

THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB FREE CHURCH
(Registered Charity Number 1141258)
Annual report & accounts
For the period from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Elders, acting as Trustees, are pleased to present their annual Trustees Report together with the financial statements of the Church for the year ending 31st December 2023. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with its section 133(1) show Receipts and Payments accounts for the year as well as a Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the year end.

Objectives and Activities

At the start of 2023 there was no minister in place, but the Elders continued to run the Church so that it could undertake its full range of activities until the newly called minister Rev Aled Jones took up his post on 1 September 2023.

The purposes of the Church as defined in its constitution are:

1. The advancement of the Christian faith according to non-conformist principles;
2. To seek to advance education and to carry out other charitable objectives in the United Kingdom and in other parts of the world.

When planning activities, the Elders have considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, particularly the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In furtherance of the first objective the Church provided opportunities for public worship every Sunday of the year and additionally on special occasions as required by the Christian calendar. Sunday morning services remain live streamed, allowing people in other places to participate as well as the congregation in the Church building. In September 2023 evening services were introduced for contemporary worship, at 6.30pm on the third Sunday of every month.

The Church was available for baptisms, weddings and funerals to anyone whom the Minister considered was making a genuine request for such services. Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church is committed to encouraging its members to represent, individually, the intentions of the Church in the particular contribution they make not only to the immediate community, but also through paid or voluntary activity to the wider community.

In furtherance of the second objective during the year, the Church provided opportunities for all to consider together important social issues and moral dilemmas in terms not only of Christian theologians, but also secular theorists, through discussion groups covering an established programme of study. These discussion groups offered an opportunity for spiritual, moral and intellectual development. Online meetings for Christian Meditation were also held, to encourage times of quiet and prayerful reflection.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (continued)

The Church was glad to continue to help facilitate the work of the Wycliffe organisation through its financial support of a Bible translator. It has also raised money for Water Aid.

The Church has continued to focus on mental health and maintains a relationship with the Dennis Scott Unit of Edgware Hospital. At Easter and Christmas, and at the time of the Wimbledon tournament, gifts are provided for the patients in the Unit.

The Church has continued to focus on the poor and homeless, and has facilitated giving to a local food bank. Following the end of the Covid lockdowns the Church continued to support the work of Homeless Action in Barnet, and in 2023 resumed hosting a night shelter one night a week during the coldest months of the year.

The Church has been overjoyed to have the services of a full time minister after an interregnum of 17 months.

Achievements and Performance

The Church remained an active participant in the lives of its members, ensuring that people are supported and cared for. It has also been a contributor to the wider community in a variety of activities.

Financial Review

Unrestricted donations were £6,000 down on the £68,000 for 2022, but revenue from the use of the hall and church, bazaar and other sales increased by £18,000, more than making up for the fall in donations.

The Church concluded an extensive programme of Manse refurbishments, in readiness for the new minister to move in during August 2023. Deducting £172,000 regular spending from the £188,000 revenue would have produced a £16,000 surplus. However, after the Extraordinary Item of the £132,500 spent on major refurbishment of the Manse, there was a deficit of £116,500.

The deficit was partly funded by encashing investments, realising £74,000 plus £245 from a fund deposit. However the remaining value of unrestricted investments at the end of 2023 was only £42,750 less than at the start of the year, so the investments retained had increased their value by £31,500.

Reserves Policy

The Church's policy is to maintain a balance on unrestricted reserves of at least nine months' unrestricted operating expenditure (say £130,000) to cover emergencies.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (continued)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Church is an unincorporated association. The structure and functions of the Church institutions responsible for its governance and management are described in its constitution. The institutions concerned are Ministry, Elders Court, Deacons Court and the Church Meeting of members.

Elders are elected for 3 Year terms and act as the Church Trustees, with certain areas of governance reserved for the decision of the Church Meeting. Under the leadership of the Minister Elders are responsible for the Church's overall management. On occasion, Elders as Trustees meet to discuss trustee matters. Particular matters concerned with the upkeep and refurbishment of Church properties are delegated by the Elders to the Deacons Court and to a Buildings Committee.

Under the chairmanship of the Minister, each Court is scheduled to meet regularly throughout the year. On occasion they will meet jointly when matters under discussion make that appropriate. Continuing with the pattern set during the ministerial vacancy, Elders and Deacons met jointly during 2023 except in November. Ordinary Church Members Meetings are convened quarterly throughout the year. When issues arise which require more immediate Church Meeting consideration and decision Extraordinary Meetings may be called in accordance with the provisions laid down in the constitution.

Reference and administrative details

Address: Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 7AG

Trustees: Joseph Fryer
Julia Fryer
Rev Aled Jones (from 1 September 2023)
Muna Levan-Harris (from 19 December 2023)
Carole Lindfield (to 11 June 2024)
Derek Lindfield (to 31 December 2023)
Josephine Morris
Richard Orme
Lorna Page
Verity Smith (to 31 December 2023)
Mary Stacy
Penny Trafford

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church (the 'charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

Trustees' responsibilities

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

Independent Examiner's responsibilities

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Dated: 25 September 2024
Andrew Thomas ACA
Nyman Libson Paul LLP
Chartered Accountants
124 Finchley Road
London
NW3 5JS

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SECTION A RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
A1 Receipts from					
Donations	2	£ 62,136	£ 1,302	£ 63,438	£ 71,596
Grants		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 3,000
Other trading activities	3	£ 125,574	£ -	£ 125,574	£ 107,483
Investment	4	£ 352	£ 418	£ 770	£ 672
Total receipts		£ 188,062	£ 1,720	£ 189,782	£ 182,751
A2 Asset and investment sales					
Investment sales		£ 74,000	£ -	£ 74,000	£ -
Total asset and investment sales		£ 74,000	£ -	£ 74,000	£ -
A3 Payments on					
Ministry & Mission	5	£ 61,752	£ 1,477	£ 63,229	£ 76,174
Church costs	6	£ 37,085	£ -	£ 37,085	£ 44,796
Hall costs	7	£ 62,249	£ -	£ 62,249	£ 16,544
Manse costs	8	£ 136,317	£ -	£ 136,317	£ 16,114
Traidcraft expenses		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 885
General expenses		£ 7,133	£ -	£ 7,133	£ 7,575
Restricted Donations		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 5,972
Total payments		£ 304,536	£ 1,477	£ 306,013	£ 168,060
Net of receipts/ (payments)		-£ 42,474	£ 243	-£ 42,231	£ 14,691
A6 Cash funds last year end		£ 73,401	£ -	£ 73,401	£ 58,710
Cash funds this year end		£ 30,927	£ 243	£ 31,170	£ 73,401

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SECTION B STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES PER 31ST DECEMBER

Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
B1 Cash funds				
Bank deposits	£ 29,900	£ 1,266	£ 31,166	£ 73,155
Fund deposits	£ 4	£ -	£ 4	£ 246
Total cash fund	£ 29,904	£ 1,266	£ 31,170	£ 73,401
B2 Other monetary assets				
HMRC (Gift Aid)	£ 10,610	£ -	£ 10,610	£ 10,399
Council tax overpaid	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 582
Total Other monetary assets	£ 10,610	£ -	£ 10,610	£ 10,981
B3 Investment assets				
COIF Charities Investment Fund	£ 3,721	£ 15,300	£ 19,021	£ 17,420
COIF Charities Global Equity Fund	£ 171,866	£ -	£ 171,866	£ 198,920
COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund	£ 53,853	£ -	£ 53,853	£ 69,610
Total investment assets	£ 229,440	£ 15,300	£ 244,740	£ 285,950
B4 Assets retained for charity's own use				
The church building in Central Square, the Manse in Central Square and the Halls Complex in Northway are held on trust by the London Baptist Property Board for purposes connected with the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church.				
B5 Liabilities				
Council tax	£ 1,332	£ -	£ 1,332	£ -
Traidcraft suppliers	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 250
Designated collections	£ 3,353	£ -	£ 3,353	£ -
	£ 4,685	£ -	£ 4,685	£ 250
Total Assets less liabilities	£ 265,269	£ 16,566	£ 281,835	£ 370,082

The accounts have been approved by the Trustee Meeting on 24 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

1st Trustee..... W J D Fryer

Name/position..... W. JOSEPH D. FRYER, TREASURER

2nd Trustee..... P A Trafford

Name/position..... P. A. TRAFFORD SECRETARY

Date..... 24 September 2024

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SECTION C - NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church fulfils the criteria of a small charity according to the Charities Act 1993 Section 42(3). The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis.

NOTE 2

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Income from donations				
Envelopes and standing orders	£ 45,217	£ 1,302	£ 46,519	£ 59,871
Gift day	£ 6,850	£ -	£ 6,850	£ 6,230
Open Plate	£ 10,069	£ -	£ 10,069	£ 5,495
	<u>£ 62,136</u>	<u>£ 1,302</u>	<u>£ 63,438</u>	<u>£ 71,596</u>

NOTE 3

Other trading activities

Use of hall	£ 78,605	£ -	£ 78,605	£ 66,854
Use of church	£ 41,790	£ -	£ 41,790	£ 37,279
Bazaar and other sales	£ 5,179	£ -	£ 5,179	£ 3,350
	<u>£ 125,574</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 125,574</u>	<u>£ 107,483</u>

NOTE 4

Investments

Dividends	£ 104	£ 418	£ 522	£ 523
Interest	£ 248	£ -	£ 248	£ 149
	<u>£ 352</u>	<u>£ 418</u>	<u>£ 770</u>	<u>£ 672</u>

NOTE 5

Ministry and mission

Minister	£ 19,742	£ -	£ 19,742	£ 18,481
Minister's expenses	£ 6,294	£ -	£ 6,294	£ 1,218
Baptist Pension Scheme	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 15,000
Ministry and Mission	£ 6,981	£ 1,477	£ 8,458	£ 10,476
Administration	£ 26,225	£ -	£ 26,225	£ 27,549
Organists and musicians	£ 2,510	£ -	£ 2,510	£ 3,450
	<u>£ 61,752</u>	<u>£ 1,477</u>	<u>£ 63,229</u>	<u>£ 76,174</u>

NOTE 6

Church Costs

Heating/Lighting	£ 16,768	£ -	£ 16,768	£ 13,856
Maintenance	£ 7,973	£ -	£ 7,973	£ 17,277
Organ/piano maintenance	£ 2,829	£ -	£ 2,829	£ 4,214
Insurance	£ 9,515	£ -	£ 9,515	£ 9,447
	<u>£ 37,085</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 37,085</u>	<u>£ 44,794</u>

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SECTION C - NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)

NOTE 7

Hall Costs	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Hall costs				
Heating/Lighting/Water	£ 12,886	£ -	£ 12,886	£ 13,667
Maintenance/general	£ 18,360	£ -	£ 18,360	£ 2,877
Major repairs	£ 31,003	£ -	£ 31,003	£ -
	<u>£ 62,249</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 62,249</u>	<u>£ 16,544</u>

NOTE 8

Manse costs

Routine costs	£ 3,748	£ -	£ 3,748	£ 16,114
Major refurbishment	£ 132,569	£ -	£ 132,569	£ -
	<u>£ 136,317</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 136,317</u>	<u>£ 16,114</u>

NOTE 9

Movement on Restricted Funds	01/01/2023 Inflow	Outflow	31/12/2023
Night Shelter Project	£ 323	£ 200	£ 126
Dennis Scott Unit	£ 386	£ 1,102	£ 619
Hirsch Legacy - cash balances	£ 314	£ 418	£ 732
	<u>£ 1,023</u>	<u>£ 1,720</u>	<u>£ 1,477</u>
			<u>£ 1,266</u>

Collections were also taken in the year for designated charities, as follows:

Christian Aid	£ 1,158
URC Commitment for Life	£ 683
Homeless Action in Barnet	£ 117
Crisis	£ 117
Water Aid	<u>£ 227</u>

NOTE 10

Hirsch legacy

The £15,300 Restricted Funds shown at B3 are a legacy held in trust to apply the income towards overseas missionary work until 29 July 2041. After that the capital may be used for the church's general purposes.