in March 2020 brought a number of things to an immediate halt - such as the hire of the centre by its users, Café 22 (just as it reached its first birthday), and Centre based toddler, children's and youth work.

Key to the work subsequently developed were the aims that we should

- stay connected
- care for everyone (especially those more vulnerable or in need)
- pray

and through imagination and enthusiasm both staff and volunteers created alternative provision for many areas.

One such area was Children's work which moved online but was backed up with materials and activity packs delivered to those who signed up to take part, including plants donated by B&Q and Friday Night Takeaway treat packs. A 3 day virtual holiday club connected with 20 children who did a variety of experiments, challenges and crafts together. For Seesaw Toddler Group a Facebook page was utilised for regular volunteers to add videos of themselves reading favourite stories, singing nursery rhymes and demonstrating craft ideas. At special times of the year additional activities were included, for example, at Easter, the Elevate Youth team went out doing Easter Egg drop offs. At the beginning of September, the church employed a children's and youth worker to lead the group of talented and committed volunteers.

Ashwood Church has run many successful Alpha courses over the years, and the one in progress at the point of lockdown was moved online. This proved successful and 4 further online courses were run during the year.

HeavenScent also moved online in July for its 19th year, with a range of different tasks to be completed in the garden or wherever there was space, with a video of what to do and great prizes to be won. The video for one of the nights had over 2500 views from the public demonstrating its popularity.

An online family quiz night proved so popular it ended up being a regular feature for a number of months, along with taking part in a national Big Quiz Night for Tearfund in November and a special Christmas Quiz night in December.

Where a group of crafters could no longer meet together they continued to meet online and also worked on much needed items such as masks with profits from sales going to Links International Malawi, making some beautiful items and raising over £700 in the process.

As the normal Sunday services could not be held, staff and volunteers were able to quickly provide an online presence via a Livestream so that the family of Ashwood Church could still 'virtually' meet to worship, pray and hear God's word from their homes on Sunday mornings. This also led to others being able to connect even if their own church was unable to meet. As rules changed, the service adapted from being solely from homes to being filmed in the Ashwood Centre with Covid guidance always being followed. When the situation allowed, a drive in Service was held in the centre car park

As the life groups couldn't meet up in homes, these meetings too went online with Zoom gatherings becoming more natural as the weeks and months went by. At a few points where the rules allowed there were also various smaller socially distanced meetings on driveways and in gardens, to keep connections going.

Caring in the Community

Storehouse food bank was a vital point of contact for many in the Kirkby area, with an immediate increase in numbers using the service (by almost 50%) due to reduced incomes. However, there was a corresponding increase in the number of people offering food to the foodbank as people realised the need, along with donations from local businesses, especially Kirkby in Ashfield Morrisons who worked together with Ashwood's community co-ordinator to focus on the foods needed most, making it easier for shoppers to pick and donate things which were required. A grant from the county council helped to purchase boxes for deliveries and provide some activities and crafts for the children of families who didn't have any at home. Again, careful consideration was given to allowing for food to be provided safely, with many car trips made by those running the service to either pick up donated food or provide a door-to-door service when it wasn't possible for people to come to the Centre, either due to the lockdown rules, or due to isolating. Over 100 drops were done over a single 2-month period.

Towards the end of 2020 Ashwood Church became involved in a telephone befriending initiative partnering with a Christian charity "Linking Lives" to bring "Two's Company" to Kirkby in Ashfield. A dedicated freephone line was set up and 3 leaders and staff completed the co-ordinators training to allow them to train volunteer befrienders who could then talk on a weekly basis to those feeling isolated and lonely who had been referred to the service. By the end of the year 12 volunteers had been trained and the service publicised at foodbank and through a local school, which led to the first 6 referrals coming through at the beginning of 2021.

Christmas was very different this year, with a Click and Collect Christmas for Seesaw Toddler Group with people able to collect a Christmas gift, cake and craft for each child, and over 150 people took part in a socially distanced Carols and Candles event in the Ashwood Centre car park. The Storehouse foodbank made some special drops at Christmas – with over 30 Christmas food hampers, including some toys and gifts, being delivered by the fire brigade from their fire engine which made quite a sight.

Staff and volunteers alike have worked hard to provide support to those in need and those in the Ashwood Church family have enthusiastically given over and above usual financial giving to a Covid-19 Relief Fund to allow the church to support individuals and families in the community financially affected by the pandemic, with supermarket vouchers, or assistance with utility bills.

Early in the pandemic, the church also looked at ways of supporting those we have an association with, especially as it was felt that some 'normal' methods of fund raising would have faltered. So by May additional funds had been raised with £3,000 given to Betel UK and £1,000 to Links International. The Christmas collection also went ahead, and despite being unable to donate in physical meetings, over £3,000 was raised to support Hope Missions in Malawi and Safe Families operating in UK.

June 2020 saw a celebration of 25 years of Ashwood News, with a look back at early articles and personalities, as well as a (very brief!) history of Ashwood Church. Despite going through various changes, the regular provision of news, articles and general encouragement has remained very popular. The decision was made at the start of lockdown to print and deliver a paper copy to help people feel connected, although it is envisaged that the number of copies printed will reduce at some stage as the church aims to balance both individual and environmental needs.

A Centre in the Community

Despite being unable to meet in the building, or use it to any significant level, maintenance on the Centre continued over the year with essential works performed on the fabric of the building and internal work to make the spaces more attractive for the centre re-opening to users. Again, this was made possible by volunteers being generous with their time and effort, working alongside our part time caretaker.

The long-term plan remains to create a new church building to assist the church in all its objectives. The 'New Home for Ashwood', project team has continued to work in the background to advance this plan and although specific fund-raising initiatives have been suspended during this year, £16,647 was still raised, with the resulting total fund at 31st March 2021 standing at £199,817.

Long term users of the centre are keen to return and include:

- U3A (including 11 monthly interest groups)
- Local Knitting Group
- Slimming World
- East Midlands Autism Group
- Labour Party
- Local Art Group
- Ashfield Foster Carers
- Ashfield Harmony Choir
- Brackenhill School

Leadership

Matt Bell has continued to lead the church, ably assisted by his wife, Claire and 2 further leaders, creating the Senior Leadership Team. The team works alongside 6 part time employees, including pastoral care and community workers.

Financial support

We are grateful to so many for the funding for the activities that we deliver including:

- Our ever-generous members
- Friends of Ashwood who support various Ashwood projects
- Ashfield District Council
- The overall income and expenditure for the church is set out below.

Incoming Resources. These totalled £142,824

Resources Expended. These totalled £113,985

Net Income for Year. This amounted to £ 28,839

Tangible Fixes Assets for use by the charity. £220,800

Money is only part of the picture and many hours of volunteer time leverage the effectiveness of the Church in delivering activities that glorify God and impact our communities with the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ.

The church is a member of Churches Together in Kirkby. It is also part of the Evangelical Alliance and the Ground Level Network of Churches, and benefits from and contributes locally into the Ground Level Midland Connection (of churches). The Network provides opportunities to meet together with a wide variety of Churches and access teaching from both Nationally and Internationally recognised speakers, and Ashwood both serves and supports an annual Celebration weekend of prayer, worship and teaching, as well as activities for all ages. Ashwood Church wider leadership team access the training and conference events provided by the Ground Level network, which inspires and informs all aspects of our work as a Church.

Compliance Footnote

The trustees submit their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with adopted the provisions of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Public Benefit

In planning and implementing all the activities carried out by Ashwood Church, we will keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee and management group meetings, following the principles set out below.

Principle 1: There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits

Principle 1a It must be clear what the benefits are

Principle 1b The benefits must be related to the aims

Principle 1c Benefits must be balanced against any detriment or harm

Principle 2: Benefit must be to the public, or section of the public

Principle 2a The beneficiaries must be appropriate to the aims

Principle 2b Where benefit is to a section of the public, the opportunity to benefit must not be unreasonably restricted:

- by geographical or other restrictions; or
- by ability to pay any fees charged

Principle 2c People in poverty must not be excluded from the opportunity to benefit

Principle 2d Any private benefits must be incidental.

Reserves Statement

The trustees have allowed for the costs and arrived at a reserves figure of £55,089. The figures allow for:

- 3 months to wind down staff employment and resource redundancy payments
- 3 month's notice to external recipients of charitable funds
- A provisional sum for expected building repairs.

In addition to the above, the trustees have designated £252,013 of our unrestricted funds to resource a new church building, which when added to the restricted funds available for the building of £199,817 gives a total sum of £425,641 available for a New Home for Ashwood. These figures are reviewed annually.

Objects of the charity, principal activities and organisation of our work.

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

The charity's principal objectives are to:

- (a) to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the directors from time to time may think fit;
- (b) 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 counselling and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the directors from time to time think fit and
- (c) to advance education in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the directors from time to time may think fit.

The company is managed by a Board of Directors who oversee all legal, financial and staff appointment matters. They are also responsible for measuring performance against targets. The Spiritual Leadership are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Church's activities. The Senior Minister, Matt Bell, acts a link between the Spiritual Leadership Team and the directors.

Approved by the board of directors and trustees on 02/11/2021 and signed on its behalf



Elaine Torr, Director and Trustee.

ASHWOOD CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of Ashwood Church on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 :

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011) (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to :

- * examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Act),
- * to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- * to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the organisation 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 I do not express an audit opinion of the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that
 - * proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act) ; and
 - * accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act ; or
2. to which , in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Trevor Alan Stephenson

Trevor Alan Stephenson.A.C.M.A.

Rocket Business Services Ltd,

18 Barleydale Drive,

Trowell Nottingham NG9 3QS.

27/08/2021

ASHWOOD CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds :					
Donations and gifts	2a	137,760	37,811	175,571	212,953
Investment income	2b	1,081	0	1,081	1,731
Charitable activities	2c	1,110	0	1,110	5,855
Activities for generating funds	2d	0	0	0	0
Other incoming resources	2e	2,873	0	2,873	10,518
Total incoming resources		142,824	37,811	180,635	231,057
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	3a	110,090	15,004	125,094	137,408
Cost of generating funds	3b	68	0	68	98
Governance costs	3c	3,827	0	3,827	4,918
Total resources expended		113,985	15,004	128,989	142,424
Net Income (Deficit) for year		28,839	22,807	51,646	88,633
Statement of other recognised gains					
Net movements in funds for year		28,839	22,807	51,646	88,633
Transfers between funds	4	-5	5	0	0
Revaluation reserve	14	0	230,000	230,000	230,000
Fund balances brought forward		252,079	183,703	435,782	347,149
Fund balances carried forward		280,913	436,515	717,428	665,782

ASHWOOD CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	5		220,800		225,400
Current Assets					
Cash at bank and in hand	6	471,933		408,730	
Debtors	7	26,254		32,258	
		498,187		440,988	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	1,559		606	
Net Current Assets			496,628		440,382
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			0		0
Net Assets			717,428		665,782
Funds					
Restricted funds	4		206,515		183,703
Revaluation reserve	14		230,000		230,000
Unrestricted funds			280,913		252,079
Total Funds			717,428		665,782

In approving these financial statements as directors and trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the period stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the period ending 31 March 2021 and

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial period and of its profit or loss for the period then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 393 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the board of directors and trustees on 02/11/2021 and signed on its behalf

Elaine Torr
Director and Trustee

ASHWOOD CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

1.2 Incoming resources

Voluntary income and donations are included in incoming resources when they are receivable. The income from fundraising ventures is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs.

1.3 Resources expended

Resources expended other than that which have been capitalised, are included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. Expenditure which is directly attributable to specific activities has been included in these cost categories. Where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

1.4 Finance and operating leases

There are none.

1.5 Pension costs

There are none.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost over their expected useful economic lives as follows :

Equipment and furniture	25% on straight line basis.
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Fixtures and fittings	2% on straight line basis.
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Freehold buildings	2% on straight line basis.
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Please note: £230,000 of fixed assets were acquired from Ashwood Community Resource during 2018/19 as part of the merger of the two charities with no monies being exchanged.

They were valued at 31.03.19 at this value and will be depreciated from 01.04.19.

1.7 Investment income

Bank interest is included in the income and expenditure account on receipt.

1.8 Taxation

The current activities of the charity are exempt from taxation.

1.9 Fundraising costs

There are none.

1.10 Expenditure on governance of the charity

Governance expenditure includes all expenditure not directly related to the charitable activity or fundraising ventures.

ASHWOOD CHURCH				
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021				
2. Incoming Resources	2021 unrestricted funds	2021 restricted funds	2021 TOTAL	2020 TOTAL
a). Donations and Gifts	£	£	£	£
General Gifts and Offerings	137,760	0	137,760	139,097
Development Fund	0	9,584	9,584	37,172
Building Fund	0	7,063	7,063	14,139
Foodbank	0	11,991	11,991	1,379
Queen's 90th birthday	0	0	0	0
Make Lunch	0	0	0	0
Kirkby Christmas Festival (ADC)	0	0	0	0
Christmas Appeal	0	3,062	3,062	4,588
Coxmoor Grant	0	2,800	2,800	786
Community Grants	0	0	0	0
Albania - Hutson family	0	0	0	0
Links International	0	101	101	241
Malawi 7000	0	0	0	741
Hardship Covid 19 Relief	0	3,210	3,210	313
Toddler Group (Seesaw)	0	0	0	1,939
ACR Merger	0	0	0	12,558
	137,760	37,811	175,571	212,953
b). Investment Income				
Bank interest	1,081	0	1,081	1,731
	1,081	0	1,081	1,731
c). Charitable Activities				
Activities and Events	1,030	0	1,030	5,324
Course Income	80	0	80	531
	1,110	0	1,110	5,855
d). Activities for Generating Funds				
Events for Generating Funds	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
e). Other Incoming Resources				
Other Income	2,873	0	2,873	8,229
Photocopier Income	0	0	0	0
	2,873	0	2,873	8,229

ASHWOOD CHURCH				
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021				
Resources Expended	2021 unrestricted funds	2021 restricted funds	2021 TOTAL	2020 TOTAL
a). Charitable Activities				
Catering costs	22	0	22	1,892
Consumables	0	0	0	0
Equipment purchases	917	0	917	925
Equipment costs	0	0	0	0
Activities and Events	20,349	0	20,349	28,605
People costs	143	0	143	98
Salary costs	66,161	0	66,161	57,455
Sundry expenses	0	0	0	0
Restricted expenses	0	10,404	10,404	7,138
Training costs	2,031	0	2,031	4,778
Travel expenses	200	0	200	1,106
Venue and Hall Hire	0	0	0	0
Printing costs	2,599	0	2,599	2,974
IT	3,383	0	3,383	1,806
Postage and Stationery	224	0	224	279
Centre Costs	14,061	0	14,061	25,751
Depreciation	0	4,600	4,600	4,600
	110,090	15,004	125,094	137,408
b). Cost of Generating Funds				
Literature and Brochures	68	0	68	98
	68	0	68	98
c). Governance Costs				
Insurance and subscriptions	2,645	0	2,645	3,466
Legal and professional fees	432	0	432	732
Independent examiners fees	750	0	750	720
	3,827	0	3,827	4,918

ASHWOOD CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4. Restricted Funds	Balance 1st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	General Transfer	Balance 31st March 2021
Development Fund	153,927	9,584	1,128	0	162,383
Building Fund	30,371	7,063	0	0	37,434
Kirkby Christmas Festival (ADC)	0	0	0	0	0
Foodbank	1,738	11,991	3,032	0	10,697
Make Lunch	131	0	0	0	131
Christmas Appeal	0	3,062	3,010	5	57
Queen's 90th Birthday	0	0	0	0	0
Coxmoor Grant	191	2,800	1,344	0	1,647
Community Grants	0	0	0	0	0
Links International	241	101	342	0	0
Malawi 7000	818	0	0	0	818
Toddler Group (Seesaw)	573	0	128	0	445
ACR Merger	0	0	0	0	0
Hardship 'Covid 19 Relief'	313	3,210	1,420	0	2,103
Ashwood Community Resource Assets	225,400	0	4,600	0	220,800
	413,703	37,811	15,004	5	436,515
5. Tangible Fixed Assets			Fixtures & Fittings	Freehold Buildings	Total
Cost					
At 1 April 2021			3,500	226,500	230,000
Additions			nil	nil	nil
At 31 March 2020			3,500	226,500	230,000
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2020			70	4,530	4,600
Charge for year			70	4,530	4,600
At 31 March 2021			140	9,060	9,200
Net Book Value					
At 1 April 2020			3,430	221,970	225,400
At 31 March 2021			3,360	217,440	220,800
6. Cash at bank and in hand			2021 TOTAL		2020 TOTAL
Current Account			23,462		10,308
Deposit Account			448,471		398,422
Petty Cash			nil		nil
			471,933		408,730
7. Debtors					
Tax Recoverable			26,074		31,570
Sundry Debtors			180		688
			26,254		32,258
8. Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year.					
Independent Examiners Fees Accrual			750		720
Taxation			809		-114
			1,559		606

