

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1137729

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2010-09-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Strood Gospel Mission Church
Brompton Lane
Strood
Kent
ME2 3BQ

Phone 07915 912528

Email stroodgospelmissionchurch@gmail.com

Website <http://www.stroodgospelmission.org.uk>

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. THE CHURCH MAY ALSO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND CARRY OUT OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND/OR OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Activities: RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED IN PRACTICE ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£82,598	£79,544	-	-
2024-09-30	£74,701	£73,917	-	-
2023-09-30	£65,190	£62,037	-	-
2022-09-30	£52,979	£57,872	-	-
2021-09-30	£65,498	£68,466	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Diana Maud Morgan		2015-02-19
Femi Paul Okanlawon		2021-12-05
Hayley Linda Prestidge-Briston		2020-09-01
Juliet Efemena Obaka-Fabelurin		2025-11-30
Karen Margaret Charles		2016-11-17
Marion Evelyn Hollebon		2019-11-17
Mark John Wicker		2019-11-17
Nigel Brian Briston		2021-12-05
RICHARD JOHN MORGAN		2015-02-19
Stephen Harold Charles Gee		2020-08-30

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1137729

Accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st October 2024 To: 30th September 2025

Charity name: Strood Gospel Mission Church (SGMC)

Charity registration number: 1137729

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith. SGMC may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the UK and/or other parts of the world.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Regular public worship, prayer, bible study, preaching, teaching and baptism. Education and training for Christian and community service. Giving and encouraging pastoral care. Supporting and encouraging social action. Supporting and caring for the local community.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>SGMC has continued to engage with the local community in a safe, helpful and encouraging way by running a myriad of activities to help meet the needs of people.</p> <p>Our "Grassroots" project continues to progress. It is a clothing (and other small, non-electrical, household items) project where items are donated, and then made freely available to anyone. Anyone can come into the church building and take what they need, for free. If they choose to make a voluntary cash donation, these are collected and 100% of these donations are then given to local good causes, such as foodbanks and hospices. Over £2500 of voluntary cash donations have been given by members of the public since the project began, and these monies have been donated to five Medway-based charities. SGMC covers all the costs of operating the project. The project continues to prove very beneficial - recycling clothing and goods that might otherwise go to landfill; helping people, particularly young families starting off in life, to obtain what they need in difficult times with cost-of-living pressures; and channelling 100% of voluntary cash donations to assist worthy local causes. We also held our popular Christmas Christingle and candle-lit Carol Services, our family-friendly Christmas Fayre, as well as providing a free Christmas lunch on Christmas Day itself, specifically for local people, particularly those that find themselves on their own.</p> <p>Our "Hope Hut", which is a converted wheelie bin store placed outside the church building, is a continuing talking point within the community. The Hut has a display inside with a perspective front and lighting, and so the display is visible 24 hours a day, with arresting and colourful tableaux regularly changed through the year.</p> <p>Meal Club, which commenced a couple of years ago, is a project we undertake, working with volunteers from the Royal Mail. The Club provides a free hot meal to anyone that attends, and we also open up Grassroots at the same time to</p>

		<p>provide individuals with the opportunity to choose any items that they might need. We have a good following amongst the homeless community, and the Club is also popular with young mums and children, as well as more elderly residents, as it provides much needed social contact for those living alone.</p> <p>There are other activities for the community held in the church, almost every day of the week, including a Parents and Toddlers group, a coffee morning (Coffee Stop), a Quilting Group for those that enjoy sewing, quilting, crochet, embroidery, and Knit & Natter, an opportunity to chat and sew in a relaxed atmosphere at the Bread of Life café, near to the Church. These are in addition to our Sunday services (which include a Sunday School and a Bible Class) as well as a number of informal small groups that meet at various times during the day and evening to suit different working schedules, for bible study, prayer and pastoral support. We have also run a number of online “Alpha” courses throughout the year, to help those curious about understanding Christianity in more detail.</p> <p>SGMC was blessed to have three baptisms during the year, as well as two dedications. Our membership increased by 25%, and our wider fellowship also saw increased numbers.</p>
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Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity’s financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>SGMC posted a modest surplus of £3,053.74 for the financial year, compared to a small surplus of £784.08 for the previous financial year. Total income increased by 10.5%, compared to 2023/24, principally due to an increase in donations (up 14%), and increase in the recovery of Gift Aid. Total expenditure also increased, by 7.6%, primarily due to higher day-to-day expenditure in running the church, particularly utilities.</p> <p>SGMC is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the church building at Brompton Lane, as well as the Manse, the legal title to which is held by the Church’s custodian and holding trustee, the Property Trustees. These properties are together insured for £2.02m.</p>
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Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>When setting and/or reviewing the appropriate level of reserves, the Church takes into account the level of funds required to cover immediate commitments and planned expenditure, as well as an analysis of future needs, opportunities, contingencies and risks that are not likely to be met out of forecast income, and the consequences of not being able to meet them. At just under £114,000, the level of reserves covers just under 1.5 years of current expenditure. In addition, the Church is undertaking the process to convert SGMC to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, for the benefits that brings in being able to hold property in its own right, and reduce charity trustee unlimited liability. This will result in additional expenditure, principally legal costs, over the next few years to complete these tasks. Given the above, and in addition, given the ages of the Church building and the Manse, and the likely need of significant maintenance expenditure over the coming years, as well as the reliance on a relatively small number of donors, the level of reserves is felt appropriate to ensure that SGMC can meet commitments when they fall due.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<p>Total reserves have reduced from £124,675.45 to £113,646.12, excluding a reserve of £8,872.19 specifically designated for use in Youth Work. In addition, we also hold £8,679.49 in a restricted legacy reserve, held in a separate account, to be used for Mission and Outreach. The reduction has been due principally to the end of the Borstal Secondment Agreement in September 2025. This agreement had been providing additional funding of approximately £37,000 spread over the previous three financial years.</p>

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods including details of any	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed and removed by the Church Members, as detailed under

constitutional provisions e.g., election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees		the Constitution. This process is public, clear and open, but the vote is undertaken by way of a secret ballot of the membership of the Church. The Church membership will also vote for the appointment to the roles of Minister, Minister-in-Training, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Elder and Deacon.
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Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Strood Gospel Mission Church
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1137729
Charity's principal address	Brompton Lane, Strood, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3BQ

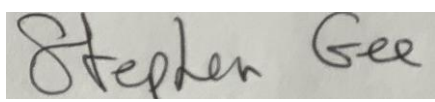
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Nigel Briston	Deacon		
2	Hayley Prestidge-Briston	Minister		
3	Stephen Gee	Treasurer & Deacon		
4	Diana Morgan	Deacon		
5	Rick Morgan	Deacon		
6	Femi Okanlawon	Deacon		
7	Marion Hollebbon	Deacon		
8	Mark Wicker	Deacon		
9	Karen Charles	Deacon		
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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Stephen Gee	
Position (e.g., Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer, Deacon & Charity Trustee	
Date	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	2025	2024
Income			
Sunday Offerings		3,342.50	5,322.60
Regular Giving		37,684.61	30,606.47
Rental Income		13,799.24	13,513.80
Designated Mission Giving		311.91	833.56
Sundry Income		1,628.51	2,451.70
Interest Received		5,891.57	3,903.03
Gift Aid Recovery		7,432.23	5,562.61
Borstal Secondment Agreement		12,506.77	12,506.77
Total Income		82,597.34	74,700.54
Expenditure			
Payroll		36,439.61	34,961.43
College Accommodation & Travel (NAM's Training)		676.10	648.10
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		750.00	750.00
Tithe Fund		3,592.90	3,072.94
Mileage		-	-
Designated Mission Gifts		311.91	833.56
Outreach & Publicity		1,457.92	986.03
Training & Teaching Materials		600.00	50.00
Preaching Gifts		75.00	150.00
Ministry (incl Sundries)		1,263.91	1,021.87
Licenses & Website		554.72	515.30
Resources		1,752.93	1,630.80
Youth Work		300.90	173.20
Property Church		4,206.74	4,465.31
Property Manse		1,226.21	3,729.19
Property Bortsal		13,826.00	12,809.88
Utilities Church		6,962.01	5,373.73
Utilities Borstal		5,546.74	2,745.12
Total Expenditure		79,543.60	73,916.46
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	1	3,053.74	784.08
Transfers to/from Reserve Accounts		-	-
Balance at previous year end		26,667.01	25,882.93
Balance at current year end		29,720.75	26,667.01

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	Note	2025	2024
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances			
Current Account		16,605.81	19,443.64
Reserves Account *		25,930.38	42,108.78
Restricted Legacy Account (Mission)		8,679.49	8,527.94
Charity Bank Account		56,969.51	54,322.22
United Trust Account		39,618.42	37,116.64
Other monetary assets:			
Debtors		-	-
Loans made		-	-
Gift aid claimed but not received		-	-
Investment Assets		-	-
Assets Held for Church's own use	2	2,028,247	1,961,658
Total Assets		2,176,050.61	2,123,177.22
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities		-	-
Long Term Loans		-	-
Pension Scheme liability	3	-	21.00
Other liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		-	21.00

* Included within the Reserves Account is a figure of £8,872.19 representing the outstanding balance from the closure of the Playgroup, and is to be used for Youth Work.

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year ending 30th September 2025 are as approved by the Charity Trustees, and by the Members at the AGM of 30th November 2025.

Signed: Stephen Gee, Treasurer, Deacon & Charity Trustee (authorised to sign on behalf of the Charity Trustees)

Date: 30.11.2025

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Assets Held for the Church's own use

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee, the Property Trustees:

- Church premises at Brompton Lane valued in the accounts at £1,423,019 insured value.
- Church manse at 1 Weston Road valued in the accounts at £527,020 insured value.
- The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £78,208

3. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was carried out by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan were collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme was due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022. However, it was decided that the DB Plan would be wound up, and the process to wind it up was started with effect from 31 March 2024, and therefore no formal valuation took place.

Under the Schedule of Contributions, the Church made a monthly payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit, and historically these increased in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. The Schedule of Contributions foresaw these contributions continuing until June 2026.

On 30th June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just provided financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer had a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

In October 2024, Just completed a buy out of the liabilities of the closed defined benefit scheme. From that date any remaining liability of the participating scheme members to the defined benefit scheme ceased and the £1 per month deficit contributions payable by the participating employers which were agreed in the recovery plan approved in August 2022, also ceased from that date. Administration of the closed defined benefit scheme transferred from the pension trustees to Just from that date.

Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. The present value of the agreed deficit contributions were fully extinguished once the buy out was completed by Just in October 2024.

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

Strood Gospel Mission Church

On accounts for the year
ended

30 September 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1137729

Set out on pages

General Receipts & Payments Account, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Notes to the Accounts 1-3

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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. It is my responsibility to:

- 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

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.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - 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 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 31 March 2026

Name:

Lionel Robbins

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1137729

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st October 2023 To: 30th September 2024

Charity name: Strood Gospel Mission Church (SGMC)

Charity registration number: 1137729

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith. SGMC may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the UK and/or other parts of the world.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Regular public worship, prayer, bible study, preaching, teaching and baptism. Education and training for Christian and community service. Giving and encouraging pastoral care. Supporting and encouraging social action. Supporting and caring for the local community.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>SGMC has continued to engage with the local community in a safe, helpful and encouraging way by running a myriad of activities to help meet the needs of people.</p> <p>Our "Grassroots" project continues to progress. It is a clothing (and other small, non-electrical, household items) project where items are donated, and then made freely available to anyone. Anyone can come into the church building and take what they need, for free. If they choose to make a voluntary cash donation, these are collected and 100% of these donations are then given to local good causes, such as foodbanks and hospices. Over £2200 of voluntary cash donations have been given by members of the public since the project began, and these monies have been donated to five Medway-based charities. SGMC covers all the costs of operating the project. The project continues to prove very beneficial - recycling clothing and goods that might otherwise go to landfill; helping people, particularly young families starting off in life, to obtain what they need in difficult times with cost-of-living pressures; and channelling 100% of voluntary cash donations to assist worthy local causes. We also held our popular Christmas Christingle and candle-lit Carol Services, our family-friendly Christmas Fayre as well as an Easter Party, and these were well supported by the community.</p> <p>Our "Hope Hut", which is a converted wheelie bin store placed outside the church building, is a continuing talking point within the community. The Hut has a display inside with a perspective front and lighting, and so the display is visible 24 hours a day, with arresting and colourful tableaux regularly changed through the year.</p> <p>Meal Club, which commenced last year, is a project we undertake, working with volunteers from the Royal Mail as well as food provided by Gillingham Street Angels. The Club provides a free hot meal to anyone that attends, and we also open up Grassroots at the same time to provide individuals with the</p>

		<p>opportunity to choose any items that they might need. We have a good following amongst the homeless community, and the Club is also popular with young mums and children, as well as more elderly residents, as it provides much need social contact for those living alone.</p> <p>There are other activities for the community held in the church, almost every day of the week, including a Parents and Toddlers group, a coffee morning (Coffee Stop), a Quilting Group for those that enjoy sewing, quilting, crochet, embroidery, and Knit & Natter, an opportunity to chat and sew in a relaxed atmosphere at the Bread of Life café, near to the Church. These are in addition to our Sunday services (which include a Sunday School and a Bible Class) as well as a number of informal small groups that meet at various times during the day and evening to suit different working schedules, for bible study, prayer and pastoral support. We have also run a number of online “Alpha” courses throughout the year, to help those curious about understanding Christianity in more detail.</p> <p>Finally, this year we were able to offer the use of the church building as a polling station on two occasions, at the request of Medway Council, given our central position in the heart of North Strood.</p>
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Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity’s financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>SGMC posted a surplus of £784.08 for the financial year, compared to a surplus of £3,152.60 for the previous financial year. Total income increased by 14%, compared to 2022/23, principally due to an increase in donations (up 16%), the contribution received from Borstal Baptist Church under our 3-Year Secondment Agreement, and various one-off items. Total expenditure also increased, by 19%, primarily due to the first year of employing a full-time Minister, and general increases in costs across some budget lines, particularly utilities. SGMC is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the church building at Brompton Lane, as well as the Manse, the legal title to which is held by the Church’s custodian and holding</p>
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		<p>trustee, the Property Trustees. These properties are together insured for £1.96m.</p> <p>The principal long-term liability of the Church is its membership as a participating employer of the Baptist Pension Scheme, the Defined Benefit Plan. At the last formal valuation of the Plan in December 2019, there was a deficit of £18m and the Church, and the other participating employers in the DB Plan, are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The Trustee of the Scheme informed all churches in the Scheme that an agreement had been signed, on 30th June 2022, with the insurance company Just Group, to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just Group are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan, and the transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Because the Just Group policies cover the overwhelming majority of the DB Plan's liabilities, the risks to employers are substantially reduced. The Trustee of the Scheme and the Baptist Union expect the assets of the DB Plan will be sufficient to cover all the costs and liabilities that remain; however, this is not certain until the completion of the buy-out process (which is the setting up of annuities for each member of the DB Plan). In view of this, deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer have been reduced, but will continue at a nominal amount of £1 per month until completion.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>When setting and/or reviewing the appropriate level of reserves, the Church takes into account the level of funds required to cover immediate commitments and planned expenditure, as well as an analysis of future needs, opportunities, contingencies and risks that are not likely to be met out of forecast income, and the consequences of not being able to meet them. At just over £124,000, the level of reserves covers just over 2 years of current expenditure, but it does include £12,506.77 which will be used in the 2024/25 financial year (please see "Amount of Reserves" below for a full explanation). In addition, the Church has agreed to firstly assist the Property Trustees in resolving some outstanding legal issues in relation to their trusts,</p>

		and secondly, to undertake the process to convert SGMC to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, for the benefits that brings in being able to hold property and reduce charity trustee liability. This will result in additional expenditure, principally legal costs, over the next few years to complete these tasks. Given the above, and in addition, given the ages of the Church building and the Manse, and the likely need of significant maintenance expenditure over the coming years, as well as the reliance on a relatively small number of donors, the level of reserves is felt appropriate to ensure that SGMC can meet commitments when they fall due.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Total reserves have increased to £124,675.452, excluding a reserve of £8,872.19 specifically designated for use in Youth Work. In addition, we also hold £8,363.83 in a restricted legacy reserve, held in a separate account, to be used for Mission and Outreach. Finally, the total reserves figure also includes the final tranche under the 3-year Secondment Agreement from Bortsal Baptist Church (this was included in the Settlement Amount which Borstal Baptist Church paid us when it closed in January 2023). This amounts to £12,506.77, and this amount will be used over 2024/25 financial year to help mitigate payroll costs, in accordance with the original Secondment Agreement.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g., election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed and removed by the Church Members, as detailed under the Constitution. This process is public, clear and open, but the vote is undertaken by way of a secret ballot of the membership of the Church. The Church membership will also vote for the appointment to the roles of Minister, Minister-in-Training, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Elder and Deacon.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Strood Gospel Mission Church
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1137729
Charity's principal address	Brompton Lane, Strood, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3BQ
Correspondence address	58 King Arthurs Drive, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3NB

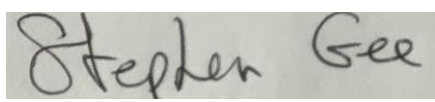
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Nigel Briston	Deacon		
2	Hayley Prestidge-Briston	Minister		
3	Stephen Gee	Treasurer & Deacon		
4	Diana Morgan	Deacon		
5	Rick Morgan	Deacon		
6	Femi Okanlawon	Deacon		
7	Marion Hollebon	Deacon		
8	Mark Wicker	Deacon		
9	Karen Charles	Deacon		
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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Stephen Gee	
Position (e.g., Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer & Charity Trustee	
Date	20 th March 2025	

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	2024	2023
Income			
Sunday Offerings		5,322.60	4,108.45
Regular Giving		30,606.47	26,621.00
Rental Income		13,513.80	13,510.73
Designated Mission Giving		833.56	583.62
Sundry Income		2,451.70	2,385.75
Interest Received		3,903.03	1,198.82
Gift Aid Recovery		5,562.61	6,831.22
Borstal Secondment Agreement		12,506.77	9,949.45
Total Income		74,700.54	65,189.04
Expenditure			
Payroll		34,961.43	17,722.44
College Accommodation & Travel (NAM's Training)		648.10	2,288.55
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		750.00	750.00
Tithe Fund		3,072.94	3,193.71
Mileage		-	84.15
Designated Mission Gifts		833.56	583.62
Outreach & Publicity		986.03	1,369.30
Training & Teaching Materials		50.00	926.30
Preaching Gifts		150.00	150.00
Ministry (incl Sundries)		1,021.87	1,494.47
Licenses & Website		515.30	507.89
Resources		1,630.80	2,050.09
Youth Work		173.20	366.61
Property Church		4,465.31	5,283.90
Property Manse		3,729.19	6,997.42
Property Frindsbury		-	950.00
Property Borstal		12,809.88	12,245.00
Utilities Church		5,373.73	2,643.52
Utilities Frindsbury		-	338.34
Utilities Borstal		2,745.12	2,091.13
Total Expenditure		73,916.46	62,036.44
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	1	784.08	3,152.60
Transfers to/from Reserve Accounts		-	-
Balance at previous year end		25,882.93	22,730.33
Balance at current year end		26,667.01	25,882.93

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Note	2024	2023
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances			
Current Account		19,443.64	22,562.59
Reserves Account *		42,108.78	37,076.82
Restricted Legacy Account (Mission)		8,527.94	8,363.83
Charity Bank Account		54,322.22	52,965.60
United Trust Account		37,116.64	35,809.59
Other monetary assets:			
Debtors		-	-
Loans made		-	-
Gift aid claimed but not received		-	-
Investment Assets		-	-
Assets Held for Church's own use	2	1,961,658	1,898,797
Total Assets		2,123,177.22	2,055,575.43
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities		-	-
Long Term Loans		-	-
Pension Scheme liability	3	21.00	33.00
Other liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		21.00	33.00

* Included within the Reserves Account is a figure of £8,872.19 representing the outstanding balance from the closure of the Playgroup, and is to be used for Youth Work.

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year ending 30th September 2024 are as approved by the Charity Trustees, and by the Members at the AGM of 24th November 2024.

Signed: Stephen Gee, Treasurer & Charity Trustee (authorised to sign on behalf of the Charity Trustees)

Date: 24.11.2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Assets Held for the Church's own use

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee, the Property Trustees:

- Church premises at Brompton Lane valued in the accounts at £1,380,232 insured value.
- Church manse at 1 Weston Road valued in the accounts at £503,218 insured value.
- The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £78,208

3. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

A formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 was carried out by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme was due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022. However, the DB Plan is to be wound up, and the process to wind it up was started with effect from 31 March 2024 and therefore no formal valuation is due to take place.

Under the Schedule of Contributions, the Church makes a monthly payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit, and historically these increased in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. The Schedule of Contributions foresaw these contributions continuing until June 2026.

On 30th June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

However, there remain elements of the DB Plan's finances that are uncertain prior to the completion of the buy-out process (which is the setting up of annuities for each member of the DB Plan). These uncertainties include: the sale values that will be achieved in the disposal of the residual investment assets; the costs of operating the DB Plan until the completion of the buy-out process; the costs of the buy-out process itself, and the cost of making any amendments to the DB Plan to enable the buy-out to proceed.

The Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme expect the assets of the DB Plan will be sufficient to cover all the costs and liabilities that remain. However, it is possible that this will not be the case and that further funds will be needed from employers. It is not possible for the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme to quantify or estimate these funds at this time, but the direct debit mandates remain in place should there be a need to collect additional monies in the future.

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

Charity Name
Strood Gospel Mission Church

On accounts for the year
ended

30 September 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1137729

Set out on pages

General Receipts & Payments Account, Statement of Assets and Liabilities
and Notes to the Accounts 1-3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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. It is my responsibility to:

- 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

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.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- 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 have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

13 March 2025

Name:

Lionel Robbins

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1137729

Accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st October 2022 To: 30th September 2023

Charity name: Strood Gospel Mission Church (SGMC)

Charity registration number: 1137729

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith. SGMC may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the UK and/or other parts of the world.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Regular public worship, prayer, bible study, preaching, teaching and baptism. Education and training for Christian and community service. Giving and encouraging pastoral care. Supporting and encouraging social action. Supporting and caring for the local community.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>SGMC has continued to engage with the local community in a safe, helpful and encouraging way by running a myriad of activities to help meet the needs of people. Our "Grassroots" project, has gone from strength to strength. It is a clothing (and other small, non-electrical, household items) project where items are donated, and then made freely available to anyone. Anyone can come into the church building and take what they need, for free. If they choose to make a donation, these are collected and 100% of these donations are then given to local good causes, currently, Gillingham Street Angels and Wonderfully Made (a local charity providing school uniforms to those families in need). £583.62 in total was donated to these two organisations in the financial year, via members of the community. SGMC covers all the costs of operating the project. The project is proving very beneficial - recycling clothing and goods that might otherwise go to landfill, which is helping people, particularly young families starting off in life, to obtain what they need in difficult times with cost-of-living pressures; and recycling all donations to assist worthy local causes.</p> <p>We also held our popular Christmas Christingle and candle-lit Carol Services, as well as an Easter Party, and these were well supported by the community. Our "Hope Hut", which is a converted wheelie bin store placed outside the church building, is a continuing talking point within the community. The Hut has a display inside with a perspective front and lighting, and so the display is visible 24 hours a day, with arresting and colourful tableaux regularly changed through the year.</p> <p>A new activity that commenced this year was the Meal Club, which takes place each Thursday afternoon at the Church. This is a project we undertake, working with volunteers from the Royal Mail as well as food provided by Gillingham Street Angels. The Club provides a free hot meal to anyone that attends, and we also open up Grassroots at the same time to provide individuals with the</p>

	<p>opportunity to choose any items that they might need. We have a good following amongst the homeless community, and the Club is also popular with young mums and children, as well as more elderly residents, as it provides much need social contact for those living alone.</p> <p>There are other activities for the community held in the church, almost every day of the week, including fun activities for young people (J Club/King's Squad), a Parents and Toddlers group, a coffee morning (Coffee Stop), a Quilting Group for those that enjoy sewing, quilting, crochet, embroidery, and a Crafty Crafters group for those that enjoy all forms of craft, as well as a good natter! These are in addition to our Sunday services (which include a Sunday School and a Bible Class) as well as a number of informal small groups that meet at various times during the day and evening to suit different working schedules.</p> <p>A highlight of the year was another Street Party, which we held in Hone Street, just outside the church, to commemorate the new King's Coronation. Free food and drinks were provided, as well as many activities, and fun and games. We invited the community to join us and were blessed with a beautiful day with many local residents joining over the day.</p>
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Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>SGMC posted a surplus of £3,152.60 for the financial year, compared to a deficit of £4,983.03 for the previous financial year. Total income increased by 23%, compared to 2021/22, principally due to the contribution received from Borstal Baptist Church under a 3-Year Secondment Agreement to second our minister-in-training for one day a week. Total expenditure also increased, by 7%, primarily due general increases in costs across most budget lines, as well as a sharp increase in expenditure at our manse, due to an unexpected gas leak, as well as the discovery of damp and repairs needed to the roof.</p> <p>SGMC is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the church building at Brompton Lane as well as the Manse, the legal title to which is held</p>
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		<p>by the Church's custodian and holding trustee, the Property Trustees. These properties are together insured for £1.89m.</p> <p>The principal long-term liability of the Church is its membership as a participating employer of the Baptist Pension Scheme, the Defined Benefit Plan. At the last formal valuation of the Plan in December 2019, there was a deficit of £18m and the Church, and the other participating employers in the DB Plan, are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The Trustee of the Scheme informed all churches in the Scheme that an agreement had been signed, on 30th June 2022, with the insurance company Just Group, to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just Group are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan, and the transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Because the Just Group policies cover the overwhelming majority of the DB Plan's liabilities, the risks to employers are substantially reduced. The Trustee of the Scheme and the Baptist Union expect the assets of the DB Plan will be sufficient to cover all the costs and liabilities that remain; however, this is not certain until the completion of the buy-out process (which is the setting up of annuities for each member of the DB Plan). In view of this, deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer have been reduced, but will continue at a nominal amount of £1 per month until completion.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>When setting and/or reviewing the appropriate level of reserves, the Church takes into account the level of funds required to cover immediate commitments and planned expenditure, as well as an analysis of future needs, opportunities, contingencies and risks that are not likely to be met out of forecast income, and the consequences of not being able to meet them. At just over £116,000, the level of reserves covers just over 22 months of current expenditure, but expenditure will increase from 2023/24, as we have made the decision to appoint a full-time minister from the 1st October 2023. Given this, and in addition, given the ages of the Church building and the Manse, and the likely need of significant</p>

		maintenance expenditure over the coming years, as well as the reliance on a relatively small number of donors, the level of reserves is felt appropriate to ensure that SGMC can meet commitments when they fall due.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Total reserves have increased to £116,979.82, excluding a reserve of £8,872.19 specifically designated for use in Youth Work. In addition, we also hold £8,363.83 in a restricted legacy reserve, held in a separate account, to be used for Mission and Outreach.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g., election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed and removed by the Church Members, as detailed under the Constitution. This process is public, clear and open, but the vote is undertaken by way of a secret ballot of the membership of the Church. The Church membership will also vote for the appointment to the roles of Minister, Minister-in-Training, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Elder and Deacon.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Strood Gospel Mission Church
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1137729
Charity's principal address	Brompton Lane, Strood, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3BQ
Correspondence address	58 King Arthurs Drive, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3NB

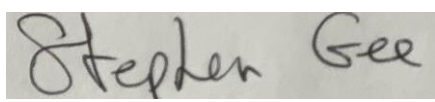
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Nigel Briston	Deacon		
2	Hayley Prestidge-Briston	Minister-in-Training		
3	Stephen Gee	Treasurer & Deacon		
4	Diana Morgan	Deacon		
5	Rick Morgan	Deacon		
6	Femi Okanlawon	Deacon		
7	Marion Hollebbon	Deacon		
8	Mark Wicker	Deacon		
9	Karen Charles	Deacon		
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Stephen Gee	
Position (e.g., Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer & Trustee	
Date	XX th March 2024	

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	2023	2022
Income			
Sunday Offerings		4,108.45	5,862.37
Regular Giving		26,621.00	25,027.00
Rental Income		13,510.73	12,006.14
Designated Mission Giving		583.62	740.43
Sundry Income		2,385.75	1,047.68
Interest Received		1,198.82	659.97
Gift Aid Recovery		6,831.22	7,635.51
Borstal Secondment Agreement		9,949.45	-
Total Income		65,189.04	52,979.10
Expenditure			
Payroll		17,722.44	19,822.06
College Accommodation & Travel		2,288.55	3,356.94
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		750.00	500.00
Tithe Fund		3,193.71	3,890.38
Mileage		84.15	-
Designated Mission Gifts		583.62	740.43
Outreach & Publicity		1,369.30	1,346.75
Training & Teaching Materials		926.30	649.80
Preaching Gifts		150.00	50.00
Ministry (incl Sundries)		1,494.47	1,133.05
Licenses & Website		507.89	472.66
Resources		2,050.09	1,335.43
Youth Work		366.61	149.56
Property Church		5,283.90	5,283.86
Property Manse		6,997.42	2,231.91
Property Frindsbury		950.00	11,400.00
Property Borstal		12,245.00	-
Utilities Church		2,643.52	2,447.01
Utilities Frindsbury		338.34	3,062.29
Utilities Borstal		2,091.13	-
Total Expenditure		62,036.44	57,872.13
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	1	3,152.60	(4,893.03)
Transfers to/from Reserve Accounts		-	5,000.00
Balance at previous year end		22,730.33	22,623.36
Balance at current year end		25,882.93	22,730.33

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances			
Current Account		22,562.59	20,608.81
Reserves Account *		37,076.82	36,658.14
Restricted Legacy Account (Mission)		8,363.83	8,272.88
Charity Bank Account		52,965.60	52,718.50
United Trust Account		35,809.59	35,367.50
Other monetary assets:			
Debtors		-	-
Loans made		-	-
Gift aid claimed but not received		-	-
Investment Assets		-	-
Assets Held for Church's own use	2	1,898,797	1,451,750
Total Assets		2,055,575.43	1,605,375.83
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities		-	-
Long Term Loans		-	-
Pension Scheme liability	3	33.00	45.00
Other liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		33.00	45.00

* Included within the Reserves Account is a figure of £8,872.19 representing the outstanding balance from the closure of the Playgroup, and is to be used for Youth Work.

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year ending 30th September 2023 are as approved by the Charity Trustees, and by the Members at the AGM of 26th November 2023.

Signed: Stephen Gee, Treasurer & Trustee (authorised to sign on behalf of the Charity Trustees)

Date: 26.11.2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Assets Held for the Church's own use

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee, the Property Trustees:

- Church premises at Brompton Lane valued in the accounts at £1,341,333 insured value.
- Church manse at 1 Weston Road valued in the accounts at £479,256 insured value.
- The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £78,208

3. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

There was a formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme was due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Under the Schedule of Contributions, the Church makes a monthly payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit, and historically these increased in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. The Schedule of Contributions foresaw these contributions continuing until June 2026.

On 30th June 2022, the Baptist Pension Scheme signed an agreement with the insurance company Just Group ("Just") to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just are now providing financial backing for all pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan and following this transaction, the Scheme no longer has a shortfall. An updated Recovery plan was then signed in August 2022 under which recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

However, there remain elements of the DB Plan's finances that are uncertain prior to the completion of the buy-out process (which is the setting up of annuities for each member of the DB Plan). These uncertainties include: the sale values that will be achieved in the disposal of the residual investment assets; the costs of operating the DB Plan until the completion of the buy-out process; the costs of the buy-out process itself, and the cost of making any amendments to the DB Plan to enable the buy-out to proceed.

The Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme expect the assets of the DB Plan will be sufficient to cover all the costs and liabilities that remain. However, it is possible that this will not be the case and that further funds will be needed from employers. It is not possible for the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme to quantify or estimate these funds at this time, but the direct debit mandates remain in place should there be a need to collect additional monies in the future.

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

Strood Gospel Mission Church

On accounts for the year
ended

30 September 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1137729

Set out on pages

General Receipts & Payments Account, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Notes to the Accounts 1-3

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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. It is my responsibility to:

- 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

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.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - 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 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 6 May 2024

Name:

Lionel Robbins

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1137729

Accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st October 2021 To: 30th September 2022

Charity name: Strood Gospel Mission Church (SGMC)

Charity registration number: 1137729

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith. SGMC may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the UK and/or other parts of the world.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Regular public worship, prayer, bible study, preaching, teaching and baptism. Education and training for Christian and community service. Giving and encouraging pastoral care. Supporting and encouraging social action. Supporting and caring for the local community.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>All of our groups and activities at SGMC were fully open and accessible, and we retained our livestream capability so that people always have an opportunity to access our Sunday services, either physically or online. Given the enhanced sense of loneliness, isolation and anxiety that some people have felt during and since the pandemic, we feel our use of technology has allowed us the opportunity to meet the needs of people, many of whom we know are local to the area.</p> <p>SGMC has also sought to engage with the local community in a safe, helpful and encouraging way by introducing a number of initiatives. These have included our "Grassroots" project, which has gone from strength to strength. It is a clothing (and other small, non-electrical, household items) project where clothes are donated, then laundered and made freely available to anyone. Anyone can come into the church building and take what they need, for free. If they choose to make a donation, these are collected and 100% of these donations are then given to local good causes, currently, Medway Foodbank and Medway Hospice. £704.52 in total was donated to these two organisations in the financial year, via members of the community. SGMC covers all the costs of operating the project. The project is proving very beneficial - recycling clothing and goods that might otherwise go to landfill, which is helping people, particularly young families starting off in life, to obtain what they need in difficult times with cost-of-living pressures; and recycling all donations to assist worthy local causes.</p> <p>We also held our popular Christmas Christingle and candle-lit Carol Services, as well as Easter and Light Parties, and these were well supported by the community. We have also made our "Hope Hut", which is a converted wheelie bin store and placed outside the church building, a permanent feature. The Hut has a display inside with a perspective front and lighting, and so the display is visible 24 hours a day,</p>

		<p>with arresting and colourful tableaux regularly changed through the year. There are activities for the community, being held in the church, almost every day of the week, including fun activities for young people (J Club), a Parents and Toddlers group, a coffee morning (Coffee Stop), a Quilting Group for those that enjoy sewing, quilting, crochet, embroidery, and a Crafty Crafters group for those that enjoy all forms of craft, as well as a good natter! These are in addition to our Sunday services (which include a Sunday School and a Bible Class) as well as a number of informal small groups that meet at various times during the day and evening to suit different working schedules.</p> <p>A highlight of the year was the Jubilee Street Party, which we held in Hone Street, just outside the church, to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Free food and drinks were provided, as well as many activities, and fun and games. We invited the community to join us and over 400 people came during the day. We received a lot of positive feedback and thanks for organising the event.</p>
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Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>SGMC posted a deficit of £4,893.03 for the financial year, compared to a deficit of £2,967.90 for the previous financial year. £5,000 was transferred from Reserves to partially cover these deficits. Total income fell by 19%, compared to 2020/21, principally due to a reduction in donations, and reverting back to one Gift Aid application per year, as two claims were made in 2020/21, given none were made in 2019/20 (due to the previous Treasurer being terminally ill). Total expenditure also fell, by 15%, primarily due to a reduction in payroll, as we no longer had the costs associated with our Interim Minister, and less maintenance was required at the church premises at Brompton Lane.</p> <p>SGMC is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the church building at Brompton Lane as well as the Manse, the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian and holding trustee, the Property Trustees. These</p>
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		<p>properties are together insured for £1.38m.</p> <p>The principal long-term liability of the Church is its membership as a participating employer of the Baptist Pension Scheme, the Defined Benefit Plan. At the last formal valuation of the Plan in December 2019, there was a deficit of £18m and the Church, and the other participating employers in the DB Plan, are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The Trustee of the Scheme informed all churches in the Scheme that an agreement had been signed, on 30th June 2022, with the insurance company Just Group, to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. Just Group are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan, and the transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades. Because the Just Group policies cover the overwhelming majority of the DB Plan's liabilities, the risks to employers are substantially reduced. The Trustee of the Scheme and the Baptist Union expect the assets of the DB Plan will be sufficient to cover all the costs and liabilities that remain, however this is not certain until the completion of the buy-out process (which is the setting up of annuities for each member of the DB Plan). In view of this, deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer have been reduced, but will continue at a nominal amount of £1 per month until completion.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>When setting and/or reviewing the appropriate level of reserves, the Church takes into account the level of funds required to cover immediate commitments and planned expenditure, as well as an analysis of future needs, opportunities, contingencies and risks that are not likely to be met out of forecast income, and the consequences of not being able to meet them. At just over £115,000, the level of reserves covers over 18 months of current expenditure, but expenditure will increase from 2023/24, as we have made the decision to appoint a full-time minister from the 1st October 2023. Given this, and in addition, given the ages of the Church building and the Manse, and the likely need of significant maintenance expenditure over the coming years, as well as the reliance on</p>

		a relatively small number of donors, the level of reserves is felt appropriate to ensure that SGMC can meet commitments when they fall due.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Total reserves have reduced to £115,871,95. Within these reserves, we hold reserves of £8,872.19 designated for use in Youth Work. In addition, we also hold £8,272.88 in a restricted legacy reserve, held in a separate account, to be used for Mission and Outreach.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g., election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed and removed by the Church Members, as detailed under the Constitution. This process is public, clear and open, but the vote is undertaken by way of a secret ballot of the membership of the Church. The Church membership will also vote for the appointment to the roles of Minister, Minister-in-Training, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Elder and Deacon.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Strood Gospel Mission Church
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1137729
Charity's principal address	Brompton Lane, Strood, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3BQ
Correspondence address	58 King Arthurs Drive, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3NB

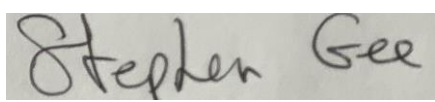
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Nigel Briston	Deacon	5.12.21 to 30.9.22	
2	Hayley Prestidge-Briston	Minister-in-Training		
3	Stephen Gee	Treasurer & Deacon		
4	Diana Morgan	Deacon		
5	Rick Morgan	Deacon		
6	Femi Okanlawon	Deacon	5.12.21 to 30.9.22	
7	Marion Hollebon	Deacon		
8	Mark Wicker	Deacon		
9	Karen Charles	Deacon		
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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Stephen Gee	
Position (e.g., Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer & Trustee	

Date 12th March 2023

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022****GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	Note	2022	2021
Income			
Sunday Offerings		5,862.37	7,591.30
Regular Giving		25,027.00	31,299.50
Rental Income		12,006.14	11,433.83
Designated Mission Giving		740.43	134.40
Sundry Income		1,047.68	43.00
Interest Received		659.97	678.35
Gift Aid Recovery		7,635.51	14,317.97
Legacies		-	-
Total Income		52,979.10	65,498.35
Expenditure			
Payroll		19,822.06	27,258.20
Tithe Fund		3,890.38	2,751.59
Mileage		-	-
Designated Mission Gifts		740.43	134.40
Outreach & Publicity		1,346.75	842.57
Training & Teaching Materials		649.80	313.30
Preaching Gifts		50.00	30.00
Sundries		1,133.05	654.52
Licenses & Website		472.66	719.59
Photocopier		-	95.04
Resources		1,335.43	2,216.18
Youth Work		149.56	22.00
Property Church		5,283.86	11,144.67
Utilities Church		2,447.01	3,198.15
Technology		-	1,287.33
College Accommodation & Travel		3,356.94	225.89
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		500.00	100.00
Property Frindsbury		11,400.00	11,400.00
Utilities Frindsbury		3,062.29	3,081.06
Property Manse		2,231.91	2,991.76
Total Expenditure		57,872.13	68,466.25
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	1	(4,893.03)	(2,967.90)
Transfers to/from Reserve Accounts		5,000.00	-
Balance at previous year end		22,623.36	25,591.26
Balance at current year end		22,730.33	22,623.36

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Note	2022	2021
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances			
Current Account		20,608.81	21,161.81
Reserves Account *		36,658.14	41,638.10
Restricted Legacy Account (Mission)		8,272.88	8,269.42
Charity Bank Account		52,718.50	52,449.53
United Trust Account		35,367.50	35,000.00
Other monetary assets:			
Debtors		-	-
Loans made		-	-
Gift aid claimed but not received		-	-
Investment Assets		-	-
Assets Held for Church's own use	2	1,451,750	1,354,401
Total Assets		1,605,375.83	1,512,919.86
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities		-	-
Long Term Loans		-	-
Pension Scheme liability	3	45.00	17,553.15
Other liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		45.00	17,553.15

* Included within the Reserves Account is a figure of £8,872.19 representing the outstanding balance from the closure of the Playgroup, and is to be used for Youth Work.

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year ending 30th September 2022 are as approved by the Charity Trustees, and by the Members at the AGM of 4th December 2022.

Signed: Stephen Gee, Treasurer & Trustee (authorised to sign on behalf of the Charity Trustees)

Date: 4.12.2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Assets Held for the Church's own use

The Church is the beneficial owner (subject to the relevant trusts) of the following assets, the legal title to which is held by the Church's custodian trustee, the Property Trustees:

- Church premises at Brompton Lane valued in the accounts at £969,394 insured value.
- Church manse at 1 Weston Road valued in the accounts at £416,745 insured value.
- The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £65,611

3. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

There was a formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme was due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Under the Schedule of Contributions, the Church makes a monthly payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit, and historically these increased in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. The Schedule of Contributions foresaw these contributions continuing until June 2026.

During the financial year, the Baptist Union informed all churches in the Baptist Pension Scheme that they and the Trustee of the Scheme had signed an agreement, on 30th June 2022, with the insurance company Just Group, to secure DB Plan members' pension benefits. This agreement is referred to as a "buy-in policy" and means that Just Group are now providing financial backing for all DB pensions provided through the Scheme's DB Plan.

The costs of such policies are largely driven by financial markets and these moved substantially in the Scheme's favour to allow the transaction to take place. The transaction takes the Scheme out of a shortfall position for the first time in two decades.

The Trustee has sold most of the DB Plan's investments assets and used the proceeds to pay the initial premium for the insurance policy from Just Group. Because the Just Group policies cover the overwhelming majority of the DB Plan's liabilities, the risks to employers are substantially reduced. In view of this, the Baptist Union and the Trustee agreed that the deficit recovery contributions from each participating employer in the DB Plan should be reduced to £1 per month from August 2022.

However, there remain elements of the DB Plan's finances that are uncertain prior to the completion of the buy-out process (which is the setting up of annuities for each member of the DB Plan). These uncertainties include: the sale values that will be achieved in the disposal of the residual investment assets; the costs of operating the DB Plan until the completion of the buy-out process; the costs of the buy-out process itself, and the cost of making any amendments to the DB Plan to enable the buy-out to proceed.

The Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme expect the assets of the DB Plan will be sufficient to cover all the costs and liabilities that remain. However, it is possible that this will not be the case and that further funds will be needed from employers. It is not possible for the Baptist Union and the Trustee of the Scheme

to quantify or estimate these funds at this time, but the direct debit mandates remain in place should there be a need to collect additional monies in the future.

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

Charity Name
Strood Gospel Mission Church

On accounts for the year
ended

30 September 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1137729

Set out on pages

General Receipts & Payments Account, Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Notes to the Accounts 1-3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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. It is my responsibility to:

- 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

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.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - 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 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

10 February 2023

Name:

Lionel Robbins

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1137729

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st October 2020 To: 30th September 2021

Charity name: Strood Gospel Mission Church (SGMC)

Charity registration number: 1137729

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith. SGMC may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the UK and/or other parts of the world.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Regular public worship, prayer, bible study, preaching, teaching and baptism. Education and training for Christian and community service. Giving and encouraging pastoral care. Supporting and encouraging social action. Supporting and caring for the local community.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>The on-going COVID pandemic continued to constrain our activities during parts of the year. However, livestreaming Sunday services and our mid-week fellowship meetings via Zoom, proved very popular, and led to a number of new members of the fellowship joining us physically on Sundays once we were permitted to meet again. All of our groups and activities at SGMC were finally able to open as the year progressed, and we have retained our livestream capability so that people always have an opportunity to access our Sunday services, either physically or online. Given the enhanced sense of loneliness, isolation and anxiety that some people have felt during the pandemic, we feel our use of technology has allowed us the opportunity to meet the needs of people, many of whom we know are local to the area.</p> <p>SGMC has also sought to engage with the local community in a safe and encouraging way by introducing a number of initiatives. These have included the distribution of "Advent Bags", which were bags of blessings distributed to local families in advance of Christmas. The free bags contained small gifts, treats and activities to undertake each day of Advent, around the four themes of Love, Joy, Hope and Peace. We repeated the initiative at Easter, distributing "Lent Bags" and both initiatives proved very popular. In addition, we introduced a "Hope Hut", which is a converted wheelie bin store, placed outside the church building, which has a display inside with a perspective front and lighting, and so the display is visible 24 hours a day. At both Christmas and Easter, we displayed a series of tableaux representing, respectively, the nativity story and the message of Easter. This provided much needed cheer on dull days and dark evenings, and we received a lot of positive feedback from our community. Also at Christmas, we took our popular Carol Service out onto the streets, bringing live music and carols to people living in many of the streets surrounding the church building, as well as elsewhere in Strood, particularly to those living alone or house-bound. Finally at</p>

		<p>Christmas, we undertook a Christingle service via Zoom, which was open to all, for both children and families to enjoy.</p> <p>The year also saw the start of our “Grassroots” project, which is a clothing (and other small household items) project where clothes are donated, then laundered and made freely available to anyone. Anyone can come into the church building and take what they need, for free. If they choose to make a donation, these are collected and 100% of these donations are then given to local good causes, such as Medway Foodbank. SGMC covers all the costs of operating the project. The project is proving a great success; recycling clothing and helping people to obtain what they need, whilst also recycling any donations to other worthy local causes.</p> <p>SGMC was also used as a COVID testing centre during the year, with the church building being made available to assist the NHS and Medway Council.</p>
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Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity’s financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>The financial year produced a small deficit of £2,967.90. Whilst income increased significantly from £47,779.34 to £65,498.35, expenditure also increased to £68,466.25 from £31,425.63, reflecting, principally, the additional costs involved in the appointment of our new Minister-in-Training in September 2020, as well as significant property maintenance costs with work including renewing a substantial part of the roof on the church building and a new boiler being installed at the Manse. SGMC owns the church building and the Manse, together insured for in excess of £1.3m.</p> <p>The principal long-term liability of the Church is its membership as a participating employer of the Baptist Pension Scheme, the Defined Benefit Plan. At the last formal valuation of the Plan in December 2019, there was a deficit of £18m and the Church, and the other participating employers in the DB Plan, are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The pension scheme liability amounted to £17,553.15 as at 30th September 2021, and SGMC has been advised that the estimated cost for the Church to buyout its Pension Scheme liabilities as at this date would be £46,800</p>
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		(£54,200 as at 30th September 2020).
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	When setting and/or reviewing the appropriate level of reserves, the Church takes into account the level of funds required to cover immediate commitments and planned expenditure, as well as an analysis of future needs, opportunities, contingencies and risks that are not likely to be met out of forecast income, and the consequences of not being able to meet them. At just over £120,000, the current level of reserves covers approximately 18 months of expenditure assuming a full-time minister. Given the ages of the Church building and the Manse, and the likely need of significant maintenance expenditure over the coming years, as well as the reliance on a relatively small number of donors, the level of reserves is felt appropriate to ensure that SGMC can meet commitments when they fall due.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Total reserves amount to £120,215.44. We also hold reserves of £8,872.19 designated for use in Youth Work, and £8,269.42 in a restricted legacy reserve, held in a separate account, to be used for Mission and Outreach.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Unincorporated Association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g., election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed and removed by the Church Members, as detailed under the Constitution. This process is public, clear and open, but the vote is undertaken by way of a secret ballot of the membership of the Church. The Church membership will also vote for the appointment to the roles of Minister, Minister-in-Training, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, Elder and Deacon.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Strood Gospel Mission Church
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1137729

Charity's principal address	Brompton Lane, Strood, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3BQ
Correspondence address	58 King Arthurs Drive, Frindsbury, Rochester, Kent. ME2 3NB

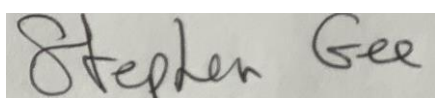
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Western	Interim Minister	1.10.20 to 31.3.21	
2	Hayley Prestidge-Briston	Minister-in-Training		
3	Stephen Gee	Treasurer & Deacon		
4	Diana Morgan	Deacon		
5	Rick Morgan	Deacon		
6	Kevin Jennings	Elder	1.10.20 to 26.11.20	
7	Marion Hollebon	Deacon		
8	Mark Wicker	Deacon		
9	Karen Charles	Deacon		
10	Gary Bell	Treasurer & Deacon	1.10.20 to 12.9.21	
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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Stephen Gee	
Position (e.g., Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer & Trustee	

Date 5/05/2022

STROOD GOSPEL MISSION CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

GENERAL RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	2021	2020
Income			
Sunday Offerings		7,591.30	12,449.78
Regular Giving		31,299.50	22,425.55
Rental Income		11,433.83	10,148.74
Designated Mission Giving		134.40	604.23
Sundry Income		43.00	1,365.22
Interest Received		678.35	785.82
Gift Aid Recovery		14,317.97	-
Legacies		-	-
Total Income		65,498.35	47,779.34
Expenditure			
Payroll		27,258.20	19,652.82
Tithe Fund		2,751.59	1,000.00
Mileage		-	611.25
Designated Mission Gifts		134.40	525.00
Outreach & Publicity		842.57	-
Training & Teaching Materials		313.30	47.40
Preaching Gifts		30.00	45.00
Sundries		654.52	211.60
Phone & Website		719.59	468.85
Photocopier		95.04	285.12
Resources		2,216.18	665.97
Youth Work		22.00	33.98
Property Church		11,144.67	3,138.78
Utilities Church		3,198.15	1,887.57
Technology		1,287.33	-
College Accommodation & Travel		225.89	-
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		100.00	-
Property Frindsbury		11,400.00	1,950.00
Utilities Frindsbury		3,081.06	-
Property Manse		2,991.76	902.29
Total Expenditure		68,466.25	31,425.63
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	1	(2,967.90)	16,353.71
Transfers to/from Reserve Accounts		-	-
Balance at previous year end		25,591.26	9,237.55
Balance at current year end		22,623.36	25,591.26

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

	Note	2021	2020
Assets			
Bank and other cash balances			
Current Account		21,161.81	25,549.46
Reserves Account *		41,638.10	76,633.67
Restricted Legacy Account (Mission)		8,269.42	8,268.59
Charity Bank Account		52,449.53	51,776.44
United Trust Account		35,000.00	-
Other monetary assets:			
Debtors		-	-
Loans made		-	-
Gift aid claimed but not received		-	-
Investment Assets		-	-
Assets Held for Church's own use	2	1,354,401	1,302,762
Total Assets		1,512,919.86	1,464,990.16
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	3	-	741.40
Long Term Loans		-	-
Pension Scheme liability	4	17,553.15	20,426.85
Other liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		17,553.15	21,168.25

* Included within the Reserves Account is a figure of £8,872.19 representing the outstanding balance from the closure of the Playgroup, and is to be used for Youth Work.

The accounts and statement of assets and liabilities relating to the year ending 30th September 2021 are as approved by the Trustees, and by the Members at the AGM of 5th December 2021.

Signed: Stephen Gee
Treasurer (authorised to sign on behalf of all the Trustees)

Date: 5.12.2021

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts have been prepared on a 'receipts and payments' basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

2. Assets Held for the Church's own use

The Church is the beneficial owner of the following assets:

- Church premises at Brompton Lane valued in the accounts at £907,672 insured value.
- Church manse at 1 Weston Road valued in the accounts at £386,591 insured value.
- The Church also owns fixtures, furniture and equipment with an insured value of £60,138

3. Current Liabilities

	2021	2020
Utilities billed but not yet paid	-	-
Cheques written but not cashed	-	514.54
Other current liabilities	-	226.86
Total Current Liabilities	-	741.40

4. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The Church is a participating employer in the Baptist Pension Scheme ("the Scheme"), which is a separate legal entity administered by the Pension Trustee (Baptist Pension Trust Limited). The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Scheme, previously known as the Baptist Ministers' Pension Fund, started in 1925, but was closed to future accrual of defined benefits on 31 December 2011. Prior to this date the main benefit provided through the Defined Benefit (DB) Plan was a pension of one eightieth of final minimum pensionable income for each year of pensionable service together with additional pension in respect of premiums paid on Pensionable Income in excess of Minimum Pensionable Income. Since 1 January 2012, benefits have been provided through a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan.

There was a formal valuation of the DB Plan as at 31 December 2019 by a professionally qualified Actuary using the Projected Unit Method. At the valuation date the market value of the DB Plan assets was £298 million, whilst the level of assets needed to pay benefits was £316m, giving a deficit of £18m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 94%). The Church and the other participating employers in the DB Plan are collectively responsible for funding this deficit. The next actuarial valuation of the DB Plan within the Scheme is due to take place not later than as at 31 December 2022.

Under the Schedule of Contributions, the Church makes a monthly payment in respect of the DB scheme deficit, currently £307.95, which will increase in line with increases in Minimum Pensionable Income. This figure was temporarily reduced to assist churches during the COVID pandemic but increased back again from January 2021. The Schedule of Contributions foresees these contributions continuing until June 2026. The pension scheme liability shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities is calculated as the current rate per month multiplied by the number of months remaining in the current Schedule of Contributions, which amounted to £17,553.15 as at 30th September 2021.

The Church has been advised that the estimated cost for the Church to buyout their Pension Scheme liabilities as at 30th September 2021 was £46,800 (£54,200 as at 30th September 2020)

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

Charity Name
Strood Gospel Mission Church

On accounts for the year
ended

30 September 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1137729

Set out on pages

General Receipts & Payments Account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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. It is my responsibility to:

- 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

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.

Independent
examiner's statement

- In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - 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 have not been met; or
 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

19 March 2022

Name:

Lionel Robbins

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):