

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1140436

Details

Other names	ASCOT BAPTIST CHURCH, ABC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07411973
Registered	2011-02-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Ascot Life Church Ascot Life Centre 175 New Road Ascot SL5 8PX
Phone	01344882941
Email	info@ascotlife.church
Website	www.ascotlife.church

Activities

Objects: 4. THE CHARITY-ÇÖS OBJECTS (-Ç£OBJECTS-ÇØ) FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ARE TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO IN ASCOT AND IN SUCH OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OR THE WORLD AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT AND TO FULFIL SUCH OTHER PURPOSES WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND ARE CONNECTED WITH THE WORK OF THE CHARITY.

Activities: The Charity's objects are to advance the Christian faith in accordance with its Statement of Beliefs. The Church's vision is to see a 21st Century New Testament Church established in Ascot and beyond, built on the values of Worship, Community, Transformation, Service and Mission and involving as many people as possible in worship and in the practical outworking of the Christian faith.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bracknell Forest

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£326,998	£298,448	-	-
2024-03-31	£255,356	£251,142	-	-
2023-03-31	£236,254	£250,556	-	-
2022-03-31	£208,825	£212,793	-	-
2021-03-31	£198,860	£197,868	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DAVID-JOHN CHARLES HEWSON		2024-09-23
Nyarai Gwati		2019-07-15
Paul Foster		2023-07-17
Paul Leslie Newman		2017-06-02
Sheila Hale		2019-07-15

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140436

Accounts



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ending
31st MARCH 2025**

**Registered Charity Number
1140436**

**Registered Company Number
07411973**

**175 New Road
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 8PX**

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ending 31st March 2025

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**TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ending 31st March 2025**

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS

Mr P. Newman	Chairman
Mr P. Foster	Treasurer
Ms N. Gwati	
Mrs S. Hale	
Mr D.J.Hewson	

ELDERS / COMPANY MEMBERS

Mr S. Argent	Elder
Mr P. Draper	Elder
Mr. J.Liddiard	Elder (from 23/04/24)

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
1, Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Philip Mount
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' Report and Accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements to comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019).

Our Purposes and Activities

The purposes of the charity are:

- to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in the Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the work of the charity

for the public benefit in and around Ascot and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees may from time to time think fit.

Aims

The Church's main aim is to be 'a church that responds to and shares the love of God' following a New Testament pattern whilst engaging with our 21st Century culture, based on the values of Worship, Community, Transformation, Serving and Mission.

Ascot Life Church (ALC) has the general aim of contributing to the lives of people of all ages from Ascot and the surrounding areas by communicating the Christian faith to them in ways they can relate to, and by involving as many people as possible in Christian worship and in the practical outworking of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome to participate in the life of the church and to benefit from being part of this faith community.

Activities

The Church's Sunday meetings have a contemporary feel reflecting the relevance of faith in Jesus Christ to modern living. These meetings include a time of praise and worship followed by Bible-based teaching.

During the week, small groups called 'Life Groups' meet with the aim of encouraging those involved in the life of the church to develop a deeper relationship with Christ, to experience his life-transforming power and to share their faith with others. Online morning prayer meetings using Zoom video conferencing software are also held on weekdays.

Ascot Life Church is a public benefit entity and the Trustees/Directors regard serving the surrounding community as an important aspect of the church's activity. In ensuring that this remains a significant feature of the life of the church they have considered the Charity

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our Volunteers

Most of the activities of the church are dependent on volunteers with the church's staff team playing a complementary facilitating and organising role. The church would not function effectively without the contribution of volunteers and a significant proportion of the regular participants in the life of the church play some kind of voluntary role. An assessment of the number of people involved in volunteer roles during 2024-25 identified around 130 such contributors to the life of the church, around 50% of adults or teenagers who regularly participate in church life.

Achievements and Performance

The church meets on Sunday mornings at Ascot Racecourse, which provides a larger venue than the church buildings to accommodate growth in the number of people participating in the life of the church over the last few years.

Throughout the year, several Bible-based teaching series were presented aimed at helping people of all backgrounds to understand the message of the Bible better enabling them to grow in their faith, in their relationship with God and with one another.

In the spring of 2024, after celebrating Easter, the church worked through a teaching series in the first few chapters of the Old Testament book of Judges entitled 'Ruin and Restoration.' This series allowed pastors to confront challenging apologetic topics such as the occurrence of warfare and judgement in the Old Testament, as well as teaching repeatedly into the importance of whole-life worship, and God's grace in restoring us when we fail. The church then spent the summer holidays covering the biblical theme of 'rest' over 4 weeks.

During the autumn of 2024 the church began a series called 'Teach us to Pray', with the purpose of both bringing scriptural teaching on prayer, and giving practical guidance on building a personal life of prayer. This series was accompanied by individual weekly practices – such as praying the Lord's Prayer once a day – and some communal practices, such as 'Week of Prayer' held in the middle of November.

Over the Christmas season, we held 4 services to celebrate the wonder of Jesus becoming human, helping people from both the church and the surrounding community to connect with God by responding to the good news of the gospel wherever they may be in their journey of faith. Copies of short evangelistic books were also distributed at the Carol Concert on 15th December to help newcomers, in particular, to continue their faith journey.

From January 2025 until March, the church re-entered the Book of Judges in a series called 'Weakness and Strength' which followed the life of Gideon and his legacy. This was another challenging and inspiring series which revealed God's grace in working with weak and broken people – people just like us.

As a continued investment in the life and growth of the church, a staff member was taken on as a Media and Communications Officer in August 2024, after having served as an intern for the previous year. This staff member took on various responsibilities, two primary ones being the

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

co-ordination the church's communications, and resourcing of children's groups on Sundays. In addition to this, a new Youth Worker was also employed on a part-time basis in December 2024. This appointment was made to release another staff member into a full-time role as Operations Manager to facilitate the growing numbers and activity of the church.

One major responsibility of the new Operations Manager was the oversight of renovations to the church premises. This was named the 'Hub for Mission' project, as the aim was to develop the current premises at 175 New Road to serve as a centre for training the church in gospel outreach, as well as a place to serve the local community through multiple ongoing and future projects, such as Community Café (launched in October 2023) and Sunbeams parent and toddler group (launched in September 2024). The restricted funds for this project were raised at two 'Gift Days' on Sundays October 13th and 20th 2024.

Towards the close of the previous financial year, a new elder proposed in December 2023 was affirmed by members. This elder was then appointed at the beginning of the new financial year, on Sunday 23rd April.

In September 2023 the ALC Elders officially took on transitional leadership for three years of The Brook Church Bagshot, following their pastor's retirement. ALC Elders were appointed Spiritual Leaders of this separate charitable legal entity with its own financial records and Trustees, with the aim of reinvigorating and renewing the church after numerical decline going back some years. This second year of transitional leadership has consisted of steadily developing a strategy for relaunching the church under new leadership, namely the current Ministry Trainee on the staff of Ascot Life Church.

During 2024-25, the number of those regularly involved in church life was around 200 adults and teenagers with an additional 120 or so aged 18 and under. Attendance at the main Sunday morning meetings typically ranges between 190-240 people of all ages.

The church remains committed to supporting Christian organisations and ministries both in the UK and overseas and provides grants to Commission Apostolic Trust, TEAR Fund, Wycliffe Bible Translators and Operation Mobilisation. Benevolent donations are also made by the church to support the welfare of people experiencing financial hardship.

Financial Review

During the year ended 31st March 2025 the church received a total of unrestricted income from donations, Gift Aid and bank interest amounting to £253,580. Income tax recovered on unrestricted Gift Aid donations was £45,876

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £269,884.

Total restricted income was £73,418 including income tax recovered on restricted Gift Aid donations amounting to £11,628. £28,564 was expended from restricted funds.

Investment powers and policy

The Trustees/Directors aim to employ available funds towards the charitable aims of the church and towards enhancing the viability of the church's work for the future. In view of this policy and the relatively short time between the receipt of funds and their expenditure, all funds are held in cash. Funds not immediately required are held on deposit.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Funds

Funds are allocated to the activities of the church from donations and from Gift Aid tax refunds. 64% of unrestricted income was allocated to staff costs to enable the activities of the church to be implemented effectively, with a further 16.4% used to cover the running costs of the church buildings and rental of premises for Sunday morning meetings. 11.1% of unrestricted income was allocated to grants for the support of organisations and individuals within the UK and overseas that are directly involved in Christian work and whose objectives the Elders and Trustees consider to be compatible with the charitable aims of the church. The remaining unrestricted funds were allocated to the general operating costs of the church.

Restricted funds in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have specified the purpose for which the funds should be used are allocated accordingly.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The level of activity of the church is dependent upon voluntary donations from church members and attenders together with tax reclaimed on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme. To adequately cover the month-by-month operating costs of the church, the Trustees/Directors consider that the amount of unrestricted funds that should be immediately available at all times as a reserve should equate to at least two months of Core Monthly Operating Costs (CMOC), which are defined as essential expenses such as those for salaries, utilities, essential property maintenance, office costs, essential travel and necessary professional services. This level of reserves is calculated each year after approval of the annual budget and is stress-tested against the maximum liabilities of the church including such items as statutory staff redundancy payments and contractual obligations such as venue hire.

This level of reserves is considered adequate by the Trustees/Directors as it would be possible, although not desirable, to reduce the level of activity of the church and its corresponding outgoings in various ways should reserves fall to such a level. Should available funds fall below two months CMOC, fund-raising appeals and cost-reduction plans affecting non-core costs would be prepared and implemented if necessary to maintain reserves above the set threshold.

The church's general fund balance has been maintained at a good level such that the Trustees/Directors considered that it was important to invest more of the Church's funds in employing and developing staff to enable the work of the church to be enhanced. The budget for 2024-25 was therefore intentionally structured to enhance the staff team and to provide staff training with the expectation that expenditure would exceed income thereby reducing the general fund balance. At the end of the financial year 2024-25, the expected reduction in the general fund balance remained within Reserves Policy tolerances. The Trustees/Directors have no immediate concerns regarding the financial viability of the church as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Restricted funds are allocated for amounts raised in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have designated their contributions for specific purposes. Most the church's restricted funds active during 2024-25, were used for the 'Hub for Mission' project to develop the current premises at 175 New Road. Further funds were used in support of Christian mission work, to help those in need and to support an annual youth camp event.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, constituting a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, as defined in the Companies Act 2011.

Appointment of New Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee, providing that they also become a director of the Charitable Company and that they subscribe to the church's Statement of Beliefs.

Trustee Induction and Training

New Trustees are provided with terms of reference defining their role and are briefed by the existing Trustees on the nature of their responsibilities. They are also encouraged to review the information on the role of Trustees available on the Charity Commission website and are encouraged to attend relevant external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

At the outset of the period covered by this report there were five Trustees, all church members including D.J.Hewson who joined within the 2024-25 period. The Trustees also serve as Directors of ALC as a Charitable Company. The Trustees/Directors take prime responsibility for ensuring that Ascot Life Church fulfils its charitable objects and legal responsibilities and meet at least three times a year.

For the period covered by this report, the church had three Elders who are also the Company Members. The Elders meet bi-weekly and have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the church and oversee the day-to-day running of the church. Under the oversight of the Elders, the responsibilities for running various church activities and ministries are further delegated to staff members and to volunteer activity and group leaders.

The church had six employed members of staff at the start of the period covered by this report: one Elder/Minister, one staff member covering a combined Youth Work and Operations role, a part-time Children's Worker, one Ministry Trainee, a Church and Community Worker (a previous intern), and a new intern. In July 2024 the part-time Children's Worker went on maternity leave and their role was covered by a Maternity Cover appointment.

At the end of this period there were eight employed members of staff: one Elder/Minister, one Operations Manager, one Ministry Trainee, one Church and Community Worker, two part-time Children's Workers (one a maternity cover), one Media and Communications Officer, and one part-time Youth Worker.

Financial matters are dealt with by a treasury team co-ordinated by the Treasurer who provides reports to the Trustees/Directors and to the Elders.

Salaries and other staff benefits are agreed by the Trustees/Directors who conduct an annual review of staff remuneration taking account of price and wage inflation and the responsibilities

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of each role. They also periodically review available information on remuneration and benefits for comparable roles.

Related Parties and Co-operation with Other Organisations

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship or similar connection between the charity and a trustee of the charity, its management personnel or a related party must be disclosed to the full board of Trustees. In the current year no such related party contracts or transactions were reported.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Reference and Administrative Details

The charity is registered under the name 'Ascot Life Church'.

Registered Charity Number: 1140436

Registered Company Number: 07411973 (England and Wales)

Registered Office: Ascot Life Church, 175 New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX

Trustees/Directors:

Mr P. Foster

Ms N. Gwati

Mrs S. Hale

Mr P. Newman

Mr D.J.Hewson

Property Trustee: Baptist Union Corporation Limited

Company Members and Key Management Personnel:

Mr S. Argent

Mr P. Draper

Mr J.Liddiard

Trustees'/Directors' Responsibilities in Relation to Financial Statements

The charity Trustees (who are also the Directors of Ascot Life Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SoRP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to Disclosure to Our Independent Examiner

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees'/Directors' Annual Report:

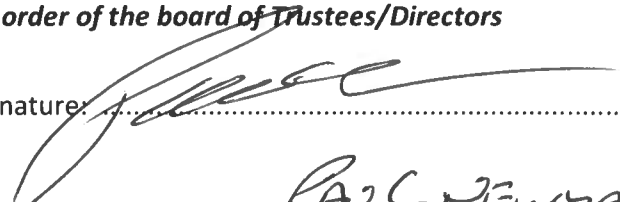
- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the Independent Examiner in connection with preparing his report, of which the charitable company's Independent Examiner is unaware, and
- the Trustees/Directors, having made enquiries of fellow Directors and the church's Independent Examiner that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

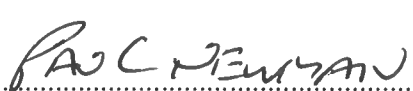
Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mr Philip Mount, will continue his appointment as per his letter of engagement.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

By order of the board of Trustees/Directors

Signature: 

Trustee/Director Name: 

Date: 

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the Directors / Trustees of Ascot Life Church. I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out from Page 14.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. Although the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 by a small margin, the level of assets held was well below the £3.26M threshold that requires an audit.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

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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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 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: 

Mr Philip Mount TD AFA MIPA
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

Dated: 25/11/25

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ending 31st March 2025
(including summary income and expenditure account)

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	Notes	Unrestricted funds Mar-25 £	Restricted funds Mar-25 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-25 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-24 £
INCOME & EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3a	252,033	73,418	325,451	255,046
Investments	3b	1,547	-	1,547	310
Total Income		253,580	73,418	326,998	255,356
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4a&b	269,884	28,564	298,448	251,142
Total Expenditure		269,884	28,564	298,448	251,142
Net income/(expenditure)		(16,304)	44,854	28,550	4,214
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(16,304)	44,854	28,550	4,214
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		64,962	5,198	70,160	65,946
Total funds carried forward		48,658	50,052	98,710	70,160

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2025

	Notes	Total funds Mar-25 £	Total funds Mar-24 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	24,271	9,385
Cash at bank and in hand		76,037	61,666
Total Current Assets		100,308	71,051
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(1,598)	(891)
Net current assets or liabilities		98,710	70,160
Total assets less current liabilities		98,710	70,160
Total net assets or liabilities	8	98,710	70,160
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		50,052	5,198
Unrestricted funds		48,658	64,962
Total Charity Funds		98,710	70,160

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For the period ending 31/03/2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors'/Trustees' responsibilities:

- the Members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act;
- the Directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts;

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees/Directors on:

23rd NOVEMBER 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Director's Name: PAUL MINTON Director's Name: PAUL FOSTER

Signed: [Signature] Signed: P. Foster

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used in the preparation of the financial statements:

a. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or accrued.

b. Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

In view of the continued health of the church's general fund balance for 2024-25 the Trustees/Directors have no concerns at present regarding the financial viability of the charity and are satisfied that the reserves held by the charity are more than sufficient to ensure its financial health for the foreseeable future.

c. Income

Donations under Gift Aid and all other donations and income are recognised as income when they are received. The income tax recovery associated with Gift Aid donations is accrued to the same month in which the donations are received.

d. Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

e. Receipt of Donated Services and Facilities

The church benefits greatly from the involvement and support of its many volunteers and the Trustees' Annual Report provides information about their contribution. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of people involved with the church is not assessed in economic terms and is therefore not recognised in the accounts.

f. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees/Directors have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for specific purposes.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Restricted funds are donations that the donor has specified to be solely used for specific purposes as part of the church's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the church.

g. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is on charitable activities including the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

h. Grants

The church makes donations to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its own and to people involved in Christian work. These donations are accounted for when paid over.

In accordance with the purposes of the charity to advance the Christian faith and to fulfil other charitable purposes connected with the work of the charity (see 'Our purposes and activities' in the report of the Trustees/Directors), the church made donations from its unrestricted funds as shown in the table below during the reporting year:-

Commission Apostolic Trust	£12,600
Wycliffe Bible Translators	£2,652
Operation Mobilisation	£2,652
Tearfund Donations	£1,896
Trinity Church Canada Support	£7,700
Baptist Union	£445
Other small donations	£200

Total £28,145

i. Operating Leases

The charity classifies the lease of printing and photocopying equipment as an operating lease. The title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every few years whenever technology advancements make such replacement economically advantageous. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the expected settlement amounts due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

k. Creditors and Provisions

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their expected settlement amount.

l. Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

m. Pensions

Following the introduction of pension auto enrolment, the church set up an account with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), the workplace pension scheme set up by the government especially for auto enrolment. New employees are automatically enrolled into the NEST pension scheme at a basic level but have the flexibility to make contributions at a level that suits their circumstances, or to opt out if they wish to do so. The church makes corresponding employer contributions in accordance with terms agreed in the relevant contracts of employment.

The employer contributions made by the charity to the above schemes in 2024-25 and treated as an expense amounted to £10,602. The aggregated amount paid to key management personnel in 2024-25 amounted to £2,956.

Pension premiums for the charitable company's employees are paid from unrestricted funds and are accounted for in the same month as the employees' related remuneration.

Legal Status of the Charity

The church is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member of the charity.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income

a. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-25 £	Total Funds Mar-24 £
Unrestricted funds:-				
Donations under Gift Aid	176,153	-	176,153	168,826
Gift Aid tax recovered	45,876	-	45,876	44,157
Donations – General	30,004	-	30,004	36,819
	252,033	-	252,033	249,802
Restricted funds:-				
Building Works Fund	-	59,442	59,442	-
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	4,490	4,490	2,900
Benevolent Fund	-	1,875	1,875	1,875
Connect Festival Event Fund	-	875	875	375
Dave Betts Support	-	6,688	6,688	-
Other Restricted Funds (Mar-25)	-	48	48	94
	252,033	73,418	325,451	255,046
b. Investment Income				
Bank interest	1,547	-	1,547	310
	1,547	-	1,547	310
Total Income	253,580	73,418	326,998	255,356

All the church's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

Gift Aid tax recovered on restricted donations amounted to £11,628 and is included in the restricted fund totals in the above table.

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

No income from legacies was received in 2024-25.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Expenditure

a. Expenditure on Charitable Activities - Unrestricted Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-25 £	Total Funds Mar-24 £
Staff salaries and wages	138,669	-	138,669	108,331
Employer's NI	6,107	-	6,107	3,311
Employer pension contributions	10,602	-	10,602	8,139
Church house costs	3,563	-	3,563	21,698
Grants	28,145	-	28,145	29,339
Costs of premises	41,464	-	41,464	40,744
Church equipment and resources	20,751	-	20,751	8,625
Administration and IT costs	5,516	-	5,516	5,748
Staff resources and travel	3,600	-	3,600	3,164
Training and Conferences	3,622	-	3,622	3,214
Students, Youth and Children's work	3,969	-	3,969	4,420
Outreach and Community work	3,057	-	3,057	6,260
Guest speakers	535	-	535	645
Professional fees	284	-	284	263
	269,884	-	269,884	243,901

'Church house costs' relate to the house beneficially owned by the church as a manse for a minister's living accommodation and include costs such as property insurance, council tax and maintenance.

'Costs of premises' relate to the running costs of the church buildings and to the rental of premises at Ascot Racecourse used for Sunday morning services.

Notable variances: 'Staff salaries and wages' increase in staff employed from six to eight and inflation including National Living Wage increases. 'Church house costs' returned to March 2023 expenditure levels following refurbishment during the 2023 – 2024 period. 'Church equipment and resources' one-off costs including new commercial cooker and tents.

b. Expenditure on Charitable Activities - Restricted Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-25 £	Total Funds Mar-24 £
Building Works Fund	-	19,600	19,600	-
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	3,111	3,111	2,810
Benevolent Fund	-	4,505	4,505	1,810
Connect Festival Event Fund	-	1,000	1,000	466
Other restricted funds exp <£500 (Mar-25)	-	348	348	2,155
	-	28,564	28,564	7,241

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

Fixed Assets

The company has the beneficial use of a church property and manse by virtue of a trust established in 1921. The title deeds to these freehold properties are held by the Baptist Union Corporation.

The church buildings are located at 175, New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX and had a buildings insurance valuation of £1,466,528 declared by Baptist Insurance effective in April 2024.

The manse is located at 3, Whitelands Drive, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8LS. The buildings insured sum was £420,000 (AXA Insurance Limited) as of April 2024.

These valuations have been used for the purposes of this Annual Report.

Debtors

	Mar-25	Mar-24
	£	£
Gift Aid tax recoverable due	21,617	8,188
Prepayments	2,654	1,197
Other debtors and payments	-	-
	24,271	9,385

Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Mar-25	Mar-24
	£	£
Income tax and NI due	1,598	891
Other creditors	-	-
	1,598	891

Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Mar-25	Total Funds Mar-24
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	50,256	50,052	100,308	71,051
Current liabilities	(1,598)	-	(1,598)	(891)
Fund Balances	48,658	50,052	98,710	70,160

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Net Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance 31/03/24 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/25 £
Unrestricted general funds	64,962	253,580	269,884	-	48,658
Restricted funds:-					
Building Works Fund	-	59,442	19,600	-	39,842
Newday Youth Camp Fund	380	4,490	3,111	-	1,759
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	4,010	1,875	4,505	-	1,380
Mens Breakfast	-	48	-	-	48
Connect Festival Event Fund	125	875	1,000	-	-
Community Work Fund	16	-	-	-	16
Dave Betts Support	391	6,688	348	-	6,731
YWAM T & D Breen Support	1	-	-	-	1
	70,160	326,998	298,448		98,710

Net movement in funds - previous year

	Opening Balance 31/03/23 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/24 £
Unrestricted general funds	58,751	250,112	243,901	-	64,962
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	290	2,900	2,810	-	380
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	3,945	1,875	1,810	-	4,010
Bible Reading Notes Fund	61	-	61	-	-
Commission Festival Fund	216	375	466	-	125
Community Work Fund	38	-	22	-	16
Trinity Church, Canada Support	931	-	540	-	391
T&D Breen Support	1,189	94	1,282	-	1
PR Retirement Gifts	250	-	250	-	-
	65,946	255,356	251,142	-	70,160

The Youth Events fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for Christian youth events that take place throughout the year.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Newday Youth Camp fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the ALC youth group to attend the 'Newday' annual Christian youth festival

The Benevolent Fund is used for donations designated for the support of those in need. Where such needs arise and the amount available within the restricted fund is insufficient, these needs are covered from the church's general funds.

The Bible Reading Notes Fund is used to provide people with explanatory notes about the Bible to promote greater understanding of the Christian faith and of the Bible's relevance to everyday living. This fund has now been closed as the notes are now available free of charge.

The Commission Festival fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the Commission Festival at which Ascot Life Church joins with other churches from across the UK for Christian worship, teaching and fellowship. Additional event expenses were covered from general funds to meet the full costs of this event.

The Community Work fund was derived primarily from donations received from a monthly community lunch run by ALC until the pandemic lockdown in the spring of 2020. These donations often exceeded the costs of the food for the lunches so the excess funds are used towards the costs of other community activities provided by the church.

The Trinity Church, Canada support fund (formerly Dave Betts Support fund) arises from donations from church members designated to support Trinity Church in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, led by Dave Betts as he works to rejuvenate what was a struggling church.

The T&D Breen fund (formerly the Tazmin Foster Support fund) arises from donations from church members designated for Tazmin and Daniel Breen's support as they work with 'Youth With A Mission' based in Perth, Australia.

Trustees, Staff and Related Parties Remuneration and Benefits

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charitable company or a related entity. No trustee expenses have been incurred.

The number of church employees was six at the start of the reporting year and eight at the end of the year. Further details are given in the section about Organisation on pages 8-9. No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

The total remuneration received by the salaried church minister who deals with the day-to-day management of the church's activities amounted to £42,741. The remunerated church minister has beneficial use of the house owned by the church as a manse for living accommodation, the rental value for which is included in the above figure.

There were no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

The aggregated total donations received from trustees and related parties (as defined in the Charities SoRP (FRS 102) Appendix 1) during 2024-25 amounted to £36,889.

Related Charities

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The custodian trustee of the church buildings, including the church manse, is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (Charity number 249635), which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council.

The church is affiliated to Commission Apostolic Trust (Charity number 1150017) and is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (Charity number 1125912) and the Southern Counties Baptist Association (Charity number 1091066). The church is also a member of The Evangelical Alliance (Charity number 212325).

Financial Commitments

The Charitable Company leases an office photocopier/printer for which a total of £1,690 (including VAT) was charged in the financial year 2024-25.

Independent Examination

The fee for independent examination of the church's accounts is expected to amount to £250.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140436

Accounts



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ending
31st MARCH 2024**

**Registered Charity Number
1140436**

**Registered Company Number
07411973**

**175 New Road
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 8PX**

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ending 31st March 2024

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**TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ending 31st March 2024**

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS

Mr P. Draper	Chairman (until 31/12/23) Interim Treasurer
Mr P. Newman	Chairman (from 01/01/24)
Mr P. Foster	Treasurer
Ms N. Gwati	
Mrs S. Hale	
Ms E. Ward	(until 25/03/24)

ELDERS / COMPANY MEMBERS

Mr S. Argent	Elder
Mr P. Draper	Elder
Mr. R Perrins	Elder

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
1, Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Philip Mount
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Report of the Trustees/Directors for the year ending 31st March 2024

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' Report and Accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements to comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019).

Our Purposes and Activities

The purposes of the charity are:

- to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in the Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the work of the charity

for the public benefit in and around Ascot and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

Aims

The Church's main aim is to be 'a church that responds to and shares the love of God' following a New Testament pattern whilst engaging with our 21st Century culture, based on the values of Worship, Community, Transformation, Serving and Mission.

Ascot Life Church (ALC) has the general aim of contributing to the lives of people of all ages from Ascot and the surrounding areas by communicating the Christian faith to them in ways they can relate to, and by involving as many people as possible in Christian worship and in the practical outworking of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome to participate in the life of the church and to benefit from being part of this faith community.

Activities

The Church's Sunday meetings have a contemporary feel reflecting the relevance of faith in Jesus Christ to modern living. These meetings include a time of praise and worship followed by Bible-based teaching.

During the week, small groups called 'Life Groups' meet with the aim of encouraging those involved in the life of the church to develop a deeper relationship with Christ, to experience his life-transforming power and to share their faith with others. Online morning prayer meetings using Zoom video conferencing software are also held on weekdays.

Ascot Life Church is a public benefit entity and the Trustees/Directors regard serving the surrounding community as an important aspect of the church's activity. In ensuring that this remains a significant feature of the life of the church they have considered the Charity

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our Volunteers

Most of the activities of the church are dependent on volunteers with the church's staff team playing a complementary facilitating and organising role. The church would not function effectively without the contribution of volunteers and a significant proportion of the regular participants in the life of the church play some kind of voluntary role. An assessment of the number of people involved in volunteer roles during 2023-24 identified around 103 such contributors to the life of the church, around 48% of adults or teenagers who regularly participate in church life.

Achievements and Performance

The church meets on Sunday mornings at Ascot Racecourse, which provides a larger venue than the church buildings to accommodate growth in the number of people participating in the life of the church over the last few years.

Throughout the year, several Bible-based teaching series were presented aimed at helping people of all backgrounds to understand the message of the Bible better enabling them to grow in their faith, in their relationship with God and with one another.

In the spring of 2023, the church worked through a teaching series in the first half of 1 Corinthians to enable the church to see the gracious character of God towards his church and consider how the gospel applies to real-life issues such as conflict, insecurity, sexuality and relationships. The church then followed a short summer series in the Old Testament (OT) book of Proverbs, to discover biblical wisdom on work, friendships, money and conversation.

During the autumn of 2023 the church re-entered the book of 1 Corinthians for part 2 of the Spring series. Working through the latter part of the letter allowed church members to appreciate the richness of the gospel through seeing it applied to issues such as idolatry, gender relations, diversity, community, and even death itself. The overwhelming theme of these two series was the power of the gospel to completely transform broken lives and communities.

Over the Christmas season, a Family Service and Carol Service were held celebrating the peace that Christmas offers to us if we'll believe it's message, helping people from both the church and the surrounding community to connect with God by responding to the good news of the gospel wherever they may be in their journey of faith. Copies of Luke's Gospel and short evangelistic books were also distributed to help newcomers in particular, to continue their faith journey.

From January 2024 until Easter, a teaching series called 'Radiant People' was brought, inspired by Jesus' description of his followers as 'the light of the world' (Matthew 5.14). Each week, church members were encouraged to see that Jesus' transformative work in our lives will draw those around to consider his claims. On the final two weeks of March, the church celebrated Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, with appeals made to seekers to consider the gospel's life-transforming offer.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As a continued investment in the life and growth of the church, a staff member was taken on as a Church and Community Worker in August 2023, after having served as an intern for the previous year. This staff member took on various responsibilities, two primary ones being the co-ordination of the church's student ministry, and the development of a community outreach initiative. On top of this, another intern was taken on in the summer of 2023. This intern made an excellent contribution to church life, particularly in the areas of children's work, students' work and media. Their work on content and media was particularly helpful when the previous contracted Content Creative finished their work for ALC in January 2024. In October 2023, another intern finished their work with us after making a substantial contribution to the church's children's ministry.

At the close of the previous financial year, one of the Church's Elders followed a call to move down to Exeter to pastor a church there. This left a team of three Elders who remained in place during 2023-24, one of these being a full-time remunerated staff member. In December 2023 a new elder was proposed to church members, a proposal that was affirmed by members in February 2024, and then implemented in April 2024.

In September 2023 the ALC Elders officially took on transitional leadership for three years of the Brook Church Bagshot following their pastor's retirement. This was with the aim of reinvigorating and renewing the church after numerical decline going back some years. This first year of transitional leadership consisted of resourcing their Sunday meetings with preachers, worship leaders and hosts, whilst building relationship with the church members with the aim of cultivating a new vision and strategy for growth.

During 2023-24, the number of those regularly involved in church life was around 250 adults and teenagers with an additional 60 or so children aged 12 and under. Attendance at the main Sunday morning meetings typically ranges between 180-230 people of all ages.

The church remains committed to supporting Christian organisations and ministries both in the UK and overseas and provides grants to Commission Apostolic Trust, TEAR Fund, Wycliffe Bible Translators and Operation Mobilisation. Benevolent donations are also made by the church to support the welfare of people experiencing financial hardship.

Financial Review

During the year ended 31st March 2024 the church received a total of unrestricted income from donations, Gift Aid and bank interest amounting to £250,112. Income tax recovered on unrestricted Gift Aid donations was £44,157

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £243,901.

Total restricted income was £5,244 including income tax recovered on restricted Gift Aid donations amounting to £269. £7,241 was expended from restricted funds.

Investment powers and policy

The Trustees/Directors aim to employ available funds towards the charitable aims of the church and towards enhancing the viability of the church's work for the future. In view of this policy and the relatively short time between the receipt of funds and their expenditure, all funds are held in cash. Funds not immediately required are held on deposit. Due to the prevailing economic

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

circumstances, deposit rates were low so interest gained on such funds was correspondingly reduced.

Funds

Funds are allocated to the activities of the church from donations and from Gift Aid tax refunds. 50.3% of unrestricted income was allocated to staff costs to enable the activities of the church to be implemented effectively, with a further 16.3% used to cover the running costs of the church buildings and rental of premises for Sunday morning meetings. 11.8% of unrestricted income was allocated to grants for the support of organisations and individuals within the UK and overseas that are directly involved in Christian work and whose objectives the Elders and Trustees consider to be compatible with the charitable aims of the church. The remaining unrestricted funds were allocated to the general operating costs of the church.

Restricted funds in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have specified the purpose for which the funds should be used are allocated accordingly.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The level of activity of the church is dependent upon voluntary donations from church members and attenders together with tax reclaimed on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme. To adequately cover the month-by-month operating costs of the church, the Trustees/Directors consider that the amount of unrestricted funds that should be immediately available at all times as a reserve should equate to at least two months of Core Monthly Operating Costs (CMOC), which are defined as essential expenses such as those for salaries, utilities, essential property maintenance, office costs, essential travel and necessary professional services. This level of reserves is calculated each year after approval of the annual budget and is stress-tested against the maximum liabilities of the church including such items as statutory staff redundancy payments and contractual obligations such as venue hire.

This level of reserves is considered adequate by the Trustees/Directors as it would be possible, although not desirable, to reduce the level of activity of the church and its corresponding outgoings in various ways should reserves fall to such a level. Should available funds fall below two months CMOC, fund-raising appeals and cost-reduction plans affecting non-core costs would be prepared and implemented if necessary to maintain reserves above the set threshold.

The church's general fund balance has been maintained at a good level such that the Trustees/Directors considered that it was important to invest more of the Church's funds in employing and developing staff to enable the work of the church to be enhanced. The budget for 2023-24 was therefore intentionally structured to enhance the staff team and to provide staff training with the expectation that expenditure would exceed income thereby reducing the general fund balance. At the end of the financial year 2023-24, the reduction in the general fund was actually less than had been budgeted so the Trustees/Directors have no immediate concerns regarding the financial viability of the church as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Restricted funds are allocated for amounts raised in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have designated their contributions for specific purposes. Most the church's restricted funds active during 2023-24, were used for the support of Christian mission work, to help those in need and to support an annual youth camp event.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, constituting a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, as defined in the Companies Act 2011.

Appointment of New Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee, providing that they also become a director of the Charitable Company and that they subscribe to the church's Statement of Beliefs.

Trustee Induction and Training

New trustees are provided with terms of reference defining their role and are briefed by the existing Trustees on the nature of their responsibilities. They are also encouraged to review the information on the role of trustees available on the Charity Commission website and are encouraged to attend relevant external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

At the outset of the period covered by this report there were six Trustees comprising one church Elder and five church members. In December 2023 the church Elder stepped down as a Trustee, reducing the number to 5. The Trustees also serve as Directors of ALC as a Charitable Company. The Trustees/Directors take prime responsibility for ensuring that Ascot Life Church fulfils its charitable objects and legal responsibilities and meet at least three times a year.

For the period covered by this report, the church had three Elders who are also the Company Members. The Elders meet bi-weekly and have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the church and oversee the day-to-day running of the church. Under the oversight of the Elders, the responsibilities for running various church activities and ministries are further delegated to staff members and to volunteer activity and group leaders.

The church had six employed members of staff at the start of the period covered by this report: one Elder/Minister, one staff member covering a combined Youth Work and Operations role, a part-time Children's Worker, one Ministry Trainee, two interns. One member of the church also performed contract work as a Content Creative.

At the end of this period there was six employed members of staff: one Elder/Minister, one staff member covering a combined Youth Work and Operations role, a part-time Children's Worker, one Ministry Trainee, a Church and Community Worker (a previous intern), and a new intern. The second previous intern departed in October 2023, and the contracted Content Creative also finished work for the church in January 2024.

Financial matters are dealt with by a treasury team co-ordinated by the Treasurer who provides reports to the Trustees/Directors and to the Elders. Due to ill-health, the treasurer role was covered in part by an interim treasurer (Elder) to ensure continuity and quality during this reporting period.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Salaries and other staff benefits are agreed by the Trustees/Directors who conduct an annual review of staff remuneration taking account of price and wage inflation and the responsibilities of each role. They also periodically review available information on remuneration and benefits for comparable roles.

Related Parties and Co-operation with Other Organisations

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship or similar connection between the charity and a trustee of the charity, its management personnel or a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current year no such related party contracts or transactions were reported.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Reference and Administrative Details

The charity is registered under the name 'Ascot Life Church'.

Registered Charity Number: 1140436

Registered Company Number: 07411973 (England and Wales)

Registered Office: Ascot Life Church, 175 New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX

Trustees/Directors:

Mr P. Draper (until 31/12/23)

Mr P. Foster

Ms N. Gwati

Mrs S. Hale

Mr P. Newman

Ms E. Ward (until 25/04/23).

Property Trustee: Baptist Union Corporation Limited

Company Members and Key Management Personnel:

Mr S. Argent

Mr P. Draper

Mr. R Perrins.

Trustees'/Directors' Responsibilities in Relation to Financial Statements

The charity Trustees (who are also the Directors of Ascot Life Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SoRP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to Disclosure to Our Independent Examiner

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees'/Directors' Annual Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the Independent Examiner in connection with preparing his report, of which the charitable company's Independent Examiner is unaware, and
- the Trustees/Directors, having made enquiries of fellow Directors and the church's Independent Examiner that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mr Philip Mount, will continue his appointment as per his letter of engagement.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

By order of the board of Trustees/Directors

Signature: 

Trustee/Director Name: PAUL FOSTER

Date: 5/11/2024

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Directors / Trustees of Ascot Life Church

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out from Page 14.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. Although the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 by a small margin, the level of assets held was well below the £3.26M threshold that requires an audit.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 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: 

Mr Philip Mount TD AFA MIPA
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

Dated: 

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ending 31st March 2024
(including summary income and expenditure account)

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	Notes	Unrestricted funds Mar-24 £	Restricted funds Mar-24 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-24 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-23 £
INCOME & EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3a	249,802	5,244	255,046	236,199
Investments	3b	310		310	55
Total Income		250,112	5,244	255,356	236,254
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4a&b	243,901	7,241	251,142	250,556
Total Expenditure		243,901	7,241	251,142	250,556
Net income/(expenditure)		6,211	(1,997)	4,214	(14,302)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		6,211	(1,997)	4,214	(14,302)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		58,751	7,195	65,946	80,248
Total funds carried forward		64,962	5,198	70,160	65,946

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2024

	Notes	Total funds Mar-24 £	Total funds Mar-23 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	9,385	9,945
Cash at bank and in hand		61,666	58,513
Total Current Assets		71,051	68,458
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(891)	(2,512)
Net current assets or liabilities		70,160	65,946
Total assets less current liabilities		70,160	65,946
Total net assets or liabilities	8	70,160	65,946
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		5,198	7,195
Unrestricted funds		64,962	58,751
Total Charity Funds		70,160	65,946

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period ending 31/03/2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors'/Trustees' responsibilities:

- the Members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act;
- the Directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts;

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees/Directors on:

.....5 / 11 / 2024.....2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Director's Name: ALAN NEWMAN Director's Name: PAUL FOSTER

Signed: [Signature] Signed: [Signature]

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used in the preparation of the financial statements:

a. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or accrued.

b. Preparation of the Accounts on a Going Concern Basis

In view of the continued health of the church's general fund balance for 2023-24 the Trustees/Directors have no concerns at present regarding the financial viability of the charity and are satisfied that the reserves held by the charity are more than sufficient to ensure its financial health for the foreseeable future.

c. Income

Donations under Gift Aid and all other donations and income are recognised as income when they are received. The income tax recovery associated with Gift Aid donations is accrued to the same month in which the donations are received.

d. Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

e. Receipt of Donated Services and Facilities

The church benefits greatly from the involvement and support of its many volunteers and the Trustees' Annual Report provides information about their contribution. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of people involved with the church is not assessed in economic terms and is therefore not recognised in the accounts.

f. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees/Directors have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are donations that the donor has specified to be solely used for specific purposes as part of the church's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the church.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

g. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is on charitable activities including the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

h. Grants

The church makes donations to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its own and to people involved in Christian work. These donations are accounted for when paid over.

In accordance with the purposes of the charity to advance the Christian faith and to fulfil other charitable purposes connected with the work of the charity (see 'Our purposes and activities' in the report of the Trustees/Directors), the church made donations from its unrestricted funds as shown in the table below during the reporting year:-

Commission Apostolic Trust	£12,000
Wycliffe Bible Translators	£2,520
Operation Mobilisation	£2,520
Tearfund Donations	£1,800
Trinity Church Canada Support	£8,386
Baptist Union	£648
Newday Youth Conference	£1,000
Other small donations	£465

Total £29,339

i. Operating Leases

The charity classifies the lease of printing and photocopying equipment as an operating lease. The title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every few years whenever technology advancements make such replacement economically advantageous. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the expected settlement amounts due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

k. Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their expected settlement amount.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

l. Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

m. Pensions

Following the introduction of pension auto enrolment, the church set up an account with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), the workplace pension scheme set up by the government especially for auto enrolment. New employees are automatically enrolled into the NEST pension scheme at a basic level but have the flexibility to make contributions at a level that suits their circumstances, or to opt out if they wish to do so. The church makes corresponding employer contributions in accordance with terms agreed in the relevant contracts of employment.

The employer contributions made by the charity to the above schemes in 2023-24 and treated as an expense amounted to £8,139. The aggregated amount paid to key management personnel in 2023-24 amounted to £2,701.

Pension premiums for the charitable company's employees are paid from unrestricted funds and are accounted for in the same month as the employees' related remuneration.

Legal Status of the Charity

The church is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member of the charity.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Income

a. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-24 £	Total Funds Mar-23 £
Unrestricted funds:-				
Donations under Gift Aid	168,826	-	168,826	155,265
Gift Aid tax recovered	44,157	-	44,157	43,443
Donations – General	36,819	-	36,819	30,974
	249,802	-	249,802	229,682
Restricted funds:-				
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	2,900	2,900	975
YWAM T & D Breen Support	-	94	94	1,115
P Rogers - Retirement	-	-	-	2,940
Benevolent Fund	-	1,875	1,875	1,487
Other Restricted Funds (Mar-24)	-	375	375	-
	249,802	5,244	255,046	236,199
b. Investment Income				
Bank interest	310	-	310	55
	310	-	310	55
Total Income	250,112	5,244	255,356	236,254

All the church's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. The rates of interest on these accounts were low for most of the reporting period.

Gift Aid tax recovered on restricted donations amounted to £269 and is included in the restricted fund totals in the above table.

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

No income from legacies was received in 2023-24.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Expenditure

a. Expenditure on Charitable Activities - Unrestricted Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-24 £	Total Funds Mar-23 £
Staff salaries and wages	108,331	-	108,331	123,682
Employer's NI	3,311	-	3,311	5,768
Employer pension contributions	8,139	-	8,139	9,896
Church house costs	21,698	-	21,698	3,276
Grants	29,339	-	29,339	38,553
Costs of premises	40,744	-	40,744	28,621
Church equipment and resources	8,625	-	8,625	6,394
Administration and IT costs	5,748	-	5,748	5,133
Staff resources and travel	3,164	-	3,164	2,890
Training and Conferences	3,214	-	3,214	4,983
Students, Youth and Children's work	4,420	-	4,420	5,902
Outreach and Community work	6,260	-	6,260	6,038
Guest speakers	645	-	645	360
Professional fees	263	-	263	263
	243,901	-	243,901	241,759

'Church house costs' relate to the house beneficially owned by the church as a manse for a minister's living/accommodation and include costs such as property insurance, council tax and maintenance.

'Costs of premises' relate to the running costs of the church buildings and also to the rental of premises at Ascot Racecourse used for Sunday morning services.

b. Expenditure on Charitable Activities - Restricted Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-24 £	Total Funds Mar-23 £
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	2,810	2,810	1,575
Benevolent Fund	-	1,810	1,810	1,080
Trinity Church Canada Support	-	540	540	1,100
YWAM T&D Breen Support	-	1,282	1,282	1,355
Other restricted funds exp <£500 (Mar-24)	-	799	799	2,112
	-	7,241	7,241	7,222

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Fixed Assets

The company has the beneficial use of a church property and manse by virtue of a trust established in 1921. The title deeds to these freehold properties are held by the Baptist Union Corporation.

The church buildings are located at 175, New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX and had a buildings insurance valuation of £1,466,528 declared by Baptist Insurance effective from 1st April 2024.

The manse is located at 3, Whitelands Drive, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8LS and had a buildings sum insured of £420,000 by AXA Insurance Limited effective from 1st April 2024.

Debtors

	Mar-24	Mar-23
	£	£
Gift Aid tax recoverable due	8,188	8,397
Prepayments	1,197	1,548
Other debtors and payments	-	-
	9,385	9,945

Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Mar-24	Mar-23
	£	£
Income tax and NI due	891	2,512
Other creditors	-	-
	891	2,512

Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	Mar-24	Mar-23
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	65,835	5,198	71,051	68,458
Current liabilities	(891)	-	(891)	(2,512)
Fund Balances	64,962	5,198	70,160	65,946

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Net Movement in Funds

	Opening Balance 31/03/23 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/24 £
Unrestricted general funds	58,751	250,112	243,901	-	64,962
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	290	2,900	2,810	-	380
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	3,945	1,875	1,810	-	4,010
Bible Reading Notes Fund	61	-	61	-	-
Commission Festival Fund	216	375	466	-	125
Community Work Fund	38	-	22	-	16
Trinity Church, Canada Support	931	-	540	-	391
T&D Breen Support	1,189	94	1,282	-	1
PR Retirement Gifts	250	-	250	-	-
	65,946	255,356	251,142	-	70,160

Net movement in funds - previous year

	Opening Balance 31/03/22 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/23 £
Unrestricted general funds	70,773	229,737	241,759	-	58,751
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	890	975	1,575	-	290
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	3,538	1,487	1,080	-	3,945
Bible Reading Notes Fund	61	-	-	-	61
Commission Festival Fund	216	-	-	-	216
Community Work Fund	73	-	35	-	38
Trinity Church, Canada Support	2,031	-	1,100	-	931
T&D Breen Support	1,429	1,115	1,355	-	1,189
PR Retirement Gifts	200	2,940	2,890	-	250
Ukraine Appeal	762	-	762	-	-
	80,248	236,254	250,556	-	65,946

- The Youth Events fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for Christian youth events that take place throughout the year.
- The Newday Youth Camp fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the ALC youth group to attend the 'Newday' annual Christian youth festival

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

- The Benevolent Fund is used for donations designated for the support of those in need. Where such needs arise and the amount available within the restricted fund is insufficient, these needs are covered from the church's general funds.
- The Bible Reading Notes Fund is used to provide people with explanatory notes about the Bible to promote greater understanding of the Christian faith and of the Bible's relevance to everyday living. This fund has now been closed as the notes are now available free of charge.
- The Commission Festival fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the Commission Festival at which Ascot Life Church joins with other churches from across the UK for Christian worship, teaching and fellowship. Additional event expenses were covered from general funds to meet the full costs of this event.
- The Community Work fund was derived primarily from donations received from a monthly community lunch run by ALC until the pandemic lockdown in the spring of 2020. These donations often exceeded the costs of the food for the lunches so the excess funds are used towards the costs of other community activities provided by the church.
- The Trinity Church, Canada support fund (formerly Dave Betts Support fund) arises from donations from church members designated to support Trinity Church in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, led by Dave Betts as he works to rejuvenate what was a struggling church.
- The T&D Breen fund (formerly the Tazmin Foster Support fund) arises from donations from church members designated for Tazmin and Daniel Breen's support as they work with 'Youth With A Mission' based in Perth, Australia.

Trustees, Staff and Related Parties Remuneration and Benefits

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charitable company or a related entity. No trustee expenses have been incurred.

The number of church employees was six at the start of the reporting year and six at the end of the year. Further details are given in the section about Organisation on pages 8-9. No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

The total remuneration received by the salaried church minister who deals with the day-to-day management of the church's activities amounted to £41,133. The remunerated church minister has beneficial use of the house owned by the church as a manse for living accommodation, the rental value for which is included in the above figure.

There were no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

The aggregated total donations received from trustees and related parties (as defined in the Charities SoRP (FRS 102) Appendix 1) during 2023-24 amounted to £27,210.

Related Charities

The custodian trustee of the church buildings, including the church manse, is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (Charity number 249635), which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

The church is affiliated to Commission Apostolic Trust (Charity number 1150017) and is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (Charity number 1125912) and the Southern Counties Baptist Association (Charity number 1091066). The church is also a member of The Evangelical Alliance (Charity number 212325).

Financial Commitments

The Charitable Company leases an office photocopier/printer for which a total of £1,690 (including VAT) was charged in the financial year 2023-24.

Independent Examination

The fee for independent examination of the church's accounts is expected to amount to £250.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140436

Accounts



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ending
31st MARCH 2023**

**Registered Charity Number
1140436**

**Registered Company Number
07411973**

**175 New Road
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 8PX**



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS

Mr P. Draper
Mr P. Foster (from 17/07/23)
Ms N. Gwati
Mrs S. Hale
Mr P. Newman
Ms E. Ward

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
1, Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Philip Mount
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Report of the Trustees/Directors for the year ending 31st March 2023

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' Report and Accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The Trustees have prepared the financial statements to comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019).

Our purposes and activities

The purposes of the charity are:

- to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in the Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the work of the charity

for the public benefit in and around Ascot and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

Aims

The Church's main aim is to be 'a church that responds to and shares the love of God' following a New Testament pattern whilst engaging with our 21st Century culture, based on the values of Worship, Community, Transformation, Serving and Mission.

Ascot Life Church (ALC) has the general aim of contributing to the lives of people of all ages from Ascot and the surrounding areas by communicating the Christian faith to them in ways they can relate to, and by involving as many people as possible in Christian worship and in the practical outworking of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome to participate in the life of the church and to benefit from being part of this faith community.

Activities

The Church's Sunday meetings have a contemporary feel reflecting the relevance of faith in Jesus Christ to modern living. These meetings include a time of praise and worship followed by Bible-based teaching.

During the week, small groups called 'Life Groups' meet with the aim of encouraging those involved in the life of the church to develop a deeper relationship with Christ, to experience his life-transforming power and to share their faith with others. Online morning prayer meetings using Zoom video conferencing software are also held on weekdays.

Ascot Life Church is a public benefit entity and the Trustees/Directors regard serving the surrounding community as an important aspect of the church's activity. In ensuring that this remains a significant feature of the life of the church they have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our volunteers

Most of the activities of the church are dependent on volunteers with the church's staff team playing a complementary facilitating and organising role. The church would not function

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

effectively without the contribution of volunteers and a significant proportion of the regular participants in the life of the church play some kind of voluntary role. An assessment of the number of people involved in volunteer roles during 2022-23 identified around 85 such contributors to the life of the church, around 40% of adults or teenagers who regularly participate in church life.

Achievements and Performance

The church meets on Sunday mornings at Ascot Racecourse, which provides a larger venue than the church buildings in order to accommodate growth in the number of people participating in the life of the church over the last few years.

Throughout the year, several Bible-based teaching series were presented aimed at helping people of all backgrounds to understand the message of the Bible better enabling them to grow in their faith, in their relationship with God and with one another.

In the spring of 2022, a teaching series from the Psalms in the Bible was brought to the church to help everyone to shape their thinking biblically as they face the challenges of life in the modern world. This was followed during the summer by a series based on the central part of the Gospel of Mark entitled 'Behold Your King' with the aim of helping everyone to better comprehend the nature and identity of Jesus Christ as the Messiah from God and how this shapes Christian discipleship in our lives today.

During the autumn of 2022 a teaching series entitled 'Generous God, Generous People' was presented helping everyone to understand God's generosity towards us all, shown by giving us his Son Jesus Christ and by sending his Holy Spirit upon us. This theme was then developed further helping people to respond to God in worship, by serving one-another, by using our own gifts and resources generously, and by reaching out to others with the good news of the gospel.

Over the Christmas season, a Family Service and Carol Service were held celebrating God's generosity to us in Jesus, helping people from both the church and the surrounding community to connect with God by responding to the good news of the gospel wherever they may be in their journey of faith.

From January 2023 until Easter, a teaching series called 'The Triumph of the King' was brought looking at the final chapters of Mark's gospel. This covered the final weeks of Jesus' life leading up to the crucifixion, culminating with celebrating the resurrection on Easter Day. The aim of the series was to help everyone to appreciate afresh the wonder of the salvation Jesus has achieved for us on the cross enabling us to live in the triumph of his victory over sin and death.

As a continued investment in the life and growth of the church, two new interns were taken on in the summer of 2022, one of these being sponsored by her home church. The intern who had been taken on the previous year completed her internship at the end of the summer having made a good contribution to church life.

The two ministry trainees who had been taken on for an additional year after their internships completed their year and one of them was then employed to serve the church in a full-time ministry trainee role.

One of the Elders who had served the church faithfully for 25 years was sadly taken ill in April 2022 and passed away the following month having made a significant contribution to the leadership of the church over many years. Another of the Elders then received an invitation in the spring of 2022 to lead another church in Exeter, which he accepted in the summer,

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

moving to the new church at the end of March 2023. The autumn of 2022 and early part of 2023 was therefore a transitional time where responsibilities were reorganised amongst the other Elders and staff team. A team of three Elders therefore remained in place to continue the leadership of the church into 2023-24, one of these being a full-time remunerated staff member.

After some discussion in the autumn of 2022, and arising from an ongoing relationship between ALC and Brook Church Bagshot, Brook Church invited the ALC Elders to consider taking on transitional leadership of the church after their pastor's retirement due in September 2023. Brook Church had been struggling numerically since the Covid lockdowns and were looking to ALC for support to help to renew and reinvigorate the church. With the support of the ALC church membership, the ALC Elders agreed to provide this support with the aim of helping Brook Church to grow and become self-sustaining over the next few years.

During 2022-23, the number of those regularly involved in church life was around 220 adults and teenagers with an additional 50 or so children aged 12 and under. Typical attendance at the main Sunday morning meetings was around 180 people of all ages.

The church remains committed to supporting Christian organisations and ministries both in the UK and overseas and provides grants to Commission Apostolic Trust, TEAR Fund, Wycliffe Bible Translators and Operation Mobilisation. Benevolent donations are also made by the church to support the welfare of people experiencing financial hardship.

Financial Review

During the year ended 31st March 2023 the church received a total of unrestricted income from donations, Gift Aid and bank interest amounting to £229,737. Income tax recovered on unrestricted Gift Aid donations was £43,443.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £241,759.

Total restricted income was £6,517 including income tax recovered on restricted Gift Aid donations amounting to £523. £8,797 was expended from restricted funds.

Investment powers and policy

The Trustees/Directors aim to employ available funds towards the charitable aims of the church and towards enhancing the viability of the church's work for the future. In view of this policy and the relatively short time between the receipt of funds and their expenditure, all funds are held in cash. Funds not immediately required are held on deposit. Due to the prevailing economic circumstances, deposit rates were low so interest gained on such funds was correspondingly reduced.

Funds

Funds are allocated to the activities of the church from donations and from Gift Aid tax refunds. 64% of unrestricted income was allocated to staff costs to enable the activities of the church to be implemented effectively, with a further 12.5% used to cover the running costs of the church buildings and rental of premises for Sunday morning meetings. 17% of unrestricted income was allocated to grants for the support of organisations and individuals within the UK and overseas that are directly involved in Christian work and whose objectives the Elders and Trustees consider to be compatible with the charitable aims of the church. The remaining unrestricted funds were allocated to the general operating costs of the church.

Restricted funds in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have specified the purpose for which the funds should be used are allocated accordingly.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Reserves policy and going concern

The level of activity of the church is dependent upon voluntary donations from church members and attenders together with tax reclaimed on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme. To adequately cover the month-by-month operating costs of the church, the Trustees/Directors consider that the amount of unrestricted funds that should be immediately available at all times as a reserve should equate to at least two months of Core Monthly Operating Costs (CMOC), which are defined as essential expenses such as those for salaries, utilities, essential property maintenance, office costs, essential travel and necessary professional services. This level of reserves is calculated each year after approval of the annual budget and is stress-tested against the maximum liabilities of the church including such items as statutory staff redundancy payments and contractual obligations such as venue hire.

This level of reserves is considered adequate by the Trustees/Directors as it would be possible, although not desirable, to reduce the level of activity of the church and its corresponding outgoings in various ways should reserves fall to such a level. Should available funds fall below two months CMOC, fund-raising appeals and cost-reduction plans affecting non-core costs would be prepared and implemented if necessary to maintain reserves above the set threshold.

The church's general fund balance has been maintained at a good level such that the Trustees/Directors considered that it was important to invest more of the Church's funds in employing and developing staff to enable the work of the church to be enhanced. The budget for 2022-23 was therefore intentionally structured to enhance the staff team and to provide staff training with the expectation that expenditure would exceed income thereby reducing the general fund balance. At the end of the financial year 2022-23, the reduction in the general fund was actually less than had been budgeted so the Trustees/Directors have no immediate concerns regarding the financial viability of the church as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Restricted funds are allocated for amounts raised in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have designated their contributions for specific purposes. The majority of the church's restricted funds active during 2022-23 were used for the support of Christian mission work, to help those in need and to support an annual youth camp event.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, constituting a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, as defined in the Companies Act 2011.

Appointment of new trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee, providing that they also become a director of the Charitable Company and that they subscribe to the church's Statement of Beliefs.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees are provided with terms of reference defining their role and are briefed by the existing Trustees on the nature of their responsibilities. They are also encouraged to review the information on the role of trustees available on the Charity Commission website and are encouraged to attend relevant external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Organisation

Throughout the period covered by this report there were five Trustees comprising one church Elder and four church members. The Trustees also serve as Directors of ALC as a Charitable Company. The Trustees/Directors take prime responsibility for ensuring that Ascot Life Church fulfils its charitable objects and legal responsibilities and meet at least three times a year.

At the start of the period covered by this report, the church had five Elders who are also the Company Members. However, the changes described previously reduced this to a team of three to lead the church forward. The Elders meet bi-weekly and have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the church and oversee the day-to-day running of the church. Under the oversight of the Elders, the responsibilities for running various church activities and ministries are further delegated to staff members and to volunteer activity and group leaders.

The church had six employed members of staff at the start of the period covered by this report: two Elders/Ministers, one staff member covering a combined Youth Work and Operations role, a part-time Children's Worker and two Ministry Trainees. One of the Trainees left to pursue employment outside the church in the summer of 2022 and one of the Elders/Ministers left at the end of the reporting period. There were therefore five employed members of staff in post at the end of the period covered by this report, one of whom who left at that time. In addition to this, two new interns started in August 2022 to support the staff team, one of which received a small bursary to help with living expenses while the other was sponsored by her home church.

Financial matters are dealt with by a treasury team co-ordinated by the Treasurer who provides reports to the Trustees/Directors and to the Elders.

Salaries and other staff benefits are agreed by the Trustees/Directors who conduct an annual review of staff remuneration taking account of price and wage inflation and the responsibilities of each role. They also periodically review available information on remuneration and benefits for comparable roles.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship or similar connection between the charity and a trustee of the charity, its management personnel or a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current year no such related party contracts or transactions were reported.

Reference and Administrative Details

The charity is registered under the name 'Ascot Life Church'.

Registered Charity number: 1140436

Registered Company number: 07411973 (England and Wales)

Registered Office: Ascot Life Church, 175 New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX

Trustees/Directors: Mr P. Draper, Mr P. Foster (from 17/07/23), Ms N. Gwati, Mrs S. Hale, Mr P. Newman, Ms E. Ward.

Property Trustee: Baptist Union Corporation Limited

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Company members and key management personnel: Mr S. Argent, Mr P. Draper, Mr. R Perrins and Mr D Rogers (left at end of March 2023)

Trustees'/Directors' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

The charity Trustees (who are also the Directors of Ascot Life Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SoRP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Statement as to disclosure to our Independent Examiner

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees'/Directors' Annual Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the Independent Examiner in connection with preparing his report, of which the charitable company's Independent Examiner is unaware, and
- the Trustees/Directors, having made enquiries of fellow Directors and the church's Independent Examiner that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mr Philip Mount, will continue his appointment as per his letter of engagement.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

By order of the board of Trustees/Directors

Signature:



Trustee/Director Name: PHILIP DRAPER

Date: 30th October 2023

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Independent Examiner's Report to the Directors / Trustees of Ascot Life Church

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 13 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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

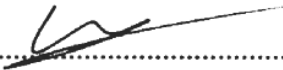
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 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: 

Mr Philip Mount TD AFA MIPA
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

Dated: 29/11/2023

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ending 31st March 2023
(including summary income and expenditure account)

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	Notes	Unrestricted funds Mar-23 £	Restricted funds Mar-23 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-23 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-22 £
INCOME & EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3a	229,682	6,517	236,199	208,820
Investments	3b	55	-	55	5
Total Income		229,737	6,517	236,254	208,825
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4a&b	241,759	8,797	250,556	212,793
Total Expenditure		241,759	8,797	250,556	212,793
Net income/(expenditure)		(12,022)	(2,280)	(14,302)	(3,968)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(12,022)	(2,280)	(14,302)	(3,968)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		70,773	9,475	80,248	84,216
Total funds carried forward		58,751	7,195	65,946	80,248

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Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2023

	Notes	Total funds Mar-23 £	Total funds Mar-22 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	9,945	5,213
Cash at bank and in hand		58,513	76,252
Total Current Assets		68,458	81,465
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(2,512)	(1,217)
Net current assets or liabilities		65,946	80,248
Total assets less current liabilities		65,946	80,248
Total net assets or liabilities	8	65,946	80,248
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		7,195	9,475
Unrestricted funds		58,751	70,773
Total Charity Funds		65,946	80,248

For the period ending 31/03/2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors'/Trustees' responsibilities:

- the Members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act;
- the Directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts;

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees/Directors on:

30th October 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Director's Name: P. DRAPER Director's Name: PAUL FOSTER

Signed:  Signed: 

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2023**

1) Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used in the preparation of the financial statements:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or accrued.

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

In view of the continued health of the church's general fund balance for 2022-23 the Trustees/Directors have no concerns at present regarding the financial viability of the charity and are satisfied that the reserves held by the charity are more than sufficient to ensure its financial health for the foreseeable future.

c) Income

Donations under Gift Aid and all other donations and income are recognised as income when they are received. The income tax recovery associated with Gift Aid donations is accrued to the same month in which the donations are received.

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

e) Receipt of donated services and facilities

The church benefits greatly from the involvement and support of its many volunteers and the Trustees' Annual Report provides information about their contribution. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of people involved with the church is not assessed in economic terms and is therefore not recognised in the accounts.

f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees/Directors have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are donations that the donor has specified to be solely used for specific purposes as part of the church's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the church.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is on charitable activities including the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

h) Grants

The church makes donations to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its own and to people involved in Christian work. These donations are accounted for when paid over.

In accordance with the purposes of the charity to advance the Christian faith and to fulfil other charitable purposes connected with the work of the charity (see 'Our purposes and activities' in the report of the Trustees/Directors), the church made donations from its unrestricted funds as shown in the table below during the reporting year:-

Donations in support of Christian mission work:-	
• Commission Apostolic Trust	£ 17,000
• Wycliffe Bible Translators	£ 2,520
• Operation Mobilisation	£ 2,400
• T & D Breen – Youth With A Mission	£ 3,180
• Trinity Church, Red Deer, Canada	£ 9,100
• Other small donations	£ 553
Subtotal	£ 34,753
Donations to worldwide relief and development:-	
• TEAR Fund	£ 1,800
• Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal	£ 2,000
TOTAL	£ 38,553

i) Operating leases

The charity classifies the lease of printing and photocopying equipment as an operating lease. The title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every few years whenever technology advancements make such replacement economically advantageous. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the expected settlement amounts due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

k) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their expected settlement amount.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2023**

l) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

m) Pensions

Prior to the introduction of pension auto enrolment, employees of the church were encouraged to make contributions to a personal pension scheme with the church making corresponding employer contributions to the scheme in accordance with the terms of the agreed contracts of employment.

Following the introduction of pension auto enrolment, the church set up an account with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), the workplace pension scheme set up by the government especially for auto enrolment. New employees are automatically enrolled into the NEST pension scheme at a basic level but have the flexibility to make contributions at a level that suits their circumstances, or to opt out if they wish to do so. The church makes corresponding employer contributions in accordance with terms agreed in the relevant contracts of employment.

The employer contributions made by the charity to the above schemes in 2022-23 and treated as an expense amounted to £9,896. The aggregated amount paid to key management personnel in 2022-23 amounted to £6,415.

Pension premiums for the charitable company's employees are paid from unrestricted funds and are accounted for in the same month as the employees' related remuneration.

2) Legal status of the charity

The church is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member of the charity.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

3. Income

3a. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-23 £	Total Funds Mar-22 £
Unrestricted funds:-				
Donations under Gift Aid	155,265	-	155,265	131,810
Gift Aid tax recovered	43,443	-	43,443	33,838
Donations – General	30,974	-	30,974	38,060
	229,682	-	229,682	203,708
Restricted funds:-				
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	975	975	870
T&D Breen Support	-	1,115	1,115	1,405
PR Retirement Gifts	-	2,940	2,940	200
Benevolent Fund	-	1,487	1,487	1,500
Other Restricted Funds (Mar-22)	-	-	-	1,137
	229,682	6,517	236,199	208,820
3b. Investment income				
Bank interest	55	-	55	5
	55	-	55	5
Total Income	229,737	6,517	236,254	208,825

All of the church's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. The rates of interest on these accounts were low for most of the reporting period.

Gift Aid tax recovered on restricted donations amounted to £523 and is included in the restricted fund totals in the above table.

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

No income from legacies was received in 2022-23.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

4. Expenditure

4a. Expenditure on charitable activities - unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-23 £	Total Funds Mar-22 £
Staff salaries and wages	123,682	-	123,682	109,538
Employer's NI	5,768	-	5,768	3,527
Employer pension contributions	9,896	-	9,896	7,827
Church house costs	3,276	-	3,276	3,543
Grants	38,553	-	38,553	34,142
Costs of premises	28,621	-	28,621	24,296
Church equipment and resources	6,394	-	6,394	6,500
Administration and IT costs	5,133	-	5,133	5,735
Staff resources and travel	2,890	-	2,890	2,035
Training and Conferences	4,983	-	4,983	8,050
Students, Youth and Children's work	5,902	-	5,902	3,863
Outreach and Community work	6,038	-	6,038	1,530
Guest speakers	360	-	360	400
Professional fees	263	-	263	13
	241,759	-	241,759	210,999

'Church house costs' relate to the house beneficially owned by the church as a manse for a minister's living accommodation and include costs such as property insurance, council tax and maintenance.

'Costs of premises' relate to the running costs of the church buildings and also to the rental of premises at Ascot Racecourse used for Sunday morning services.

4b. Expenditure on charitable activities - restricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-23 £	Total Funds Mar-22 £
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	1,575	1,575	-
Benevolent Fund	-	1,080	1,080	100
Trinity Church Canada Support	-	1,100	1,100	1,253
T&D Breen Support	-	1,355	1,355	441
PR Retirement Gifts	-	2,890	2,890	-
Ukraine Appeal	-	762	762	-
Other restricted funds with exp <£100 (Mar-23)	-	35	35	-
	-	8,797	8,797	1,794

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

5. Fixed Assets

The company has the beneficial use of a church property and manse by virtue of a trust established in 1921. The title deeds to these freehold properties are held by the Baptist Union Corporation.

The church buildings are located at 175, New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX and had a buildings insurance valuation of £1,430,770 declared by Baptist Insurance effective from 1st April 2023.

The manse is located at 3, Whitelands Drive, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8LS and had a buildings sum insured of £400,000 by Ageas Insurance Limited effective from 1st April 2023.

6. Debtors

	Mar-23	Mar-22
	£	£
Gift Aid tax recoverable due	8,397	3,383
Prepayments	1,548	1,830
Other debtors and payments	-	-
	<u>9,945</u>	<u>5,213</u>

7. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Mar-23	Mar-22
	£	£
Income tax and NI due	2,512	1,217
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>2,512</u>	<u>1,217</u>

8. Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Mar-23	Total Funds Mar-22
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	61,263	7,195	68,458	81,465
Current liabilities	(2,512)	-	(2,512)	(1,217)
Fund Balances	<u>58,751</u>	<u>7,195</u>	<u>65,946</u>	<u>80,248</u>

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2023

9. Net movement in funds

	Opening Balance 31/03/22 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/23 £
Unrestricted general funds	70,773	229,737	241,759	-	58,751
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	890	975	1,575	-	290
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	3,538	1,487	1,080	-	3,945
Bible Reading Notes Fund	61	-	-	-	61
Commission Festival Fund	216	-	-	-	216
Community Work Fund	73	-	35	-	38
Trinity Church, Canada Support	2,031	-	1,100	-	931
T&D Breen Support	1,429	1,115	1,355	-	1,189
PR Retirement Gifts	200	2,940	2,890	-	250
Ukraine Appeal	762	-	762	-	-
	80,248	236,254	250,556	-	65,946

Net movement in funds - previous year

	Opening Balance 31/03/21 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/22 £
Unrestricted general funds	78,059	203,713	210,999	-	70,773
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	20	870	-	-	890
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	2,138	1,500	100	-	3,538
Bible Reading Notes Fund	61	-	-	-	61
Commission Festival Fund	216	-	-	-	216
Community Work Fund	73	-	-	-	73
Dave Betts Support	2,909	375	1,253	-	2,031
Tazmin Foster Support	465	1,405	441	-	1,429
PR Retirement Gifts	-	200	-	-	200
Ukraine Appeal	-	762	-	-	762
	84,216	208,825	212,793	-	80,248

- The Newday Youth Camp fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the ALC youth group to attend the 'Newday' annual Christian youth festival
- The Youth Events fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for Christian youth events that take place throughout the year.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2023**

- The Benevolent Fund is used for donations designated for the support of those in need. Where such needs arise and the amount available within the restricted fund is insufficient, these needs are covered from the church's general funds.
- The Bible Reading Notes Fund is used to provide people with explanatory notes about the Bible to promote greater understanding of the Christian faith and of the Bible's relevance to everyday living. This fund is to be closed as the notes are now available free of charge.
- The Commission Festival fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the Commission Festival at which Ascot Life Church joins with other churches from across the UK for Christian worship, teaching and fellowship. Additional event expenses are usually covered from general funds to cover the full costs of this event but no such expenses were incurred in either 2021 or 2022 due to the cancellation of the event arising from concerns about Coronavirus precautions.
- The Community Work fund was derived primarily from donations received from a monthly community lunch run by ALC until the pandemic lockdown in the spring of 2020. These donations often exceeded the costs of the food for the lunches so the excess funds are used towards the costs of other community activities provided by the church.
- The Trinity Church, Canada support fund (formerly Dave Betts Support fund) arises from donations from church members designated to support Trinity Church in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, led by Dave Betts as he works to rejuvenate what was a struggling church.
- The T&D Breen fund (formerly the Tazmin Foster Support fund) arises from donations from church members designated for Tazmin and Daniel Breen's support as they work with 'Youth With A Mission' based in Perth, Australia.

10. Trustees, staff and related parties remuneration and benefits

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charitable company or a related entity. No trustee expenses have been incurred.

The number of church employees was six at the start of the reporting year and five at the end of the year. Further details are given in the section about Organisation on pages 8-9. No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

One intern continued a one-year internship until summer 2022 when two new interns were taken on for a one-year internship.

The total remuneration received by the salaried church ministers who deal with the day-to-day management of the church's activities amounted to £66,146. One of the remunerated church ministers also has beneficial use of the house owned by the church as a manse for living accommodation.

There were no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

The aggregated total donations received from trustees and related parties (as defined in the Charities SoRP (FRS 102) Appendix 1) during 2022-23 amounted to £24,500.

11. Related Charities

The custodian trustee of the church buildings, including the church manse, is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (Charity number 249635), which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council.

The church is affiliated to Commission Apostolic Trust (Charity number 1150017) and is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (Charity number 1125912) and the Southern Counties Baptist Association (Charity number 1091066). The church is also a member of The Evangelical Alliance (Charity number 212325).

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2023**

12. Financial Commitments

The Charitable Company leases an office photocopier/printer for which a total of £2,112 (including VAT) was charged in the financial year 2022-23.

13. Independent Examination

The fee for independent examination of the church's accounts is expected to amount to £250.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140436

Accounts



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ending
31st MARCH 2022**

**Registered Charity Number
1140436**

**Registered Company Number
07411973**

**175 New Road
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 8PX**



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS

Mr P. Draper
Ms N. Gwati
Mrs S. Hale
Mr P. Newman
Ms E. Ward

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
1, Churchill Place
London
E14 5HP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Philip Mount
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Report of the Trustees/Directors for the year ending 31st March 2022

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' Report and Accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The trustees have prepared the financial statements to comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019).

Our purposes and activities

The purposes of the charity are:

- to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in the Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the work of the charity

for the public benefit in and around Ascot and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

Aims

The Church's main aim is to be 'a church that responds to and shares the love of God' following a New Testament pattern whilst engaging with our 21st Century culture, based on the values of Worship, Community, Transformation, Serving and Mission.

Ascot Life Church (ALC) has the general aim of contributing to the lives of people of all ages from Ascot and the surrounding areas by communicating the Christian faith to them in ways they can relate to and by involving as many people as possible in Christian worship and in the practical outworking of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome to participate in the life of the church and to benefit from being part of this faith community.

Activities

The Church's Sunday meetings have a contemporary feel reflecting the relevance of faith in Jesus Christ to modern living. These meetings normally involve a time of praise and worship followed by Bible-based teaching. However, since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in spring 2020, Ascot Life Church had suspended in-person Sunday meetings to comply with government advice but provided online live-streamed Sunday services making ALC accessible to people across the local area, but also across the UK and the world. However, with the success of the UK vaccination programme in reducing Covid-19 transmission, in-person Sunday meetings were recommenced in July 2021.

Online weekday morning prayer meetings using Zoom video conferencing software, which started during the first Coronavirus lockdown, have continued.

Prior to the pandemic, small groups called 'Life Groups' had usually met during the week and training courses were also normally provided with the aim of encouraging participants to develop a deeper relationship with Christ, to experience his life-transforming power and to share their faith with others. However, while in-person meetings were subject to government restrictions or were inappropriate due to the risks of Coronavirus transmission, Life Groups met online using video conferencing software such as Zoom, providing a valuable point of

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connection for people despite not being able to meet as groups in-person. As Covid restrictions were relaxed, in-person meetings were resumed.

Children's and youth activities also made use of online video conferencing while in-person gatherings were not feasible, enabling young people to maintain relationships and to be encouraged in their participation in the life of the church.

Prior to the pandemic, other activities would normally have taken place to serve the wider community and to express the love of Christ to them, including a monthly community lunch and an annual Family Fun Day. However, while uncertainty and caution prevailed concerning the wisdom of re-starting such gatherings, these activities were not resumed during the reporting year.

Ascot Life Church is a public benefit entity and the Trustees/Directors regard serving the surrounding community as an important aspect of the church's activity. In ensuring that this remains a significant feature of the life of the church they have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our volunteers

Most of the activities of the church are dependent on volunteers with the church's staff team playing a complementary facilitating and organising role. The church would not function without the contribution of volunteers and a significant proportion of the regular participants in the life of the church play some kind of voluntary role. An assessment of the numbers of people involved in volunteer roles during 2021-22 identified around 80 such contributors to the life of the church, around 45% of those who regularly participate in church life.

Achievements and Performance

As mentioned previously, the church was able to recommence in-person Sunday gatherings as a church congregation at the end of July 2021. The teaching programme of the church was delivered via online live-streaming during the first few months of the reporting year, transitioning to then being given in-person on Sunday mornings whilst still being live-streamed at home to those who are more vulnerable.

Throughout the year, several Bible-based teaching series were presented aimed at helping people of all backgrounds to understand the message of the Bible better enabling them to grow in their faith and in their relationship with God and one another.

In the spring of 2021, a series based on the first letter of the apostle John in the New Testament of the Bible was started with the aim of highlighting the marks of true Christian faith and giving Christians confident and joyful assurance about their faith. This series was entitled 'A New Way of Living', the first part of which was delivered by live-stream to people meeting in small groups in their homes while restrictions prevented the church from meeting together in-person as a congregation.

The church was then able to start to meet together as a congregation from the end of July 2021 with appropriate precautions implemented, such as use of face masks, good ventilation and spacing between chairs. After three weeks of meetings focused on gathering together again, the series in 1 John was concluded at the end of August 2021.

During the Autumn of 2021, a series of Sunday messages from the Old Testament of the Bible was brought to the church following the journey of the people of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. The focus of this series, entitled 'A People of Promise – Discovering the Church in the story of Moses', was to look at God's first gathered people with the aim of

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discerning what we can learn of God's calling and purpose for his gathered people in the church today. This covered such topics as God's promises, worship, prayer and God's leading for his people bringing special focus to the church at a time of re-gathering after the enforced isolation and restrictions of the Coronavirus lockdowns, enabling people to thrive and flourish in their faith and in their lives.

Over the Christmas season, a Family Service and Carol Service were held, celebrating God's gift to us in Jesus and helping people from both the church and the surrounding community to connect with this amazing story wherever they may be in their journey of faith.

The New Year 2022 began with a vision message aimed at encouraging the church after the challenges of the pandemic, focusing on how God is always doing something new. A picture of stormy and challenging times was shared where it's not possible to see what's happening very clearly. At such times, it's very helpful to focus on familiar things, which as Christians include such things as meeting together regularly both as a congregation and in small groups, praying together and learning from God's word, the Bible. As we do these things, setting spiritual rhythms for ourselves, God makes a way forward for us, bringing good out of the tough times and opening up new opportunities to experience his leading and power.

From January 2022 until Easter, a new teaching series called 'Behold Your King' was brought. This was based on the first half of the New Testament gospel of Mark with the aim of helping people to look to Jesus and to respond to his radical teachings, learning from Jesus' interactions with a range of different characters as he encountered them.

The opportunity for the church to provide the usual range of training courses was limited by Coronavirus restrictions throughout the year. However, an 'Alpha' course was provided online for those interested in investigating what the Christian faith is all about and was much appreciated by the participants.

As a continued investment in the life and growth of the church, the two graduates who had been taken on in the summer of 2020 for one-year internships were retained for another year as ministry trainees with significant benefit to the life and work of the church and to the participants themselves. A new intern was also taken on in October 2021 to assist with various areas of church life, particularly supporting the children's work.

A new part-time Operations Co-ordinator role was taken on by the church's Youth Worker in August 2021, complementing her part-time role with the church's young people. This combination of roles created a full time position, giving greater flexibility in serving the church's young people as well as enabling the operational aspects of church life to function more effectively.

The church staff team were all able to work in the rear hall at the church building as this had been reconfigured for social-distanced office working with Covid-secure measures allowing the staff team to work as a team at the church building. The interaction this provided brought considerable benefits to their creativity, their mental wellbeing and to the service they have been able to provide to everyone involved in church life.

The Elders and Trustees continually assessed the impact of Covid-19 on ALC's activities throughout the year, implementing relevant precautions in response to government guidance aimed at containing the spread of the virus. They also continued to assess how the church can best fulfil its charitable objectives as the world emerges from the pandemic and beyond.

The number of regular attenders of Sunday meetings prior to the Covid-19 lockdown had averaged around 200 adults and teenagers with an additional 50 children aged 12 and under. As the church started to gather again, numbers were initially reduced somewhat but by the

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end of the reporting year, indications were that the number of people involved in church life was returning to a similar level as before the pandemic.

The church remains committed to supporting Christian organisations and ministries both in the UK and overseas and provides grants to Commission Apostolic Trust, TEAR Fund, Wycliffe Bible Translators and Operation Mobilisation. Benevolent donations are also made by the church to support the welfare of people experiencing hardship due to financial need.

Financial Review

During the year ended 31st March 2022 the church received a total of unrestricted income from donations, Gift Aid and bank interest amounting to £203,713. Income tax recovered on unrestricted Gift Aid donations was £33,838.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £210,999.

Total restricted income was £5,112 including income tax recovered on restricted Gift Aid donations amounting to £753. £1,794 was expended from restricted funds.

Investment powers and policy

The Trustees/Directors aim to employ available funds towards the charitable aims of the church or towards enhancing the viability of the church's work for the future. In view of this policy and the relatively short time period between the receipt of funds and their expenditure, all funds are held in cash. Funds not immediately required are held on deposit. Due to the prevailing economic circumstances, deposit rates have been low so interest gained on such funds has been correspondingly reduced.

Funds

Funds are allocated to the activities of the church from donations and from Gift Aid tax refunds. 64% of unrestricted income was allocated to staff costs to enable the activities of the church to be implemented effectively, with a further 12% used to cover the running costs of the church buildings and rental of premises for Sunday morning meetings. 17% of unrestricted income was allocated to grants for the support of organisations and individuals within the UK and overseas that are directly involved in Christian work and whose objectives the Elders and Trustees consider to be compatible with the charitable aims of the church. The remaining unrestricted funds were allocated to the general operating costs of the church.

Restricted funds in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have specified the purpose for which the funds should be used are allocated accordingly.

Reserves policy and going concern

The level of activity of the church is dependent upon voluntary donations from church members and attenders together with tax reclaimed on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme. To adequately cover the month-by-month operating costs of the church, the Trustees/Directors consider that the amount of unrestricted funds that should be immediately available at all times as a reserve should equate to at least two months of Core Monthly Operating Costs (CMOC), which are defined as essential expenses such as those for salaries, utilities, essential property maintenance, office costs, essential travel and necessary professional services. This reserves level is calculated each year after approval of the annual budget and is stress-tested against the maximum liabilities of the church including such items as statutory staff redundancy payments and contractual obligations such as venue hire.

This level of reserves is considered adequate by the Trustees/Directors as it would be possible although not desirable to reduce the level of activity of the church and its corresponding outgoings in various ways should reserves fall to such a level. Should available funds fall below

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two months CMOC, fund-raising appeals and cost-reduction plans affecting non-core costs would be prepared and if necessary implemented to maintain reserves above the set threshold.

The Trustees/Directors continued to monitor the financial situation of the charity as the Covid-19 pandemic progressed. The church's general fund balance has been maintained at a good level throughout the pandemic to the point that the Trustees/Directors considered that it was important to invest more of the Church's funds in employing and developing staff to enable the work of the church to be enhanced. The budget for 2021-22 was therefore intentionally structured to enhance the staff team and to provide staff training with the expectation that expenditure would exceed income thereby reducing the general fund balance. At the end of the financial year 2021-22, the reduction in the general fund was actually less than had been budgeted so the Trustees/Directors have no immediate concerns regarding the financial viability of the church as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Restricted funds are allocated for amounts raised in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have designated their contributions for specific purposes. The restricted funds active during 2021-22 normally include funds for special events and community work but these activities did not go ahead due to government restrictions and continuing caution about re-starting such gatherings while the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic persisted. The majority of the church's restricted funds were used for the support of Christian mission.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, constituting a charitable company limited by guarantee, as defined in the Companies Act 2011.

Appointment of new trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee, providing that they also become a director of the Charitable Company and that they subscribe to the church's Statement of Beliefs.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees are provided with terms of reference defining their role and are briefed by the existing Trustees on the nature of their responsibilities. They are also encouraged to review the information on the role of trustees available on the Charity Commission website and are encouraged to attend relevant external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

Throughout the period covered by this report there were five Trustees comprising one church Elder and four church members who also serve as Company Directors. The Trustees/Directors take prime responsibility for ensuring that Ascot Life Church fulfils its charitable objects and legal responsibilities and meet at least three times a year.

Throughout the period covered by this report, the church had five Elders who are also the Company Members. They meet bi-weekly and have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the church and oversee the day-to-day running of the church. Under the oversight of the

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Elders, the responsibilities for running various church activities and ministries are further delegated to volunteer activity and group leaders.

The church had five employed members of staff at the start of the period covered by this report: two Elders/Ministers; a part-time Youth Worker who transitioned to a full-time combined Youth/Operations role in August 2021; a part-time Children's Worker and a part-time Creative Communications worker. In August 2021, the two interns were taken on part-time as Ministry Trainees and at the end of 2021 the Creative Communications worker left to pursue a role outside the church. There were therefore six employed members of staff in post at the end of the period covered by this report. In addition to this, a new intern started in September 2021 to support the staff team whilst receiving a small bursary to help with living expenses.

Financial matters are dealt with by a treasury team co-ordinated by the Treasurer who provides reports to the Directors/Trustees and to the Elders.

Salaries and other staff benefits are agreed by the Directors/Trustees who conduct an annual review of staff remuneration taking account of price and wage inflation and the responsibilities of each role. They also periodically review available information on remuneration and benefits for comparable roles.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship or similar connection between the charity and a trustee of the charity, its management personnel or a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current year no such related party contracts or transactions were reported.

Reference and Administrative Details

The charity is registered under the name 'Ascot Life Church'.

Registered Charity number: 1140436

Registered Company number: 07411973 (England and Wales)

Registered Office: Ascot Life Church, 175 New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX

Trustees/Directors: Mr P. Draper, Ms N. Gwati, Mrs S. Hale, Mr P. Newman, Ms E. Ward.

Property Trustee: Baptist Union Corporation Limited

Company members and key management personnel: Mr S. Argent, Mr P. Draper, Mr. R Perrins, Mr D. Rogers, Mr P. Rogers (until April '22).

Trustees'/Directors' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

The charity Trustees (who are also the Directors of Ascot Life Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

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- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SoRP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

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Statement as to disclosure to our Independent Examiner

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees/Directors' Annual Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the Independent Examiner in connection with preparing his report, of which the charitable company's Independent Examiner is unaware, and
- the Trustees/Directors, having made enquiries of fellow Directors and the church's Independent Examiner that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Independent Examiner

The Independent Examiner, Mr Philip Mount, will continue his appointment as per his letter of engagement.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

By order of the board of Trustees/Directors

Signature:



Trustee/Director Name: PHILIP DRAPER

Date: 27/11/2022

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Directors / Trustees of Ascot Life Church

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 14 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

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- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 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: 

Mr Philip Mount TD AFA MIPA *ACFE*
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

Dated: *2/12/22*

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Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ending 31st March 2022
(including summary income and expenditure account)

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	Notes	Unrestricted funds Mar-22 £	Restricted funds Mar-22 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-22 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-21 £
INCOME & EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3a	203,708	5,112	208,820	198,830
Investments	3b	5	-	5	30
Total Income		203,713	5,112	208,825	198,860
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4a&b	210,999	1,794	212,793	197,868
Total Expenditure		210,999	1,794	212,793	197,868
Net income/(expenditure)		(7,286)	3,318	(3,968)	992
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(7,286)	3,318	(3,968)	992
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		78,059	6,157	84,216	83,224
Total funds carried forward		70,773	9,475	80,248	84,216

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Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2022

	Notes	Total funds Mar-22 £	Total funds Mar-21 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	5,213	7,660
Cash at bank and in hand		76,252	78,218
Total Current Assets		81,465	85,878
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(1,217)	(1,662)
Net current assets or liabilities		80,248	84,216
Total assets less current liabilities		80,248	84,216
Total net assets or liabilities	8	80,248	84,216
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		9,475	6,157
Unrestricted funds		70,773	78,059
Total Charity Funds		80,248	84,216

For the period ending 31/03/2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors'/Trustees' responsibilities:

- the Members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act;
- the Directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts;

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees/Directors on:

..... 27th November 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Director's Name: Paul Newman Director's Name: PHILIP DRAPER

Signed: [Signature] Signed: [Signature]

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2022**

1) Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used in the preparation of the financial statements:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015, updated 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or accrued.

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

In view of the continued health of the church's general fund balance for 2021-22 despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trustees/Directors have no concerns at present regarding the financial viability of the charity and are satisfied that the reserves held by the charity are more than sufficient to ensure its financial health for the foreseeable future.

c) Income

Donations under Gift Aid and all other donations and income are recognised as income when they are received. The income tax recovery associated with Gift Aid donations is accrued to the same month in which the donations are received.

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

e) Receipt of donated services and facilities

The church benefits greatly from the involvement and support of its many volunteers and the Trustees' Annual Report provides information about their contribution. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of people involved with the church is not assessed in economic terms and is therefore not recognised in the accounts.

f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees/Directors have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are donations that the donor has specified to be solely used for specific purposes as part of the church's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the church.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is on charitable activities including the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

h) Grants

The church makes donations to individuals and to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. These donations are accounted for when paid over.

In accordance with the purposes of the charity to advance the Christian faith and to fulfil other charitable purposes connected with the work of the charity (see 'Our purposes and activities' in the report of the Trustees/Directors), the church made donations from its unrestricted funds as shown in the table below during the reporting year:-

Donations in support of Christian mission work:-	
• Commission Apostolic Trust	£ 12,000
• Wycliffe Bible Translators	£ 2,400
• Operation Mobilisation	£ 2,400
• T Foster – Youth With A Mission	£ 3,000
• D Betts – Trinity Church, Red Deer, Canada	£ 12,000
• Other small donations	£ 542
Subtotal	£ 32,342
Donations to worldwide relief and development:-	
• TEAR Fund	£ 1,800
TOTAL	£ 34,142

i) Operating leases

The charity classifies the lease of printing and photocopying equipment as an operating lease. The title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every few years whenever technology advancements make such replacement economically advantageous. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the expected settlement amounts due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

k) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their expected settlement amount.

l) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2022**

m) Pensions

Prior to the introduction of pension auto enrolment, employees of the church were encouraged to make contributions to a personal pension scheme with the church making corresponding employer contributions to the scheme in accordance with the terms of the agreed contracts of employment.

Following the introduction of pension auto enrolment, the church set up an account with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), the workplace pension scheme set up by the government especially for auto enrolment. New employees are automatically enrolled into the NEST pension scheme at a basic level but have the flexibility to make contributions at a level that suits their circumstances, or to opt out if they wish to do so. The church makes corresponding employer contributions in accordance with the terms agreed in the relevant contracts of employment.

The employer contributions made by the charity to the above schemes in 2021-22 and treated as an expense amounted to £7,827. The aggregated amount paid to key management personnel in 2021-22 amounted to £5,456.

Pension premiums for the charitable company's employees are paid from unrestricted funds and are accounted for in the same month as the employees' related remuneration.

2) Legal status of the charity

The church is a charitable company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per Member of the charity.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

3. Income

3a. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-22 £	Total Funds Mar-21 £
Unrestricted funds:-				
Donations under Gift Aid	131,810	-	131,810	124,916
Gift Aid tax recovered	33,838	-	33,838	32,236
Donations – General	38,060	-	38,060	35,308
	203,708	-	203,708	192,460
Restricted funds:-				
Benevolent Fund	-	1,500	1,500	2,438
Tazmin Foster Support	-	1,405	1,405	2,903
Newday Youth Camp Fund	-	870	870	-
Ukraine Appeal	-	762	762	-
Other Restricted Funds (Mar-22)	-	575	575	1,029
	203,708	5,112	208,820	198,830
3b. Investment income				
Bank interest	5	-	5	30
	5	-	5	30
Total Income	203,713	5,112	208,825	198,860

All of the church's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. The rates of interest on these accounts were low due to the economic circumstance prevailing at the time.

Gift Aid tax recovered on restricted donations amounted to £753 and is included in the restricted fund totals in the above table.

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

No income from legacies was received in 2021-22.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

4. Expenditure

4a. Expenditure on charitable activities - unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-22 £	Total Funds Mar-21 £
Staff salaries and wages	109,538	-	109,538	92,349
Employer's NI	3,527	-	3,527	2,200
Employer pension contributions	7,827	-	7,827	6,692
Church house costs	3,543	-	3,543	3,193
Grants	34,142	-	34,142	53,928
Costs of premises	24,296	-	24,296	7,616
Church equipment and resources	6,500	-	6,500	10,193
Administration and IT costs	5,735	-	5,735	2,956
Staff resources and travel	2,035	-	2,035	335
Training and Conferences	8,050	-	8,050	5,891
Students, Youth and Children's work	3,863	-	3,863	1,290
Outreach and Community work	1,530	-	1,530	587
Guest speakers	400	-	400	-
Professional fees	13	-	13	263
	210,999	-	210,999	187,493

'Church house costs' relate to the house beneficially owned by the church as a manse for a minister's living accommodation and include costs such as property insurance, council tax and maintenance.

'Costs of premises' relate to the running costs of the church buildings and also to the rental of premises at Ascot Racecourse used for Sunday morning services.

4b. Expenditure on charitable activities - restricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-22 £	Total Funds Mar-21 £
Benevolent Fund	-	100	100	600
Dave Betts Support	-	1,253	1,253	4,216
Tazmin Foster Support	-	441	441	5,349
Other restricted funds with exp <£100 (Mar-22)	-	-	-	210
	-	1,794	1,794	10,375

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

5. Fixed Assets

The company has the beneficial use of a church property and manse by virtue of a trust established in 1921. The title deeds to these freehold properties are held by the Baptist Union Corporation.

The church premises are located at 175, New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX and had a buildings insurance valuation of £1,171,763 declared by Baptist Insurance effective from 1st April 2021.

The manse is located at 3, Whitelands Drive, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8LS and had a buildings insurance valuation of £411,925 declared by Ageas Insurance Limited effective from 1st April 2022.

6. Debtors

	Mar-22	Mar-21
	£	£
Gift Aid tax recoverable due	3,383	4,152
Prepayments	1,830	3,508
Other debtors and payments	-	-
	<u>5,213</u>	<u>7,660</u>

7. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Mar-22	Mar-21
	£	£
Income tax and NI due	1,217	1,662
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>1,217</u>	<u>1,662</u>

8. Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Mar-22	Total Funds Mar-21
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	71,990	9,475	81,465	85,878
Current liabilities	(1,217)	-	(1,217)	(1,662)
Fund Balances	<u>70,773</u>	<u>9,475</u>	<u>80,248</u>	<u>84,216</u>

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2022

9. Net movement in funds

	Opening Balance 31/03/21 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/22 £
Unrestricted general funds	78,059	203,713	210,999	-	70,773
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	20	870	-	-	890
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	2,138	1,500	100	-	3,538
Bible Reading Notes Fund	61	-	-	-	61
Commission Festival Fund	216	-	-	-	216
Community Work Fund	73	-	-	-	73
Dave Betts Support	2,909	375	1,253	-	2,031
Tazmin Foster Support	465	1,405	441	-	1,429
PR Retirement Gifts	-	200	-	-	200
Ukraine Appeal	-	762	-	-	762
	84,216	208,825	212,793	-	80,248

Net movement in funds - previous year

	Opening Balance 31/03/20 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/21 £
Unrestricted general funds	73,062	192,490	187,493	-	78,059
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	80	-	60	-	20
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	300	2,438	600	-	2,138
Bible Reading Notes Fund	57	154	150	-	61
Commission Festival Fund	216	-	-	-	216
Community Work Fund	73	-	-	-	73
Dave Betts Support	6,250	875	4,216	-	2,909
Tazmin Foster Support	2,911	2,903	5,349	-	465
	83,224	198,860	197,868	-	84,216

- The 'Newday' Youth Camp fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for an annual Christian youth camping event.
- The Youth Events fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for Christian youth events that take place throughout the year.
- The Benevolent Fund is used for donations designated for the support of those in need. Where such needs arise and the amount available within the restricted fund is insufficient, these needs are covered from the church's general funds.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2022**

- The Bible Reading Notes Fund is used to provide people with explanatory notes about the Bible to promote greater understanding of the Christian faith and of the Bible's relevance to everyday living.
- The Commission Festival fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the annual summer Commission Festival at which Ascot Life Church joins with other churches from across the UK for Christian worship, teaching and fellowship. Additional event expenses are usually covered from general funds to cover the full costs of this event but no such expenses were incurred in either 2020 or 2021 due to the cancellation of the event arising from concerns about Coronavirus precautions.
- The Community Work fund has arisen primarily from donations received from the monthly community lunch run by the church until the pandemic lockdown in the spring of 2020. These donations have often exceeded the costs of the food provided for the lunch so the excess funds have been put towards the costs of other community activities provided by the church, in particular the annual Family Fun Day. However, none of these community activities took place during 2021-22 due to concerns about Coronavirus precautions.
- The Dave Betts Support fund arises from donations from church members designated to support Dave's ministry as he works to rejuvenate a struggling church in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.
- The Tazmin Foster Support fund arises from donations from church members designated for Tazmin's support as she works with 'Youth With A Mission' based in Perth, Australia.

10. Trustees, staff and related parties remuneration and benefits

None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charitable company or a related entity. No trustee expenses have been incurred.

The number of church employees was five at the start of the reporting year and six at the end of the year. Further details are given in the section about Organisation on pages 8-9. No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

Two graduates continued a one-year internship until the end of July 2021 and a new graduate was taken on for a one-year internship from September 2021.

The total remuneration received by the salaried church ministers who deal with the day-to-day management of the church's activities amounted to £59,883. One of the remunerated church ministers also has beneficial use of the house owned by the church as a manse for living accommodation.

There were no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

The aggregated total donations received from trustees and related parties (as defined in the Charities SoRP (FRS 102) Appendix 1) during 2021-22 amounted to £28,410.

11. Related Charities

The custodian trustee of the church buildings, including the church manse, is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (Charity number 249635), which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council.

The church is affiliated to Commission Apostolic Trust (Charity number 1150017) and is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (Charity number 1125912) and the Southern Counties Baptist Association (Charity number 1091066). The church is also a member of The Evangelical Alliance (Charity number 212325).

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2022**

12. Financial Commitments

The Charitable Company leases an office photocopier/printer for which a total of £1,690 (including VAT) was charged in the financial year 2021-22.

13. Independent Examination

The fee for independent examination of the church's accounts will amount to £250.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1140436

Accounts



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

**TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ending
31st MARCH 2021**

**Registered Charity Number
1140436**

**Registered Company Number
07411973**

**175 New Road
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 8PX**



ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

TRUSTEES'/DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS

Mr P. Draper
Ms N. Gwati
Mrs S. Hale
Mr P. Newman
Ms E. Ward

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
19, High Street
Ascot
Berkshire
SL5 7JG

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Philip Mount
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Report of the Trustees/Directors for the year ending 31st March 2021

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31st March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' Report and Accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The trustees have prepared the financial statements to comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Our purposes and activities

The purposes of the charity are:

- to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs in the Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- to fulfil such other purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales and are connected with the work of the charity

for the public benefit in and around Ascot and in such other parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the trustees may from time to time think fit.

Aims

The Church's main aim is to establish 'a 21st Century New Testament church that responds to and shares the love of God', built on the values of Worship, Community, Transformation, Service and Mission.

Ascot Life Church (ALC) has the general aim of contributing to the lives of people of all ages from Ascot and the surrounding areas by communicating the Christian faith to them in ways they can relate to and by involving as many people as possible in Christian worship and in the practical outworking of the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome to participate in the life of the church and to benefit from being part of this faith community.

Activities

The church's Sunday meetings have a contemporary feel reflecting the relevance of faith in Jesus Christ to modern living. They normally involve a time of praise and worship followed by Bible-based teaching.

At the end of March 2020, the Coronavirus lockdown began as the government introduced restrictions to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. In line with government advice, ALC suspended all in-person gatherings and began online live-streamed Sunday services and mid-week talks. Online prayer meetings were also started using video conferencing software. These online activities have since been developed further and have served the church well during the pandemic whilst also making Ascot Life Church accessible to people across the nation and the world.

During the week, small groups called 'Life Groups' would usually meet and training courses would also normally be provided with the aim of encouraging participants to develop a deeper relationship with Christ, to experience his life-transforming power and to share their faith with others. However, as in-person meetings were not possible for most of the year due to lockdown restrictions, Life Groups met online by means of video conferencing software

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

such as Zoom. This provided a valuable point of connection for people despite not being able to meet in-person for most of the year.

Children's and youth activities also made use of online video conferencing throughout the pandemic to enable young people to maintain relationships and to be encouraged in their participation in the life of the church.

Other activities would normally have taken place to serve the wider community and to express the love of Christ to them, including a monthly community lunch, a youth club and an annual Family Fun Day. However, the lockdowns and other Coronavirus restrictions imposed by the government prevented any of these activities taking place during the reporting year.

Ascot Life Church is a public benefit entity and the trustees/directors regard serving the surrounding community as an important aspect of the church's activity. In ensuring that this remains a significant feature of the life of the church they have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

Our volunteers

Most of the activities of the church are dependent on volunteers with the church's staff team playing a complementary facilitating and organising role. The church would not function without the contribution of volunteers and a significant proportion of the regular participants in the life of the church normally play some kind of voluntary role. However, during the reporting year the Coronavirus restrictions significantly reduced the opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the life of the church. Despite this, an assessment of the numbers of people involved in volunteer roles during 2020-21 identified around 40 people involved in such activities, around 16% of those known to be involved in church life.

Achievements and Performance

The church was unable to meet in-person during 2020-21, aside from some smaller gatherings in homes when government restrictions permitted. However, the teaching programme of the church continued through online live-streaming, which was well received by participants in the life of the church and also reached many others both across the UK and overseas.

The focal point of the Sunday morning live-streamed services were several Bible-based teaching series aimed at helping people of all backgrounds to understand the message of the Bible better and to grow in their faith and in their relationship with God and one-another.

In the spring of 2020, straight after the lockdown started, a Sunday morning teaching series entitled 'Do not let your hearts be troubled' looked at the long conversation Jesus had with his disciples at the Last Supper, as recorded in the gospel of John. The aim of this series was to help everyone to live with courage derived from their faith in God during times of uncertainty.

This was followed throughout the summer of 2020 with the final part of a multi-part series based on the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans in the New Testament. Titled 'All Things New', this series looked at how the gospel changes everything for Christians enabling us to respond to our circumstances through faith and radical Christian living.

During the autumn term, the church's teaching programme continued with a series called 'A Different Kind of Community' looking at the life of the early church as recorded in the book of Acts. This brought out the New Testament basis for ALC's vision and values as a church, covering such themes as mission, community, God's power, generosity, diversity, prayer and worship.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Leading up to the end of 2020, a short series entitled 'Hope is NowHere', based on the book of Ruth in the Old Testament, focused on how God brings hope out of hopelessness when we trust in his loving-kindness, faithfulness and provision.

At the beginning of 2021, a series of messages called 'Be Still and Know...' looked at key attributes of God's character and considered what the Bible says about 'the fear of the Lord'. This brought out how a rightful fear and respect of God as our loving heavenly father enables us to really know and trust him, particularly through uncertain times such as the pandemic.

Sunday evening talks entitled 'ALC Connect' were also streamed over the internet between April and June 2020 to provide the church with a point of connection while people were at home during the unusual circumstances of the Coronavirus lockdown.

A mid-week series entitled 'Thursday Thoughts' was also streamed, exploring tough questions people may have been asking about God and Christianity during the challenges of the pandemic.

At the start of the pandemic, online prayer meetings were started each weekday morning and one evening of the week using Zoom video conferencing software. These were very well received and provided the church with a valuable opportunity to both maintain contact and to pray with one-another. In view of the value and accessibility of such online prayer meetings they are being continued into the future.

The opportunity to provide the usual range of training courses was limited by Coronavirus restrictions throughout the year. However, an 'Alpha' course was provided online via Zoom for those interested in investigating what the Christian faith is all about and was much appreciated by the participants.

As a continued investment in the life and growth of the church, two graduates were taken on in the summer of 2020 for one-year internships with significant benefit to the life and work of the church and to the interns themselves. One of the previous year's interns with particular skills in online media was also employed on a part-time basis to assist the church in creative online communications throughout the pandemic.

The church staff team were all able to work from home from the start of the lockdown, making good use of video conferencing software and other means of online and telephone communication to maintain the activities of the church as far as possible within the constraints of government guidance and restrictions. As the main hall at the church building had not been used for public meetings since the start of the lockdown, this was reconfigured in August 2020 for social-distanced office working and Covid-secure measures were introduced to allow the staff team to resume work in-person at the church building. This brought considerable benefits to their creativity, their mental wellbeing and to the service they have been able to provide through online systems to everyone involved in church life.

The elders and trustees have been assessing the impact of Covid-19 on ALC's activities continually and have implemented relevant precautions to respond to government guidance aimed at containing the spread of the virus. They are also continuing to assess how the church can best fulfil its charitable objectives throughout the pandemic and beyond.

It was difficult to assess the number of people involved in church life during 2020-21 while the church was unable to hold public meetings in-person. The number of regular attenders of Sunday meetings prior to the Covid-19 lockdown had averaged around 200 adults and teenagers with an additional 50 children aged 12 and under. However, indications are that people's involvement has been maintained as well as can be expected using the online

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

methods utilised. One person demonstrated their commitment to following Christ during the year by being baptised in a pool at home and a video of this was included in one of the Sunday morning online services.

The church remains committed to supporting Christian organisations and ministries both in the UK and overseas and provides grants to Commission Apostolic Trust, TEAR Fund, Wycliffe Bible Translators and Operation Mobilisation. Benevolent donations are also made by the church to support the welfare of individual people experiencing hardship arising from financial need.

Financial Review

During the year ended 31st March 2021 the church had a total unrestricted income from donations, Gift Aid and bank interest amounting to £192,490. Income tax recovered on unrestricted Gift Aid donations was £32,236.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £187,493.

Total restricted income was £6,370 including income tax recovered on restricted Gift Aid donations amounting to £935. £10,375 was expended from restricted funds.

Investment powers and policy

The trustees/directors aim to employ available funds towards the charitable aims of the church or towards enhancing the viability of the church's work for the future. In view of this policy and the relatively short time period between the receipt of funds and their expenditure, all funds are held in cash. Funds not immediately required are held on deposit. Due to the prevailing economic circumstances, deposit rates have been low so interest gained on such funds has been correspondingly reduced.

Funds

Funds are allocated to the activities of the church from donations and from Gift Aid tax refunds. 56% of unrestricted income was allocated to staff costs to enable the activities of the church to be implemented effectively, with a further 4% used to cover the running costs of the church buildings. No costs were incurred for rental of premises for Sunday morning meetings as no in-person meetings were held due to the pandemic. 28% of unrestricted income was allocated to grants for the support of organisations and individuals within the UK and overseas that are directly involved in Christian work and whose objectives the elders and trustees consider to be compatible with the charitable aims of the church. The remaining unrestricted funds were allocated to the general operating costs of the church.

Restricted funds in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have specified the purpose for which the funds should be used are allocated accordingly.

Reserves policy and going concern

The level of activity of the church is dependent upon voluntary donations from church members and attenders together with tax reclaimed on donations made under the Gift Aid scheme. To adequately cover the month-by-month operating costs of the church, the trustees/directors consider that the amount of unrestricted funds that should be immediately available at all times as a reserve should equate to at least two months of core monthly operating costs (CMOC), which are defined as essential expenses such as those for salaries, utilities, essential property maintenance, office costs, essential travel and necessary professional services. This reserves level is calculated each year after approval of the annual

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budget and is stress-tested against the maximum liabilities of the church including such items as statutory staff redundancy payments and contractual obligations such as venue hire.

This level of reserves is considered adequate by the trustees/directors as it would be possible, although not desirable, to reduce the level of activity of the church and its corresponding outgoings in various ways should reserves fall to such a level. Should available funds fall below two months CMOC, fund-raising appeals and cost-reduction plans affecting non-core costs would be prepared and if necessary implemented to maintain reserves above the set threshold.

The trustees/directors have continued to monitor the financial situation of the charity as the Covid-19 pandemic has progressed. Although income has reduced slightly since the start of the pandemic, the expenses incurred by the church have also reduced as a result of having to suspend in-person gatherings. The net result has been that the church's general fund balance has not been adversely affected since the start of the pandemic. In view of the operating surplus of the church's unrestricted funds for 2021-21 and the relatively small change in the balance of income versus expenses since then, the trustees/directors have no immediate concerns regarding the financial viability of the church as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Restricted funds are allocated for amounts raised in response to appeals to meet specific needs or where donors have designated their contributions for specific purposes. The restricted funds active during 2021-21 normally include funds for special events and community work but these activities did not go ahead due to the pandemic. The majority of the church's restricted funds were used for the support of Christian mission.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, constituting a charitable company limited by guarantee, as defined in the Companies Act 2011.

Appointment of new trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association, the charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee, providing that they also become a director of the charitable company and that they subscribe to the church's Statement of Beliefs.

Trustee induction and training

New trustees are provided with terms of reference defining their role and are briefed by the existing trustees on the nature of their responsibilities. They are also encouraged to review the information on the role of trustees available on the Charity Commission website and are encouraged to attend relevant external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

Throughout the period covered by this report there were five trustees comprising one church elder and four church members who also serve as company directors. The trustees/directors take prime responsibility for ensuring that Ascot Life Church fulfils its charitable objects and legal responsibilities and meet at least three times a year.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Throughout the period covered by this report, the church had five elders who are also the company members. They meet bi-weekly and have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the church and oversee the day-to-day running of the church. Under the oversight of the elders, the responsibilities for running various church activities and ministries are further delegated to volunteer activity and group leaders.

The church had three employed members of staff at the start of the period covered by this report (two elders/ministers and a part-time youth worker). A part-time children's worker was appointed in May 2020 and one of the interns was taken on part-time to look after creative online communications throughout the pandemic. There were therefore five employed members of staff in post at the end of the period covered by this report. In addition to this, two interns supported the staff team whilst receiving a small bursary to help them with their living expenses.

Financial matters are dealt with by a treasury team co-ordinated by a Treasurer who provides reports to the directors/trustees and to the elders. A new Treasurer took on this responsibility at the start of 2021.

Salaries and other staff benefits are agreed by the directors/trustees who conduct an annual review of staff remuneration taking account of price and wage inflation and the responsibilities of each role. They also periodically review available information on remuneration and benefits for comparable roles.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any contractual relationship or similar connection between the charity and a trustee of the charity, its management personnel or a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current year no such related party contracts or transactions were reported.

Reference and Administrative Details

The charity is registered under the name 'Ascot Life Church'.

Registered Charity number: 1140436

Registered Company number: 07411973 (England and Wales)

Registered Office: Ascot Life Church, 175 New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX

Trustees/Directors: Mr P. Draper, Ms N. Gwati, Mrs S. Hale, Mr P. Newman, Ms E. Ward.

Property Trustee: Baptist Union Corporation Limited

Company members and key management personnel: Mr S. Argent, Mr P. Draper, Mr. R. Perrins, Mr D. Rogers, Mr P. Rogers.

Trustees'/Directors' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of Ascot Life Church for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

the charitable company for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SoRP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Statement as to disclosure to our Independent Examiner

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees/Directors' Annual Report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing his report, of which the charitable company's independent examiner is unaware, and
- the trustees/directors, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the church's independent examiner that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

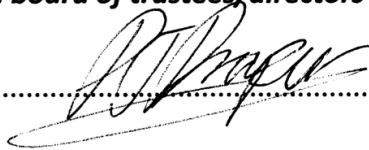
Independent Examiner

The independent examiner, Mr Philip Mount, will continue his appointment as per his letter of engagement.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

By order of the board of trustees/directors

Signature:



Trustee/Director Name: PHILIP J. DRAPER

Date: 19th October 2021

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Independent Examiner's Report to the Directors / Trustees of Ascot Life Church

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 14 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 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: 

Mr Philip Mount TD AFA MIPA
54, Dedworth Road
Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 5AY

Dated: 25/11/21

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ending 31st March 2021
(including summary income and expenditure account)

Summary of Income and Expenditure

	Notes	Unrestricted funds Mar-21 £	Restricted funds Mar-21 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-21 £	Total funds Year ending Mar-20 £
INCOME & EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3a	192,460	6,370	198,830	214,580
Investments	3b	30	-	30	56
Total Income		192,490	6,370	198,860	214,636
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4a&b	187,493	10,375	197,868	189,668
Total Expenditure		187,493	10,375	197,868	189,668
Net income/(expenditure)		4,997	(4,005)	992	24,968
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		4,997	(4,005)	992	24,968
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		73,062	10,162	83,224	58,256
Total funds carried forward		78,059	6,157	84,216	83,224

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2021

	Notes	Total funds Mar-21 £	Total funds Mar-20 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	7,660	6,669
Cash at bank and in hand		78,218	78,446
Total Current Assets		85,878	85,115
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	(1,662)	(1,891)
Net current assets or liabilities		84,216	83,224
Total assets less current liabilities		84,216	83,224
Total net assets or liabilities	8	84,216	83,224
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		6,157	10,162
Unrestricted funds		78,059	73,062
Total Charity Funds		84,216	83,224

For the period ending 31/03/2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors'/Trustees' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act;
- the Directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts;

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees/Directors on:

.....19th October.....2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Director's Name: PHILIP DRAPER Director's Name: SHEILA HALE

Signed:  Signed: 

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2021**

1) Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used in the preparation of the financial statements:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or accrued.

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

In view of the operating surplus of the charity's unrestricted funds for 2020-21 and the continued health of the church's general fund balance despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the trustees/directors have no concerns at present regarding the financial viability of the charity and are satisfied that the reserves held by the charity are more than sufficient to ensure its financial health for the foreseeable future.

c) Income

Donations under Gift Aid and all other donations are recognised as income when they are received. The income tax recovery associated with Gift Aid donations is accrued to the same month in which the donations are received.

d) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

e) Receipt of donated services and facilities

The church benefits greatly from the involvement and support of its many volunteers and the Trustees' Annual Report provides information about their contribution. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of people involved with the church is not assessed in economic terms and is therefore not recognised in the accounts.

f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are donations that the donor has specified to be solely used for specific purposes as part of the church's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the church.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

g) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is on charitable activities including the costs of activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

h) Grants

The church makes donations to individuals and to other organisations whose charitable objects complement its work. These donations are accounted for when paid over.

In accordance with the purposes of the charity to advance the Christian faith and to fulfil other charitable purposes connected with the work of the charity (see 'Our purposes and activities' in the report of the Trustees/Directors), the church made donations from its unrestricted funds as shown in the table below during the reporting year:-

Donations in support of Christian mission work:-	
• Commission Apostolic Trust	£ 21,900
• Wycliffe Bible Translators	£ 4,365
• Operation Mobilisation	£ 5,355
• T Foster – Youth With A Mission	£ 3,000
• D Betts – Trinity Church, Red Deer, Canada	<u>£ 12,000</u>
Total	£ 46,620
Donations to worldwide relief and development:-	
• TEAR Fund	£ 6,770
TOTAL	£ 53,390

i) Operating leases

The charity classifies the lease of printing and photocopying equipment as operating leases. The title to the equipment remains with the lessor and the equipment is replaced every few years whenever technology advancements make such replacement economically advantageous. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the expected settlement amounts due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

k) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their expected settlement amount.

l) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2021**

m) Pensions

Prior to the introduction of pension auto enrolment, employees of the church were encouraged to make contributions to a personal pension scheme, with the church making corresponding employer contributions to the scheme in accordance with the terms of the agreed contracts of employment.

Following the introduction of pension auto enrolment, the church set up an account with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST), the workplace pension scheme set up by the government especially for auto enrolment. New employees are automatically enrolled into the NEST pension scheme at a basic level but have the flexibility to make contributions at a level that suits their circumstances or to opt out if they wish to do so. The church makes corresponding employer contributions in accordance with the terms agreed in the relevant contracts of employment.

The employer contributions made by the charity to the above schemes in 2020-21 and treated as an expense amounted to £6,692. The aggregated amount paid to key management personnel in 2020-21 amounted to £4,704.

Pension premiums for the charitable company's employees are paid from unrestricted funds and are accounted for in the same month as the employees' related remuneration.

2) Legal status of the charity

The church is a charitable company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

3. Income

3a. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-21 £	Total Funds Mar-20 £
Unrestricted funds:-				
Donations under Gift Aid	124,916	-	124,916	136,564
Gift Aid tax recovered	32,236	-	32,236	35,791
Donations – General	35,308	-	35,308	26,645
	<u>192,460</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>192,460</u>	<u>199,000</u>
Restricted funds:-				
Dave Betts Support	-	875	875	6,250
Tazmin Foster Support	-	2,903	2,903	4,029
Community Work Fund	-	-	-	2,184
Connect Festival Event Fund	-	-	-	1,801
Benevolent Fund	-	2,438	2,438	550
Other Restricted Funds (Mar-21)	-	154	154	766
	<u>192,460</u>	<u>6,370</u>	<u>198,830</u>	<u>214,580</u>
3b. Investment income				
Bank interest	30	-	30	56
	<u>30</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>56</u>
Total Income	<u>192,490</u>	<u>6,370</u>	<u>198,860</u>	<u>214,636</u>

All of the church's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. The rates of interest on these accounts are currently low due to prevailing economic circumstances.

Gift Aid tax recovered on restricted donations amounted to £935.

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

No income from legacies was received in 2020-21.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

4. Expenditure

4a. Expenditure on charitable activities - unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-21 £	Total Funds Mar-20 £
Staff salaries and wages	92,349	-	92,349	97,617
Employer's NI	2,200	-	2,200	4,539
Employer pension contributions	6,692	-	6,692	5,495
Church house costs	3,193	-	3,193	3,846
Grants	53,928	-	53,928	16,629
Costs of premises	7,616	-	7,616	26,962
Church equipment and resources	10,193	-	10,193	9,396
Administration and IT costs	2,956	-	2,956	4,830
Staff resources and travel	335	-	335	3,985
Training and Conferences	5,891	-	5,891	3,768
Students, Youth and Children's work	1,290	-	1,290	3,058
Outreach and Community work	587	-	587	3,033
Guest speakers	-	-	-	300
Professional fees	263	-	263	263
	187,493	-	187,493	183,721

'Church house costs' relate to the house beneficially owned by the church as a manse for a minister's living accommodation and include costs such as property insurance, council tax and maintenance.

'Costs of premises' relate to the running costs of the church buildings and also to the rental of premises at Ascot Racecourse usually used for Sunday morning meetings, although no such rental costs were incurred in 2020-21 due to the pandemic.

4b. Expenditure on charitable activities - restricted funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Mar-21 £	Total Funds Mar-20 £
Benevolent Fund	-	600	600	250
Dave Betts Support	-	4,216	4,216	-
Tazmin Foster Support	-	5,349	5,349	1,118
Other restricted funds with exp <£500 (Mar-21)	-	210	210	4,579
	-	10,375	10,375	5,947

Further details on the various restricted funds can be seen under note 9.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

5. Fixed Assets

The company has the beneficial use of a church property and manse by virtue of a trust established in 1921. The title deeds to these freehold properties are held by the Baptist Union Corporation.

The church premises are located at 175, New Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8PX and had a buildings insurance valuation of £1,170,630 declared by Baptist Insurance effective from 1st April 2020.

The manse is located at 3, Whitelands Drive, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8LS and had a buildings insurance valuation of £305,000 declared by Ageas Insurance Limited effective from 1st April 2020.

6. Debtors

	Mar-21	Mar-20
	£	£
Gift Aid tax recoverable due	4,152	5,735
Prepayments	3,508	934
Other debtors and payments	-	-
	<u>7,660</u>	<u>6,669</u>

7. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Mar-21	Mar-20
	£	£
Income tax and NI due	1,662	1,891
Other creditors	-	-
	<u>1,662</u>	<u>1,891</u>

8. Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Mar-21	Total Funds Mar-20
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Current assets	79,721	6,157	85,878	85,115
Current liabilities	(1,662)	-	(1,662)	(1,891)
Fund Balances	<u>78,059</u>	<u>6,157</u>	<u>84,216</u>	<u>83,224</u>

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31st March 2021

9. Net movement in funds

	Opening Balance 31/03/20 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/21 £
Unrestricted general funds	73,062	192,490	187,493	-	78,059
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	80	-	60	-	20
Youth Events	275	-	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	300	2,438	600	-	2,138
Bible Reading Notes Fund	57	154	150	-	61
Connect Festival Event Fund	216	-	-	-	216
Community Work Fund	73	-	-	-	73
Dave Betts Support	6,250	875	4,216	-	2,909
Tazmin Foster Support	2,911	2,903	5,349	-	465
	83,224	198,860	197,868	-	84,216

Net movement in funds - previous year

	Opening Balance 31/03/19 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/03/20 £
Unrestricted general funds	57,727	199,056	183,721	-	73,062
Restricted funds:-					
Newday Youth Camp Fund	50	360	330	-	80
Youth Events	75	200	-	-	275
Benevolent Fund	-	550	250	-	300
Bible Reading Notes Fund	62	206	211	-	57
Westpoint Event Fund	-	1,801	1,585	-	216
Community Work Fund	342	2,184	2,453	-	73
Dave Betts Support	-	6,250	-	-	6,250
Tazmin Foster Support	-	4,029	1,118	-	2,911
	58,256	214,636	189,668	-	83,224

- The 'Newday' Youth Camp fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for an annual Christian youth camping event, although this was cancelled for 2020.
- The Youth Events fund is used for incoming and outgoing funds for Christian youth events that take place throughout the year.
- The Benevolent Fund is used for donations designated for the support of those in need. Where such needs arise and the amount available within the restricted fund is insufficient, these needs are covered from the church's general funds.

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2021**

- The Bible Reading Notes Fund is used to provide people with explanatory notes about the Bible to promote greater understanding of the Christian faith and of the Bible's relevance to everyday living.
- The 'Connect' Festival Event fund (formerly 'Westpoint' Event Fund) is used for incoming and outgoing funds for the annual 'Connect' festival at which Ascot Life Church joins with other churches from across the UK for Christian worship, teaching and fellowship. Additional event expenses are usually covered from general funds to cover the full costs of this event but no such expenses were incurred in 2020-21 due to the cancellation of the event.
- The Community Work fund arises primarily from donations received from the monthly community lunch run by the church, which often exceed the costs of the food provided for the lunch. Any funds thus accumulated are then put towards the costs of other community activities provided by the church, in particular the annual Family Fun Day. However, none of these community activities took place during 2020-21 due to the Coronavirus restrictions imposed by the UK government
- The Dave Betts Support fund arises from donations from church members designated to support Dave's ministry as he works to rejuvenate a struggling church in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.
- The Tazmin Foster Support fund arises from donations from church members designated for Tazmin's support as she works with 'Youth With A Mission' based in Perth, Australia.

10. Trustees, staff and related parties remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the charitable company or a related entity. No trustee expenses have been incurred.

The number of church employees was three at the start of the reporting year; two church ministers and one part-time Youth Worker. At the end of the reporting year, five people were employed by the church; two church ministers, one part-time Youth Worker, one part-time Children's Worker and one-part-time Creative Communications Designer. No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000 during the year.

Two graduates continued a one-year internship until the end of July 2020 when two new graduates were taken on for one-year internships from August 2020.

The total remuneration received by the salaried church ministers who deal with the day-to-day management of the church's activities amounted to £57,438. One of the remunerated church ministers also has beneficial use of the house owned by the church as a manse for living accommodation.

There were no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

The aggregated total donations received from trustees and related parties (as defined in the Charities SoRP (FRS 102) Appendix 1) during 2020-21 amounted to £26,625.

11. Related Charities

The custodian trustee of the church buildings, including the church manse, is the Baptist Union Corporation Limited (Charity number 249635), which is controlled by the Baptist Union Council.

The church is affiliated to Commission Apostolic Trust (Charity number 1150017) and is also a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (Charity number 1125912) and the Southern Counties Baptist Association (Charity number 1091066). The church is also a member of The Evangelical Alliance (Charity number 212325).

ASCOT LIFE CHURCH

Notes to the Financial Statements **For the Year Ended 31st March 2021**

12. Financial Commitments

The charitable company leases an office photocopier/printer for which a total of £443 (including VAT) was charged in the financial year 2020-21.

13. Independent Examination

The fee for independent examination of the church's accounts amounted to £250.