

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

England & Wales · Charity number 1142678

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [07659090](#)

Registered 2011-07-01

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

Contact

Address Christ First Hub
Fuller Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire
WD3 3PJ

Phone 07825 329564

Email OFFICE@X1CHURCH.COM

Website www.x1church.com

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("OBJECTS") ARE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS APPEARING IN THE SCHEDULE HERETO IN WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE 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 CHARITABLE WORK OF THE CHARITY.

Activities: Objects of the charity: The Charity's objects are for the public benefit to advance the Christian faith in the UK and abroad and to fulfill other purposes which are charitable according to the law of England and Wales.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE
- Kenya
- Zimbabwe
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£142,143	£152,062	-	-
2024-03-31	£153,395	£176,486	-	-
2023-03-31	£167,072	£211,423	-	-
2022-03-31	£197,480	£174,808	-	-
2021-03-31	£124,790	£126,065	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alex Christopher Steed		2016-07-19
Andrew David Smith		2011-06-24
ELizabeth Holop		2022-01-18
JERRY ABRAHAM		2011-07-01
LORRAINE SUSAN DUFF		2011-07-01

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

England & Wales - Charity number 1142678

Accounts

CHRIST FIRST **WATFORD**



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Registration No 1142678

Company Registration No 7659090 (England & Wales)

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Trustees

Jerry Abraham
Lorraine Duff
Andy Smith
Alex Steed
Elizabeth Holop

Secretary

Lorraine Duff

Charity Registration number

1142678

Company Registration number

7659090

Registered office

The Hub Fuller Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Herts
WD3 3PJ

Independent Examiner

Mr Hayden Watson FCCA
The MHH Partnership Ltd
Elstree House
Watson's Yard, High Street
Cottenham
Cambs
CB24 8RX

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
72-74 High Street
Watford
Herts
WD17 2GZ

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

CONTENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Page
Directors' & Trustees' report	4 – 8
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	9
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13 – 17

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities of the charity

The Charity's objectives are for the public benefit to advance the Christian faith in the UK and abroad and to fulfil other purposes which are charitable according to the law of England and Wales.

Our Mission

We put Christ first in every area of our lives and live in a way that demonstrates that Jesus is more important to us than anything or anyone else.

We see the good news of Jesus Christ transforming lives as it is clearly taught and practically demonstrated to those around us.

We are building community that welcomes everyone and celebrates our diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, creating an environment where people can hear the practical and life changing message of Jesus in an accessible way.

Our Core Values

As we follow the mission of Jesus we hold to these eight core values:

- **TRUTH**
Building a culture of Truth, we choose to live our lives with the absolute truth of the bible as our benchmark and look to it for direction on how to live. We will build community that is genuine, with relationships built on truth and honesty;
- **COURAGE**
Building a culture of Courage, we choose to follow God on the adventure of faith. We speak and act in a way that makes it clear that He alone is Lord of our lives. We put aside our reputation & personal comfort to be obedient to the call of God;
- **HONOUR**
Building a culture of Honour, we put Christ first, honouring Him above all else through prayer & a life lived as worship. We aim to outdo one another in showing honour, this means we esteem others more highly than ourselves, always seeking to encourage and bless;
- **SERVICE**
Building a culture of Service, we imitate Jesus who took on the nature of a servant; choosing to surrender our lives as instruments to God for Him to use as He sees fit; placing His will above our own & building community by serving others;
- **DEVELOPMENT**
Building a culture of Development, we will encourage & challenge one another to grow in our faith and relationship with God. As a church we will provide opportunities to train and improve both abilities and character;
- **GENEROSITY**
Building a culture of Generosity, we recognise that everything we have is from God, so led by the Holy Spirit we give generously & joyfully of our time, lives & money. This is an act of worship to Jesus & comes before our own comfort or financial security;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- **FAMILY**

Building a culture of Family, we enjoy a friendly and loving atmosphere where everyone is welcome. We will laugh, cry, eat and journey together, supporting those in need & celebrating the diversity represented; and

- **COMPASSION**

Building a culture of Compassion, we recognise the value of every human life. We put the needs, dignity and freedom of others ahead of our own wants, convenience & comfort. We look to care for the communities we live in and the world we inhabit.

Each aspect of these values and our ministry is supported by financial commitment from the church's resources.

Review of activities

The church is based in Watford and holds its regular Sunday morning meetings at The Hub in Croxley Green.

The church has a full programme of events to meet the varying needs of church members and others in the community. During the year, the church has welcomed new members and others who have joined in the various activities summarised below.

Children and young peoples' activities on Sunday are arranged with the support of many gifted helpers and volunteers who are all DBS checked. The key meetings during the week, which are open to all church members and guests, are our Explore groups where there is opportunity for everyone to be involved. There are other activities during the week and special events, with all the details available on the Charity's website at www.x1church.com.

All of our activities are open to members of the public and we are actively involved with other churches in Watford through the 'Christians across Watford' link.

In planning the Charity's activities, the Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The ways in which the Charity works for the public benefit include:

- Holding regular meetings for worship and prayer;
- Providing biblical teaching at Sunday and mid-week meetings and through social network links;
- Visiting those who are sick or in need and providing practical help where required; and
- Providing financial help for those in need, in the UK and abroad.

Achievements and performance

During the past year, we have seen a number of encouraging developments, the main ones being:

- The Charity has continued to leverage its premises, including the coffee shop, to drive engagement with the local community. During the year regular events have been run including; creative craft sessions, coffee & cake mornings, board game evenings and children's play mornings;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- A multi-year campaign named "Practicing the way" was commenced during the autumn of 2025, with the material focusing on how to become a more faithful disciple;
- The Charity ran a highly successful Alpha course during the year, providing those outside the church community a space to explore different parts of the Christian faith in a relaxed and friendly environment;
- The church organised several events, including a church weekend away which strengthened the unity of the church and provided a basis for worship, prayer and biblical teaching.

Financial review

During the year ended 31 March 2025, tithes and offerings amounted to £117,000 (2024: £103,000); and including other income and interest received, total income amounted to £142,000 (2024: £153,000). Total expenses amounted to £152,000 (2024: £176,000), primarily for the church's activities in Watford but also including grants to missions and individuals.

The increase in tithes and offerings in the year was attributable to an encouraging increase in general, regular donations from church members. The church's external ministry associated with the Afghan refugees substantially ceased towards the end of the previous financial year, meaning the amount received as income in connection with this ministry during the year was £nil (2024: £28,000) and the amount expensed being £500 (2024: £16,000).

The expenses associated with the church's activities are lower than the previous financial year, as detailed in note 2 to the financial statements. Notable cost savings include the substantially ceased Afghan refugee ministry explained above, reduced grants payable of £11,000 (2024: £15,000) as detailed in note 3 to the financial statements and higher costs in the previous year associated with installing the coffee shop. These costs savings were partially offset by increased church operating costs, attributable to higher lease rental costs following the signing of a lease extension.

The church's active ministry serves and helps those in our area and beyond who are in need. In addition, the church supports a number of mission activities in the UK and abroad, either helping those in need or developing the work of the Christian church. A minimum of ten per cent of income is allocated to these ministries and, if not spent during the year, any balance is carried forward in the Mercy & Mission fund which at 31 March 2025 amounted to £nil (2024: £nil).

At 31 March 2025, the charity had total funds of £127,456 (2024: £137,375) comprising restricted funds of £nil (2024: £nil) and unrestricted funds of £127,456 (2024: £137,375).

Investment & reserves policy

The Trustees have a general power to invest and disinvest the Charity's funds in furtherance of the Charity's objects.

The Reserves Policy is established to protect Christ First Watford's activities as a church from risk of disruption at short notice due to lack of funds. It determines an appropriate level for general reserves, taking into account:

- Possible unplanned shortfalls in voluntary giving to the Charity;
- The need to invest in a suitable building for the Charity's use; and
- Regular operating costs being reasonably predictable given the budget approved by the Trustees.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The target level of general reserves is approximately six months operating expenses for the ongoing church activities, which equates to approximately £70,000, plus additional funds to invest in our building. The basis for determining the target level of reserves is kept under review by the Trustees.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been allocated by the Trustees for particular purposes. The Designated fund for Mercy & Mission has been established to provide funds for specific acts of mercy and mission to support others in need in the UK and abroad. To the extent that ten per cent of the charity's income is not spent on such mercy and mission, the balance is carried forward to future years. The amount carried forward is kept under review by the Trustees and is taken into account in finalising the operating budget for the coming year.

Risk management

The Trustees keep the principal risks of the Charity under review, have re-assessed the risks during the past year and appropriate preventative actions are developed and monitored.

The principal risks for the Charity are:

- Loss of key personnel, especially the Eldership team;
- Safeguarding risks associated with external ministries;
- Loss of a significant number of the church's congregation; and
- Safeguarding of children.

The church's major source of income is from member donations; the number of separate donors who contributed to the activities of the church during the year was approximately 50. As a result of the wide sources of income, the Trustees consider that there is a low risk to the ongoing work of the Charity should it lose income from some donors.

Plans for the future

Following a successful start, the Charity will recommence the campaign "Practicing the way" during the autumn of 2026.

The Charity intends to continue running events for the benefit of the local community. These events will include; creative craft sessions, coffee & cake mornings and board game evenings, as well as the running of an Alpha course in the autumn of 2026.

Structure, governance and management

Christ First Watford is a Christian charity which was established as a company limited by guarantee on 6 June 2011. It was formed to take over and progress the activities of a previous charity, Christ First, which was founded under trust in 1992 and consequently the new company has objects and aims which are similar to those of the previous Trust. The Charity is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and is working in partnership with New Ground, part of the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees who served during the year ended 31 March 2025, who are also directors for the purpose of Company law, are listed in the Information section on page 2. No Trustee has any beneficial interest in the Company. There are two members of the Company and each one guarantees to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 in the event of a winding up. The Trustees met on four occasions to discuss the progress of the Charity and to pray for its continued development.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

New Trustees are appointed either by a resolution of the existing Trustees or by the Charity in General meeting. A Trustee appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees and a third of all Trustees are required to retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting.

New Trustees are provided with details of the Charity's governing documents, Trustees reports and financial statements and a full background on the Charity's activities. They are also encouraged to access the Charity Commission website for details of Trustee responsibilities, governance guidelines, etc.

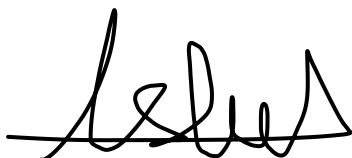
Management

The Charity is managed on a day-to-day basis by two Elders, Aaron McGovern and Andy Smith, who have responsibility for leading and directing activities. The Elders report on the Charity's progress and future plans at each Trustees' meeting where the strategic direction and financial budgets are discussed and approved.

Reference and administrative details

The Charity is called Christ First Watford and operates as X1 or X1 Church with its website at www.x1church.com. Details of the Charity's registration numbers, its registered address, Trustees serving during the year and other administrative details are shown on page 2 of this report.

On behalf of the Directors/Trustees



Mr Alex Steed

Chairman

Dated: 05/12/2025

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that this Annual Report and the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements and the Charity's governing documents.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees on the accounts of Christ First Watford

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 11 - 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's 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 period under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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:

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

Basis of the 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:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - b. 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.



Mr Hayden Watson FCCA
The MHH Partnership Ltd
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Cottenham
Cambs
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CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and gifts		117,151	-	117,151	102,820	29,492	132,312
Towards church activities		4,245	-	4,245	1,933	-	1,933
Other activities		19,209	-	19,209	17,358	-	17,358
Investments - interest receivable		1,538	-	1,538	1,792	-	1,792
Total income		142,143	-	142,143	123,903	29,492	153,395
Expenditure on:							
Charitable (church) activities	2	152,062	-	152,062	162,163	14,323	176,486
Total expenditure		152,062	-	152,062	162,163	14,323	176,486
Net income/(expenditure)/ movement in funds		(9,919)	-	(9,919)	(38,260)	15,169	(23,091)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2024		137,375	-	137,375	175,635	(15,169)	160,466
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2025	9/10	127,456	-	127,456	137,375	-	137,375

There are no other gains or losses other than the result for the year.

All of the activities of the Charity are classed as continuing.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		13,331		17,226
Current assets					
Debtors	7	11,189		11,014	
Cash at bank and in hand		111,091		113,722	
		122,280		124,736	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(8,155)		(4,587)	
Net current assets			114,125		120,149
Total net assets			127,456		137,375
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	9/11		-		-
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	10		-		-
Undesignated funds	10		127,456		137,375
Total unrestricted funds			127,456		137,375
Total charity funds			127,456		137,375

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act') relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for 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 on pages 11 to 17 were approved by the Trustees on 05 December 2025.



Mr Alex Steed

Chairman

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, on a going concern basis, as the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP FRS 102.

1.2 Income

Income represents funds received by the Charity for the support of its objectives and activities. Incoming resources, including income tax recoverable, are accounted for on a receivable basis.

The Charity benefits from the services of volunteers in most areas of the church's activities. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in the financial statements because that value cannot be reasonably quantified in financial terms.

1.3 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to pay out resources, inclusive of VAT which is not recoverable.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Church equipment	Between 3 and 5 years
Leasehold improvements	The lease term

Individual items of equipment are capitalised when the purchase price is £1,000 or above.

1.5 Pensions

The Charity provides contributions to the personal pension funds of staff working two days per week or more. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the Charity during the year.

1.6 Fund accounting

The funds held by the Charity are:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the objects of the Charity at the discretion of the Trustees;
- Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future projects or purposes; and
- Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Gift aid related to restricted donations is treated as restricted income.

1.7 Taxation

The Church is not subject to Income Tax. It is entitled to claim from H M Revenue & Customs the tax associated with income received under gift aid.

1.8 Leases

The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains, a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement at the inception date.

Leases where the lessor retains a significant portion of the risks and benefits of ownership of the asset are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Church activities

	Staff costs (note 4)	Depreciation	Other costs	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants payable - see note 3	-	-	11,460	11,460	15,191
Church Ministry – see note below	65,539	-	7,020	72,559	76,897
Church activities – direct	-	-	21,139	21,139	28,565
Church activities – Afghan ministry	-	-	482	482	15,779
Administration:					
Church maintenance/operating costs	-	3,895	34,322	38,217	30,126
Church administration	-	-	6,626	6,626	8,480
Governance costs – accountancy and review fees	-	-	1,579	1,579	1,448
	<u>65,539</u>	<u>3,895</u>	<u>82,628</u>	<u>152,062</u>	<u>176,486</u>

Church Ministry includes the cost of full-time and part-time staff salaries, pension and expenses and the cost of visiting speakers.

Operating lease rentals of £17,835 (2024 - £9,516) have been recognised as an expense during the year.

3 Grants payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:				
New Ground (including Newday)	5,496	-	5,496	5,996
Rope – Kenya Sunshine home	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Wycliffe	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Other	214	-	214	1,391
	<u>10,210</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,210</u>	<u>11,887</u>
Grants to individuals (2 grants; 2024: 6 grants)	1,250	-	1,250	3,304
	<u>11,460</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,460</u>	<u>15,191</u>

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was two (2024: two), which comprised one (2024: one) full-time and one (2024: one) part-time employees.

Employment costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	61,163	65,753
Social security costs	1,298	1,476
Other pension costs	3,078	3,256
	<u>65,539</u>	<u>70,485</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

5 Trustees and Related party transactions

During the year Rebekah Steed, the spouse of Alex Steed, a Trustee, received remuneration of £660 (2024: £nil) for the provision of administrative services provided to the Charity. The authority for doing so is provided under the Charity's Articles of Association. No other Trustee or any persons connected with them received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.

Andy Smith, one of the Trustees, is also one of the church Elders and incurs expenses in this role which are reimbursed by the Charity. The expenses are mainly for travel and accommodation in carrying out his duties as an Elder and amounted to £1,203 (2024: £2,474).

Jerry Abraham, one of the Trustees, also acts as a volunteer in support of the church and occasionally incurs travel and accommodation costs in respect of this. The expenses reimbursed by the Charity amounted to £nil (2024: £943).

No other expenses were claimed by Trustees.

The aggregate amount of donations to the Charity by Trustees and Related Parties amounted to £23,400 (2024: £23,000).

There were no other Related Party Transactions during the year (2024: nil).

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Church equipment	Leasehold improvements	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	11,983	48,885	60,868
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	11,983	48,885	60,868
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	11,983	31,659	43,642
Charge for the year	-	3,895	3,895
At 31 March 2025	11,983	35,554	47,537
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2024	-	17,226	17,226
At 31 March 2025	-	13,331	13,331

7 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	8,496	4,801
Other debtors	126	3,391
Prepayments and accrued income	2,567	2,822
	11,189	11,014

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Taxes & social security costs	1,125	-
Accruals and deferred income	7,030	4,587
	8,155	4,587

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the Charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Specific donations	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

Specific donations have been received and are paid out to those organisations and individuals for whom they were given. These items are included in the analysis of grants in note 3.

10 Unrestricted funds

	Undesignated funds	Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	Total
	£	£	£
Balances at 1 April 2024	137,375	-	137,375
Net surplus for the year	(9,692)	(227)	(9,919)
Transfer to Mercy & Mission reserve	(227)	227	-
Balances at 31 March 2025	127,456	-	127,456

The Designated fund – Mercy & Mission reserve represents funds held for activities of mercy and mission within Watford and beyond. Ten per cent of donations and gifts to the church are allocated to Mercy & Mission ministry and to the extent the funds are not spent in the year; they are carried forward for future expenditure and designated as such in these accounts.

Undesignated funds are held to meet between three and six months operating expenses for the ongoing church activities.

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	13,331	-	13,331
Current assets	122,280	-	122,280
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(8,155)	-	(8,155)
	127,456	-	127,456

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

England & Wales - Charity number 1142678

Accounts

CHRIST FIRST **WATFORD**



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity Registration No 1142678

Company Registration No 7659090 (England & Wales)

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees

Jerry Abraham
Lorraine Duff
Andy Smith
Alex Steed
Elizabeth Holop

Secretary

Lorraine Duff

Charity Registration number

1142678

Company Registration number

7659090

Registered office

The Hub Fuller Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Herts
WD3 3PJ

Independent Examiner

Mr Hayden Watson FCCA
The MHH Partnership Ltd
Elstree House
Watson's Yard, High Street
Cottenham
Cambs
CB24 8RX

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
72-74 High Street
Watford
Herts
WD17 2GZ

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

CONTENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Page
Directors' & Trustees' report	4 – 8
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	9
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13 – 17

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities of the charity

The Charity's objectives are for the public benefit to advance the Christian faith in the UK and abroad and to fulfil other purposes which are charitable according to the law of England and Wales.

Our Mission

We put Christ first in every area of our lives and live in a way that demonstrates that Jesus is more important to us than anything or anyone else.

We see the good news of Jesus Christ transforming lives as it is clearly taught and practically demonstrated to those around us.

We are building community that welcomes everyone and celebrates our diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, creating an environment where people can hear the practical and life changing message of Jesus in an accessible way.

Our Core Values

As we follow the mission of Jesus we hold to these eight core values:

- **TRUTH**
Building a culture of Truth, we choose to live our lives with the absolute truth of the bible as our benchmark and look to it for direction on how to live. We will build community that is genuine, with relationships built on truth and honesty;
- **COURAGE**
Building a culture of Courage, we choose to follow God on the adventure of faith. We speak and act in a way that makes it clear that He alone is Lord of our lives. We put aside our reputation & personal comfort to be obedient to the call of God;
- **HONOUR**
Building a culture of Honour, we put Christ first, honouring Him above all else through prayer & a life lived as worship. We aim to outdo one another in showing honour, this means we esteem others more highly than ourselves, always seeking to encourage and bless;
- **SERVICE**
Building a culture of Service, we imitate Jesus who took on the nature of a servant; choosing to surrender our lives as instruments to God for Him to use as He sees fit; placing His will above our own & building community by serving others;
- **DEVELOPMENT**
Building a culture of Development, we will encourage & challenge one another to grow in our faith and relationship with God. As a church we will provide opportunities to train and improve both abilities and character;
- **GENEROSITY**
Building a culture of Generosity, we recognise that everything we have is from God, so led by the Holy Spirit we give generously & joyfully of our time, lives & money. This is an act of worship to Jesus & comes before our own comfort or financial security;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- **FAMILY**

Building a culture of Family, we enjoy a friendly and loving atmosphere where everyone is welcome. We will laugh, cry, eat and journey together, supporting those in need & celebrating the diversity represented; and

- **COMPASSION**

Building a culture of Compassion, we recognise the value of every human life. We put the needs, dignity and freedom of others ahead of our own wants, convenience & comfort. We look to care for the communities we live in and the world we inhabit.

Each aspect of these values and our ministry is supported by financial commitment from the church's resources.

Review of activities

The church is based in Watford and holds its regular Sunday morning meetings at The Hub in Croxley Green.

The church has a full programme of events to meet the varying needs of church members and others in the community. During the year, the church has welcomed new members and others who have joined in the various activities summarised below.

Children and young peoples' activities on Sunday are arranged with the support of many gifted helpers and volunteers who are all DBS checked. The key meetings during the week, which are open to all church members and guests, are our Explore groups where there is opportunity for everyone to be involved. There are other activities during the week and special events, with all the details available on the Charity's website at www.x1church.com.

All of our activities are open to members of the public and we are actively involved with other churches in Watford through the 'Christians across Watford' link.

In planning the Charity's activities, the Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The ways in which the Charity works for the public benefit include:

- Holding regular meetings for worship and prayer;
- Providing biblical teaching at Sunday and mid-week meetings and through social network links;
- Visiting those who are sick or in need and providing practical help where required; and
- Providing financial help for those in need, in the UK and abroad.

Achievements and performance

During the past year, we have seen a number of encouraging developments, the main ones being:

- The Charity has continued to invest in its premises, in particular installing a new coffee shop at The Hub. Since opening, the coffee shop has helped to drive engagement with the local community, with its popularity growing steadily each month;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- The Charity has continued to provide financial help for those in need, both in the UK and abroad. In addition to the regular assistance given, the church continued to provide significant help to the large number of Afghan refugees who have relocated to the UK, and specifically Watford. The needs of the refugees have been great, urgent and diverse, and the charity has responded in many practical ways. This has included: the gifting of various items and other support to assist with the refugees' relocation between different residences; arranging and running of social events such as football and meals; and organising and leading teaching classes to assist with the refugees' integration into British society and culture;
- The church organised several events, including a church weekend away which strengthened the unity of the church and provided a basis for worship, prayer and biblical teaching.

Financial review

During the year ended 31 March 2024, tithes and offerings amounted to £103,000 (2023: £116,000); and including other income and interest received, total income amounted to £153,000 (2023: £167,000). Total expenses amounted to £176,000 (2023: £211,000), primarily for the church's activities in Watford but also including grants to missions and individuals.

The decrease in tithes and offerings in the year was partly attributable to a few one-off larger donations in the previous year which were not replicated in the current year. The church's external ministry associated with the Afghan refugees substantially ceased towards the end of the year, with the amount received as income in connection with this ministry during the year being £28,000 (2023: £34,000), and the amount expensed being £16,000 (2023: £51,000).

If the amount expensed in connection with the Afghan refugee ministry is excluded, then the expenses associated with the church's activities are flat year-on-year, as detailed in note 2 to the financial statements. Increased staffing costs and costs incurred in connection with the church coffee shop were offset by lower depreciation costs. Grants amounted to £15,000 (2023: £13,000) as detailed in note 3 to the financial statements.

The church's active ministry serves and helps those in our area and beyond who are in need. In addition, the church supports a number of mission activities in the UK and abroad, either helping those in need or developing the work of the Christian church. A minimum of ten per cent of income is allocated to these ministries and, if not spent during the year, any balance is carried forward in the Mercy & Mission fund which at 31 March 2024 amounted to £nil (2023: £881).

At 31 March 2024, the charity had total funds of £137,375 (2023: £160,466) comprising restricted funds of £nil (2023: £(15,169)) and unrestricted funds of £137,375 (2023: £175,635).

Investment & reserves policy

The Trustees have a general power to invest and disinvest the Charity's funds in furtherance of the Charity's objects.

The Reserves Policy is established to protect Christ First Watford's activities as a church from risk of disruption at short notice due to lack of funds. It determines an appropriate level for general reserves, taking into account:

- Possible unplanned shortfalls in voluntary giving to the Charity;
- The need to invest in a suitable building for the Charity's use; and
- Regular operating costs being reasonably predictable given the budget approved by the Trustees.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The target level of general reserves is approximately six months operating expenses for the ongoing church activities, which equates to approximately £70,000, plus additional funds to invest in our building. The basis for determining the target level of reserves is kept under review by the Trustees.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been allocated by the Trustees for particular purposes. The Designated fund for Mercy & Mission has been established to provide funds for specific acts of mercy and mission to support others in need in the UK and abroad. To the extent that ten per cent of the charity's income is not spent on such mercy and mission, the balance is carried forward to future years. The amount carried forward is kept under review by the Trustees and is taken into account in finalising the operating budget for the coming year.

Risk management

The Trustees keep the principal risks of the Charity under review, have re-assessed the risks during the past year and appropriate preventative actions are developed and monitored.

The principal risks for the Charity are:

- Loss of key personnel, especially the Eldership team;
- Safeguarding risks associated with external ministries, including the Afghan ministry;
- Loss of a significant number of the church's congregation; and
- Safeguarding of children.

The church's major source of income is from member donations; the number of separate donors who contributed to the activities of the church during the year was approximately 50. As a result of the wide sources of income, the Trustees consider that there is a low risk to the ongoing work of the Charity should it lose income from some donors.

Plans for the future

The Charity will be running a campaign named "Practicing the way" during the autumn of 2024, and at various junctures over the next few years will revisit the teaching material in greater detail with the aim of becoming more faithful disciples.

Following the successful launch of the church coffee shop, the charity intends to run more events for the benefit of the local community. These events will be offered freely and will include; creative craft sessions, coffee & cake mornings and board game evenings.

Structure, governance and management

Christ First Watford is a Christian charity which was established as a company limited by guarantee on 6 June 2011. It was formed to take over and progress the activities of a previous charity, Christ First, which was founded under trust in 1992 and consequently the new company has objects and aims which are similar to those of the previous Trust. The Charity is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and is working in partnership with New Ground, part of the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees who served during the year ended 31 March 2024, who are also directors for the purpose of Company law, are listed in the Information section on page 2. No Trustee has any beneficial interest in the Company. There are two members of the Company and each one guarantees to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 in the event of a winding up. The Trustees met on four occasions to discuss the progress of the Charity and to pray for its continued development.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

New Trustees are appointed either by a resolution of the existing Trustees or by the Charity in General meeting. A Trustee appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees and a third of all Trustees are required to retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting.

New Trustees are provided with details of the Charity's governing documents, Trustees reports and financial statements and a full background on the Charity's activities. They are also encouraged to access the Charity Commission website for details of Trustee responsibilities, governance guidelines, etc.

Management

The Charity is managed on a day-to-day basis by two Elders, Aaron McGovern and Andy Smith, who have responsibility for leading and directing activities. The Elders report on the Charity's progress and future plans at each Trustees' meeting where the strategic direction and financial budgets are discussed and approved.

Reference and administrative details

The Charity is called Christ First Watford and operates as X1 or X1 Church with its website at www.x1church.com. Details of the Charity's registration numbers, its registered address, Trustees serving during the year and other administrative details are shown on page 2 of this report.

On behalf of the Directors/Trustees



Mr Alex Steed

Chairman

Dated:

26/11/2024

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that this Annual Report and the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements and the Charity's governing documents.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees on the accounts of Christ First Watford

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 11 - 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's 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 period under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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:

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

Basis of the 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:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - b. 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.



29 November 2024

Mr Hayden Watson FCCA
The MHH Partnership Ltd
Elstree House
Watson's Yard, High Street
Cottenham
Cambs
CB24 8RX

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and gifts		102,820	29,492	132,312	116,296	34,049	150,345
Towards church activities		1,933	-	1,933	4,708	-	4,708
Other activities		17,358	-	17,358	11,333	-	11,333
Investments - interest receivable		1,792	-	1,792	686	-	686
Total income		123,903	29,492	153,395	133,023	34,049	167,072
Expenditure on:							
Charitable (church) activities	2	162,163	14,323	176,486	158,338	53,085	211,423
Total expenditure		162,163	14,323	176,486	158,338	53,085	211,423
Net income/(expenditure)/ movement in funds		(38,260)	15,169	(23,091)	(25,315)	(19,036)	(44,351)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2023		175,635	(15,169)	160,466	200,950	3,867	204,817
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2024	9/10	137,375	-	137,375	175,635	(15,169)	160,466

There are no other gains or losses other than the result for the year.

All of the activities of the Charity are classed as continuing.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		17,226		12,027
Current assets					
Debtors	7	11,014		18,450	
Cash at bank and in hand		113,722		136,386	
		124,736		154,836	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,587)		(6,397)	
Net current assets			120,149		148,439
Total net assets			137,375		160,466
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	9/11		-		(15,169)
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	10		-		881
Undesignated funds	10		137,375		174,754
Total unrestricted funds			137,375		175,635
Total charity funds			137,375		160,466

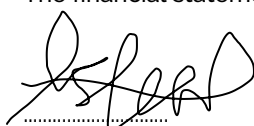
For the year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act') relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for 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 on pages 11 to 17 were approved by the Trustees on 26/11/2024



Mr Alex Steed
Chairman

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, on a going concern basis, as the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP FRS 102.

1.2 Income

Income represents funds received by the Charity for the support of its objectives and activities. Incoming resources, including income tax recoverable, are accounted for on a receivable basis.

The Charity benefits from the services of volunteers in most areas of the church's activities. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in the financial statements because that value cannot be reasonably quantified in financial terms.

1.3 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to pay out resources, inclusive of VAT which is not recoverable.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Church equipment	Between 3 and 5 years
Leasehold improvements	The lease term

Individual items of equipment are capitalised when the purchase price is £1,000 or above.

1.5 Pensions

The Charity provides contributions to the personal pension funds of staff working two days per week or more. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the Charity during the year.

1.6 Fund accounting

The funds held by the Charity are:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the objects of the Charity at the discretion of the Trustees;
- Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future projects or purposes; and
- Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Gift aid related to restricted donations is treated as restricted income.

1.7 Taxation

The Church is not subject to Income Tax. It is entitled to claim from H M Revenue & Customs the tax associated with income received under gift aid.

1.8 Leases

The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains, a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement at the inception date.

Leases where the lessor retains a significant portion of the risks and benefits of ownership of the asset are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Church activities

	Staff costs (note 4)	Depreciation	Other costs	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants payable - see note 3	-	-	15,191	15,191	13,467
Church Ministry – see note below	70,485	-	6,412	76,897	68,907
Church activities – direct	-	-	28,565	28,565	20,221
Church activities – Afghan ministry	-	-	15,779	15,779	50,596
Administration:					
Church maintenance/operating costs	-	3,316	26,810	30,126	45,816
Church administration	-	-	8,480	8,480	11,057
Governance costs – accountancy and review fees	-	-	1,448	1,448	1,359
	<u>70,485</u>	<u>3,316</u>	<u>102,685</u>	<u>176,486</u>	<u>211,423</u>

Church Ministry includes the cost of full-time and part-time staff salaries, pension and expenses and the cost of visiting speakers.

Operating lease rentals of £9,516 (2023 - £5,854) have been recognised as an expense during the year.

3 Grants payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:				
New Ground (including Newday)	5,996	-	5,996	5,496
Rope – Kenya Sunshine home	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Wycliffe	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Other	767	624	1,391	3,170
	<u>11,263</u>	<u>624</u>	<u>11,887</u>	<u>13,166</u>
Grants to individuals (6 grants; 2023: 6 grants)	3,304	-	3,304	301
	<u>14,567</u>	<u>624</u>	<u>15,191</u>	<u>13,467</u>

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was two (2023: two), which comprised one (2023: one) full-time and one (2023: one) part-time employees.

Employment costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	65,753	60,830
Social security costs	1,476	1,186
Other pension costs	3,256	3,043
	<u>70,485</u>	<u>65,059</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

5 Trustees and Related party transactions

No Trustee or any persons connected with them received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.

Andy Smith, one of the Trustees, is also one of the church Elders and incurs expenses in this role which are reimbursed by the Charity. The expenses are mainly for travel and accommodation in carrying out his duties as an Elder and amounted to £2,474 (2023: £1,893).

Jerry Abraham, one of the Trustees, also acts as a volunteer in support of the church and occasionally incurs travel and accommodation costs in respect of this. The expenses reimbursed by the Charity amounted to £943 (2023: £nil).

No other expenses were claimed by Trustees.

The aggregate amount of donations to the Charity by Trustees and Related Parties amounted to £23,000 (2023: £29,900).

There were no other Related Party Transactions during the year (2023: nil).

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Church equipment	Leasehold improvements	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	11,983	40,370	52,353
Additions	-	8,515	8,515
At 31 March 2024	11,983	48,885	60,868
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	11,878	28,448	40,326
Charge for the year	105	3,211	3,316
At 31 March 2024	11,983	31,659	43,642
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2023	105	11,922	12,027
At 31 March 2024	-	17,226	17,226

7 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	4,801	4,734
Other debtors	3,391	1,061
Prepayments and accrued income	2,822	12,655
	11,014	18,450

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Taxes & social security costs	-	1,456
Accruals and deferred income	4,587	4,941
	4,587	6,397

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the Charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Specific donations	651	1,835	(2,486)	-
Afghan ministry fund	(15,820)	27,657	(11,837)	-
	<u>(15,169)</u>	<u>29,492</u>	<u>(14,323)</u>	<u>-</u>

Specific donations have been received and are paid out to those organisations and individuals for whom they were given. These items are included in the analysis of grants in note 3.

The Afghan ministry fund facilitates the support and provision of aid for the Afghan refugees who are located in the Watford area. These activities are accounted for as Church activities, in note 2.

10 Unrestricted funds

	Undesignated funds	Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	Total
	£	£	£
Balances at 1 April 2023	174,754	881	175,635
Net surplus for the year	(38,260)	-	(38,260)
Transfer to Mercy & Mission reserve	881	(881)	-
Balances at 31 March 2024	<u>137,375</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,375</u>

The Designated fund – Mercy & Mission reserve represents funds held for activities of mercy and mission within Watford and beyond. Ten per cent of donations and gifts to the church are allocated to Mercy & Mission ministry and to the extent the funds are not spent in the year; they are carried forward for future expenditure and designated as such in these accounts.

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	17,226	-	17,226
Current assets	124,736	-	124,736
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(4,587)	-	(4,587)
	<u>137,375</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,375</u>

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

England & Wales - Charity number 1142678

Accounts

CHRIST FIRST **WATFORD**



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Charity Registration No 1142678

Company Registration No 7659090 (England & Wales)

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees

Jerry Abraham
Lorraine Duff
Andy Smith
Alex Steed
Elizabeth Holop

Secretary

Lorraine Duff

Charity Registration number

1142678

Company Registration number

7659090

Registered office

The Hub Fuller Way
Croxley Green
Rickmansworth
Herts
WD3 3PJ

Independent Examiner

Mr Hayden Watson FCCA
The MHH Partnership Ltd
Elstree House
Watson's Yard, High Street
Cottenham
Cambs
CB24 8RX

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
72-74 High Street
Watford
Herts
WD17 2GZ

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

CONTENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Page
Directors' & Trustees' report	4 – 8
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	9
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13 – 17

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities of the charity

The Charity's objectives are for the public benefit to advance the Christian faith in the UK and abroad and to fulfil other purposes which are charitable according to the law of England and Wales.

Our Mission

We put Christ First in every area of our lives and live in a way that demonstrates that Jesus is more important to us than anything or anyone else.

We see the good news of Jesus Christ Transforming Lives as it is clearly taught and practically demonstrated to those around us.

We are Building Community that welcomes everyone and celebrates our diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds; creating an environment where people can hear the practical and life changing message of Jesus in an accessible way.

Our Core Values

As we follow the mission of Jesus we hold to these eight core values:

- **TRUTH**
Building a culture of Truth, we choose to live our lives with the absolute truth of the bible as our benchmark and look to it for direction on how to live. We will build community that is genuine, with relationships built on truth and honesty;
- **COURAGE**
Building a culture of Courage, we choose to follow God on the adventure of faith. We speak and act in a way that makes it clear that He alone is Lord of our lives. We put aside our reputation & personal comfort to be obedient to the call of God;
- **HONOUR**
Building a culture of Honour, we put Christ first, honouring Him above all else through prayer & a life lived as worship. We aim to outdo one another in showing honour, this means we esteem others more highly than ourselves, always seeking to encourage and bless;
- **SERVICE**
Building a culture of Service, we imitate Jesus who took on the nature of a servant; choosing to surrender our lives as instruments to God for Him to use as He sees fit; placing His will above our own & building community by serving others;
- **DEVELOPMENT**
Building a culture of Development, we will encourage & challenge one another to grow in our faith and relationship with God. As a church we will provide opportunities to train and improve both abilities and character;
- **GENEROSITY**
Building a culture of Generosity, we recognise that everything we have is from God, so led by the Holy Spirit we give generously & joyfully of our time, lives & money. This is an act of worship to Jesus & comes before our own comfort or financial security;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- **FAMILY**

Building a culture of Family, we enjoy a friendly and loving atmosphere where everyone is welcome. We will laugh, cry, eat and journey together, supporting those in need & celebrating the diversity represented; and

- **COMPASSION**

Building a culture of Compassion, we recognise the value of every human life. We put the needs, dignity and freedom of others ahead of our own wants, convenience & comfort. We look to care for the communities we live in and the world we inhabit.

Each aspect of these values and our ministry is supported by financial commitment from the church's resources.

Review of activities

The Church is based in Watford and holds its regular Sunday morning meetings at The Hub in Croxley Green.

The church has a full programme of events to meet the varying needs of church members and others in the community. During the year, the church has welcomed new members and others who have joined in the various activities summarised below.

Children and young peoples' activities on Sunday are arranged with the support of many gifted helpers and volunteers who are all DBS checked. The key meetings during the week, which are open to all church members and guests, are our Explore groups where there is opportunity for everyone to be involved. There are other activities during the week and special events, with all the details available on the Charity's website at www.x1church.com.

All of our activities are open to members of the public and we are actively involved with other churches in Watford through the 'Christians across Watford' link.

In planning the Charity's activities, the Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The ways in which the Charity works for the public benefit include:

- Holding regular meetings for worship and prayer;
- Providing biblical teaching at Sunday and mid-week meetings and through social network links;
- Visiting those who are sick or in need and providing practical help where required; and
- Providing financial help for those in need, in the UK and abroad.

Achievements and performance

During the past year, we have seen a number of encouraging developments, the main ones being:

- For our Explore Groups, the cyclical three phase programme of Campaign, Course and Connect has continued. We have continued to see high levels of participation in midweek groups, and the charity produced their own resources to accompany the Campaign programme;
- The charity has continued to invest in its premises, in particular installing a new kitchen at the Hub;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- The charity has continued to provide financial help for those in need, both in the UK and abroad. In addition to the regular assistance given, this year the church has provided significant help to the large number of Afghan refugees who have relocated to the UK, and specifically Watford. The needs of the refugees have been great, urgent and diverse, and the charity has responded in many practical ways. This has included: the purchase and gifting of many life-essentials such as school uniforms, nappies and toiletries; arranging and running of social events such as football, bowling and meals; and organising and leading teaching classes to assist with the refugees' integration into British society and culture;
- The church organised several events, including a fireworks night which was successful in providing an enjoyable event for local families to attend, and a church weekend away which strengthened the unity of the church and provided a basis for worship, prayer and biblical teaching.

Financial review

During the year ended 31 March 2023, tithes and offerings amounted to £116,000 (2022: £138,000); and including other income and interest received, total income amounted to £167,000 (2022: £197,000). Total expenses amounted to £211,000 (2022: £175,000), primarily for the church's activities in Watford but also including grants to missions and individuals.

The decrease in tithes and offerings in the year was attributable to a few individual donors who ceased to attend the church during the year. The church's external ministry associated with the Afghan refugees continued during the year, with the amount received as income in connection with this ministry during the year being £34,000 (2022: £41,000), and the amount expended being £51,000 (2022: £40,000).

Expenses associated with the church's activities have seen increases in the year, as detailed in note 2 to the financial statements. Increased costs were incurred in connection with the church weekend away and higher catering and depreciation costs were incurred following the completion of the new kitchen at the Hub. Grants amounted to £13,000 (2022: £18,000) as detailed in note 3 to the financial statements.

The church's active ministry serves and helps those in our area and beyond who are in need. In addition, the church supports a number of mission activities in the UK and abroad, either helping those in need or developing the work of the Christian church. A minimum of ten per cent of income is allocated to these ministries and, if not spent during the year, any balance is carried forward in the Mercy & Mission fund which at 31 March 2023 amounted to £881 (2022: £229).

At 31 March 2023, the charity had total funds of £160,466 (2022: £204,817) comprising restricted funds of £(15,169) (2022: £3,867) and unrestricted funds of £175,635 (2022: £200,950). The restricted funds is in deficit as at 31 March 2023, however the charity has a realistic expectation that sufficient income will be received in the year ended 31 March 2024 to cover the shortfall.

Investment & reserves policy

The Trustees have a general power to invest and disinvest the Charity's funds in furtherance of the Charity's objects.

The Reserves Policy is established to protect Christ First Watford's activities as a church from risk of disruption at short notice due to lack of funds. It determines an appropriate level for general reserves, taking into account:

- Possible unplanned shortfalls in voluntary giving to the Charity;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- The need to invest in a suitable building for the Charity's use; and
- Regular operating costs being reasonably predictable given the budget approved by the Trustees.

The target level of general reserves is approximately six months operating expenses for the ongoing church activities, which equates to approximately £70,000, plus additional funds to invest in our building. The basis for determining the target level of reserves is kept under review by the Trustees.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been allocated by the Trustees for particular purposes. The Designated fund for Mercy & Mission has been established to provide funds for specific acts of mercy and mission to support others in need in the UK and abroad. To the extent that ten per cent of the charity's income is not spent on such mercy and mission, the balance is carried forward to future years. The amount carried forward is kept under review by the Trustees and is taken into account in finalising the operating budget for the coming year.

Risk management

The Trustees keep the principal risks of the Charity under review, have re-assessed the risks during the past year and appropriate preventative actions are developed and monitored.

The principal risks for the charity are:

- Loss of key personnel, especially the Eldership team;
- Safeguarding risks associated with external ministries, including the Afghan ministry;
- Loss of a significant number of the church's congregation; and
- Safeguarding of children.

The Church's major source of income is from member donations; the number of separate donors who contributed to the activities of the Church during the year was approximately 50. As a result of the wide sources of income, the Trustees consider that there is a low risk to the ongoing work of the Charity should it lose income from some donors.

Plans for the future

The charity has continued to invest in its property, and after the year-end a coffee shop was opened for a trial period, and the charity is currently considering longer-term options for the shop.

The charity will be running a campaign named "Take a step" during the autumn of 2023, and several church members have signed up to an externally run training and development course commencing in the autumn of 2023. The charity intends to continue in its efforts to offer aid and help to the Afghan refugees who are currently living in Watford and as they relocate to other parts of the UK.

Structure, governance and management

Christ First Watford is a Christian charity which was established as a company limited by guarantee on 6 June 2011. It was formed to take over and progress the activities of a previous charity, Christ First, which was founded under trust in 1992 and consequently the new company has objects and aims which are similar to those of the previous Trust. The Charity is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and is working in partnership with New Ground, part of the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees who served during the year ended 31 March 2023, who are also directors for the purpose of Company law, are listed in the Information section on page 2. No Trustee has any beneficial interest in the Company. There are two members of the Company and each one guarantees to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 in the event of a winding up. The Trustees met on four occasions to discuss the progress of the Charity and to pray for its continued development.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

New Trustees are appointed either by a resolution of the existing Trustees or by the Charity in General meeting. A Trustee appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees and a third of all Trustees are required to retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting.

New Trustees are provided with details of the Charity's governing documents, Trustees reports and financial statements and a full background on the Charity's activities. They are also encouraged to access the Charity Commission website for details of Trustee responsibilities, governance guidelines, etc.

Management

The charity is managed on a day-to-day basis by two Elders, Aaron McGovern and Andy Smith, who have responsibility for leading and directing activities. The Elders report on the charity's progress and future plans at each Trustees' meeting where the strategic direction and financial budgets are discussed and approved.

Reference and administrative details

The Charity is called Christ First Watford and operates as X1 or X1 Church with its website at www.x1church.com. Details of the Charity's registration numbers, its registered address, Trustees serving during the year and other administrative details are shown on page 2 of this report.

On behalf of the Directors/Trustees



Mr Alex Steed
Acting Chairman
Dated: 19 December 2023

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that this Annual Report and the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements and the charity's governing documents.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees on the accounts of Christ First Watford

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 11 - 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's 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 period under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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:

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

Basis of the 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:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - b. 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.



Mr Hayden Watson FCCA
The MHH Partnership Ltd
Elstree House
Watson's Yard, High Street
Cottenham
Cambs
CB24 8RX

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and gifts		116,296	34,049	150,345	138,246	48,172	186,418
Towards church activities		4,708	-	4,708	872	-	872
Other activities		11,333	-	11,333	10,172	-	10,172
Investments - interest receivable		686	-	686	18	-	18
Total income		133,023	34,049	167,072	149,308	48,172	197,480
Expenditure on:							
Charitable (church) activities	2	158,338	53,085	211,423	130,503	44,305	174,808
Total expenditure		158,338	53,085	211,423	130,503	44,305	174,808
Net income/(expenditure)/movement in funds		(25,315)	(19,036)	(44,351)	18,805	3,867	22,672
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2022		200,950	3,867	204,817	182,145	-	182,145
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2023	9/10	175,635	(15,169)	160,466	200,950	3,867	204,817

There are no other gains or losses other than the result for the year.

All of the activities of the Charity are classed as continuing.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		12,027		10,786
Current assets					
Debtors	7	18,450		22,354	
Cash at bank and in hand		136,386		181,877	
		154,836		204,231	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(6,397)		(10,200)	
Net current assets			148,439		194,031
Total net assets			160,466		204,817
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	9/11		(15,169)		3,867
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	10		881		229
Undesignated funds	10		174,754		200,721
Total unrestricted funds			175,635		200,950
Total charity funds			160,466		204,817

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act') relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for 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 on pages 11 to 17 were approved by the Trustees on 19 December 2023



Mr Alex Steed
Chairman

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, on a going concern basis, as the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP FRS 102.

1.2 Income

Income represents funds received by the Charity for the support of its objectives and activities. Incoming resources, including income tax recoverable, are accounted for on a receivable basis.

The Charity benefits from the services of volunteers in most areas of the church's activities. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in the financial statements because that value cannot be reasonably quantified in financial terms.

1.3 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources, inclusive of VAT which is not recoverable.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Church equipment	Between 3 and 5 years
Leasehold improvements	The lease term

Individual items of equipment are capitalised when the purchase price is £1,000 or above.

1.5 Pensions

The Charity provides contributions to the personal pension funds of staff working two days per week or more. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the charity during the year.

1.6 Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity at the discretion of the Trustees;
- Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future projects or purposes; and
- Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Gift aid related to restricted donations is treated as restricted income.

1.7 Taxation

The Church is not subject to Income Tax. It is entitled to claim from H M Revenue & Customs the tax associated with income received under gift aid.

1.8 Leases

The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains, a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement at the inception date.

Leases where the lessor retains a significant portion of the risks and benefits of ownership of the asset are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2 Church activities

	Staff costs (note 4)	Depreciation	Other costs	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants payable - see note 3	-	-	13,467	13,467	17,853
Church Ministry – see note below	65,059	-	3,848	68,907	63,948
Church activities – direct	-	-	20,221	20,221	7,157
Church activities – Afghan ministry	-	-	50,596	50,596	40,048
Administration:					
Church maintenance/operating costs	-	17,028	28,788	45,816	38,290
Church administration	-	-	11,057	11,057	6,316
Governance costs – accountancy and review fees	-	-	1,359	1,359	1,196
	65,059	17,028	129,336	211,423	174,808

Church Ministry includes the cost of full-time and part-time staff salary, pension and expenses and the cost of visiting speakers.

Expenditure on church activities was £211,423 (2022: £174,808), of which £158,338 (2022: £130,503) was unrestricted and £53,085 (2022: £44,305) was restricted.

Operating lease rentals of £5,854 (2022 - £5,854) have been recognised as an expense during the year.

3 Grants payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:				
New Ground (including Newday)	5,406	90	5,496	5,496
Discipling Nations – Zimbabwe	-	-	-	2,015
Rope – Kenya Sunshine home	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Wycliffe	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Other	771	2,399	3,170	1,036
	10,677	2,489	13,166	13,047
Grants to individuals (6 grants; 2022: 6 grants)	301	-	301	4,806
	10,978	2,489	13,467	17,853

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was two (2022: two), which comprised one (2022: one) full-time and one (2022: one) part-time employees.

Employment costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	60,830	57,510
Social security costs	1,186	1,496
Other pension costs	3,043	2,876
	<u>65,059</u>	<u>61,882</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

5 Trustees and Related party transactions

No Trustee or any persons connected with them received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.

Andy Smith, one of the Trustees, is also one of the church Elders and incurs expenses in this role which are reimbursed by the Charity. The expenses are mainly for travel and accommodation in carrying out his duties as an Elder and amounted to £1,893 (2022: £736).

No other expenses were claimed by Trustees.

The aggregate amount of donations to the Charity by Trustees and Related Parties amounted to £29,900 (2022: £59,900).

There were no other Related Party Transactions during the year (2022: nil).

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Church equipment £	Leasehold improvement s £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	11,983	22,100	34,083
Additions	-	18,270	18,270
At 31 March 2023	11,983	40,370	52,353
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	10,675	12,622	23,297
Charge for the year	1,203	15,826	17,029
At 31 March 2023	11,878	28,448	40,326
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2022	1,308	9,478	10,786
At 31 March 2023	105	11,922	12,027

7 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Income tax recoverable	4,734	4,643
Other debtors	1,061	4,395
Prepayments and accrued income	12,655	13,316
	18,450	22,354

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Taxes & social security costs	1,456	1,438
Accruals and deferred income	4,941	8,762
	6,397	10,200

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the Charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2022	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Specific donations	2,674	466	(2,489)	651
Afghan ministry fund	1,193	33,584	(50,596)	(15,820)
	<u>3,867</u>	<u>34,049</u>	<u>(53,085)</u>	<u>(15,169)</u>

Specific donations have been received and are paid out to those organisations and individuals for whom they were given. These items are included in the analysis of grants in note 3.

The Afghan ministry fund facilitates the support and provision of aid for the Afghan refugees who are located in the Watford area. These activities are accounted for as Church activities, in note 2.

10 Unrestricted funds

	Undesignated funds	Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	Total
	£	£	£
Balances at 1 April 2022	200,721	229	200,950
Net surplus for the year	(25,315)	-	(25,315)
Transfer to Mercy & Mission reserve	(652)	652	-
Balances at 31 March 2023	<u>174,754</u>	<u>881</u>	<u>175,635</u>

The Designated fund – Mercy & Mission reserve represents funds held for activities of mercy and mission within Watford and beyond. Ten per cent of donations and gifts to the church are allocated to Mercy & Mission ministry and to the extent the funds are not spent in the year, they are carried forward for future expenditure and designated as such in these accounts.

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

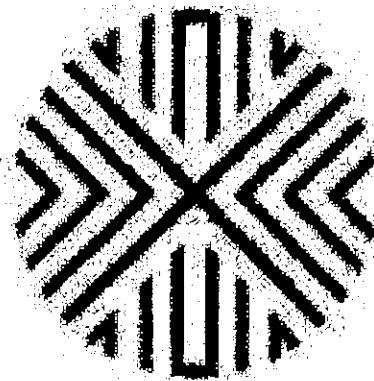
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	12,027	-	12,027
Current assets	170,005	(15,169)	154,836
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(6,397)	-	(6,397)
	<u>75,635</u>	<u>(15,169)</u>	<u>160,466</u>

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

England & Wales - Charity number 1142678

Accounts

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity Registration No 1142678

Company Registration No 7659090 (England & Wales)

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INFORMATION YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees	Jerry Abraham Jade De-Crescenzo – resigned 18 January 2022 Lorraine Duff Andy Smith Alex Steed Peter Wiles – resigned 13 July 2021 Elizabeth Holop – appointed 18 January 2022
Secretary	Lorraine Duff
Charity Registration number	1142678
Company Registration number	7659090
Registered office	The Hub Fuller Way Croxley Green Rickmansworth Herts WD3 3PJ
Independent Examiner	Mr Hayden Watson ACCA The MHH Partnership Ltd Elstree House Watson's Yard, High Street Cottenham Cambs CB24 8RX
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 72-74 High Street Watford Herts WD17 2GZ

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

CONTENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Page
Directors' & Trustees' report	4 – 8
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	9
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13 – 17

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Objectives and activities of the charity

The Charity's objectives are for the public benefit to advance the Christian faith in the UK and abroad and to fulfil other purposes which are charitable according to the law of England and Wales.

Our Mission

We put Christ First in every area of our lives and live in a way that demonstrates that Jesus is more important to us than anything or anyone else.

We see the good news of Jesus Christ Transforming Lives as it is clearly taught and practically demonstrated to those around us.

We are Building Community that welcomes everyone and celebrates our diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds; creating an environment where people can hear the practical and life changing message of Jesus in an accessible way.

Our Core Values

As we follow the mission of Jesus we hold to these eight core values:

- **TRUTH**
Building a culture of Truth, we choose to live our lives with the absolute truth of the bible as our benchmark and look to it for direction on how to live. We will build community that is genuine, with relationships built on truth and honesty;
- **COURAGE**
Building a culture of Courage, we choose to follow God on the adventure of faith. We speak and act in a way that makes it clear that He alone is Lord of our lives. We put aside our reputation & personal comfort to be obedient to the call of God;
- **HONOUR**
Building a culture of Honour, we put Christ first, honouring Him above all else through prayer & a life lived as worship. We aim to outdo one another in showing honour, this means we esteem others more highly than ourselves, always seeking to encourage and bless;
- **SERVICE**
Building a culture of Service, we imitate Jesus who took on the nature of a servant; choosing to surrender our lives as instruments to God for Him to use as He sees fit; placing His will above our own & building community by serving others;
- **DEVELOPMENT**
Building a culture of Development, we will encourage & challenge one another to grow in our faith and relationship with God. As a church we will provide opportunities to train and improve both abilities and character;
- **GENEROSITY**
Building a culture of Generosity, we recognise that everything we have is from God, so led by the Holy Spirit we give generously & joyfully of our time, lives & money. This is an act of worship to Jesus & comes before our own comfort or financial security;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

- **FAMILY**

Building a culture of Family, we enjoy a friendly and loving atmosphere where everyone is welcome. We will laugh, cry, eat and journey together, supporting those in need & celebrating the diversity represented; and

- **COMPASSION**

Building a culture of Compassion, we recognise the value of every human life. We put the needs, dignity and freedom of others ahead of our own wants, convenience & comfort. We look to care for the communities we live in and the world we inhabit.

Each aspect of these values and our ministry is supported by financial commitment from the church's resources.

Review of activities

The Church is based in Watford and typically holds its regular Sunday morning meetings at Westfield Academy in West Watford, and more recently at The Hub in Croxley Green.

The church has a full programme of events to meet the varying needs of church members and others in the community. During the year, the church has welcomed new members and others who have joined in the various activities summarised below.

Children and young peoples' activities on Sunday are arranged with the support of many gifted helpers and volunteers who are all DBS checked. The key meetings during the week, which are open to all church members and guests, are our Explore groups where there is opportunity for everyone to be involved. There are other activities during the week and special events, with all the details available on the Charity's website at www.x1church.com.

All of our activities are open to members of the public and we are actively involved with other churches in Watford through the 'Christians across Watford' link.

In planning the Charity's activities, the Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The ways in which the Charity works for the public benefit include:

- Holding regular meetings for worship and prayer;
- Providing biblical teaching at Sunday and mid-week meetings and through social network links;
- Visiting those who are sick or in need and providing practical help where required; and
- Providing financial help for those in need, in the UK and abroad.

Achievements and performance

During the past year, we have seen a number of encouraging developments, the main ones being:

- The charity has seen many positive signs revealing the health of the church coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, following the easing of restrictions associated with the outbreak of COVID-19, the charity recommenced physical gatherings on Sundays and has seen attendance numbers at levels comparable to those seen prior to the pandemic. Additionally, there is little evidence that engagement and interest in the wide-range of church activities offered has diminished and, conversely, the church has welcomed a number of new members this year;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

- The charity has continued to provide financial help for those in need, both in the UK and abroad. In addition to the regular assistance given, this year the church has provided significant help to the large number of Afghan refugees who have relocated to the UK, and specifically Watford. The needs of the refugees have been great, urgent and diverse, and the charity has responded in many practical ways. This has included: the purchase and gifting of many life-essentials such as school uniforms, nappies and toiletries; arranging and running of social events such as football, bowling and meals; and organising and leading teaching classes to assist with the refugees' integration into British society and culture;
- For our Explore Groups, the cyclical three phase programme of Campaign, Course and Connect has been reintroduced. We have continued to see high levels of participation in midweek groups, and the Course phase was particularly well received;
- The church organised a summer family fun-day and a fireworks event, both of which were successful in providing enjoyable events for families to attend, as well as increasing the church's engagement with the local community.

Financial review

During the year ended 31 March 2022, tithes and offerings amounted to £138,000 (2021: £117,000); and including other income and interest received, total income amounted to £197,000 (2021: £125,000). Total expenses amounted to £175,000 (2021: £126,000), primarily for the church's activities in Watford but also including grants to missions and individuals.

The significant increase in both income, excluding tithes and offerings, and total expenses, is owing to the church's external ministry associated with the Afghan refugees. The amount received as income in connection with this ministry during the year was £41,000 (2021: nil), and a comparable amount has been expensed by the charity during the year. Other items have seen increases in the year following the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions, including increases in income from the sub-letting of The Hub and increases in property rental and other church activities costs, as detailed in note 2 to the financial statements. Grants amounted to £18,000 (2021: £28,000) as detailed in note 3 to the financial statements.

The church's active ministry serves and helps those in our area and beyond who are in need. In addition, the church supports a number of mission activities in the UK and abroad, either helping those in need or developing the work of the Christian church. A minimum of ten per cent of income is allocated to these ministries and, if not spent during the year, any balance is carried forward in the Mercy & Mission fund which at 31 March 2022 amounted to £229 (2021: £nil).

At 31 March 2022, the charity had total funds of £204,817 (2021: £182,145) comprising restricted funds of £3,867 (2021: £nil) and unrestricted funds of £200,950 (2021: £182,145).

Investment & reserves policy

The Trustees have a general power to invest and disinvest the Charity's funds in furtherance of the Charity's objects.

The Reserves Policy is established to protect Christ First Watford's activities as a church from risk of disruption at short notice due to lack of funds. It determines an appropriate level for general reserves, taking into account:

- Possible unplanned shortfalls in voluntary giving to the Charity;
- The need to invest in a suitable building for the Charity's use; and
- Regular operating costs being reasonably predictable given the budget approved by the Trustees.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The target level of general reserves is approximately six months operating expenses for the ongoing church activities, which equates to approximately £70,000, plus additional funds to invest in our building. The basis for determining the target level of reserves is kept under review by the Trustees.

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been allocated by the Trustees for particular purposes. The Designated fund for Mercy & Mission has been established to provide funds for specific acts of mercy and mission to support others in need in the UK and abroad. To the extent that ten per cent of the charity's income is not spent on such mercy and mission, the balance is carried forward to future years. The amount carried forward is kept under review by the Trustees and is taken into account in finalising the operating budget for the coming year.

Risk management

The Trustees keep the principal risks of the Charity under review, have re-assessed the risks during the past year and appropriate preventative actions are developed and monitored.

The principal risks for the charity are:

- Loss of key personnel, especially the Eldership team;
- Safeguarding risks associated with external ministries, including the Afghan ministry;
- Loss of a significant number of the church's congregation; and
- Safeguarding of children.

The Church's major source of income is from member donations; the number of separate donors who contributed to the activities of the Church during the year was approximately 50. As a result of the wide sources of income, the Trustees consider that there is a low risk to the ongoing work of the Charity should it lose income from some donors.

Plans for the future

Since the summer of 2022 the charity has ceased to meet on Sundays at Westfield Academy in West Watford. Sunday meetings are now being held at The Hub in Croxley Green, and the charity is exploring other long-term options for meeting venues.

The charity will be running a campaign named "Invited" during the Autumn of 2022, and the charity intends to continue in its efforts to offer aid and help to the Afghan refugees who are currently living in Watford.

Structure, governance and management

Christ First Watford is a Christian charity which was established as a company limited by guarantee on 6 June 2011. It was formed to take over and progress the activities of a previous charity, Christ First, which was founded under trust in 1992 and consequently the new company has objects and aims which are similar to those of the previous Trust. The Charity is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and is working in partnership with New Ground, part of the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees who served during the year ended 31 March 2022, who are also directors for the purpose of Company law, are listed in the Information section on page 2. No Trustee has any beneficial interest in the Company. There are two members of the Company and each one guarantees to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 in the event of a winding up. The Trustees met on four occasions to discuss the progress of the Charity and to pray for its continued development.

New Trustees are appointed either by a resolution of the existing Trustees or by the Charity in General meeting. A Trustee appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees and a third of all Trustees are required to retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

New Trustees are provided with details of the Charity's governing documents, Trustees reports and financial statements and a full background on the Charity's activities. They are also encouraged to access the Charity Commission website for details of Trustee responsibilities, governance guidelines, etc.

Management

The charity is managed on a day-to-day basis by two Elders, Aaron McGovern and Andy Smith, who have responsibility for leading and directing activities. The Elders report on the charity's progress and future plans at each Trustees' meeting where the strategic direction and financial budgets are discussed and approved.

Reference and administrative details

The Charity is called Christ First Watford and operates as X1 or X1 Church with its website at www.x1church.com. Details of the Charity's registration numbers, its registered address, Trustees serving during the year and other administrative details are shown on page 2 of this report.

On behalf of the Directors/Trustees



Alex Steed

Acting Chairman

Dated: 15/12/ 2022

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that this Annual Report and the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements and the charity's governing documents.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees on the accounts of Christ First Watford

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 11 - 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's 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 period under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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:

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

Basis of the 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:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - b. 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.



18 December 2022

Mr Hayden Watson ACCA
The MHH Partnership Ltd
Elstree House
Watson's Yard, High Street
Cottenham
Cambs
CB24 8RX

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
Notes		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and gifts		138,246	48,172	186,418	116,595	5,752	122,347
Towards church activities		872	-	872	-	-	-
Other activities		10,172	-	10,172	2,371	-	2,371
Investments - interest receivable		18	-	18	68	4	72
Total income		149,308	48,172	197,480	119,034	5,756	124,790
Expenditure on:							
Charitable (church) activities	2	130,503	44,305	174,808	108,072	17,993	126,065
Total expenditure		130,503	44,305	174,808	108,072	17,993	126,065
Net income/(expenditure)/ movement in funds		18,805	3,867	22,672	10,962	(12,237)	(1,275)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2021		182,145	-	182,145	171,183	12,237	183,420
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2022	9/10	200,950	3,867	204,817	182,145	-	182,145

There are no other gains or losses other than the result for the year.

All of the activities of the Charity are classed as continuing.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

		2022		2021	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		10,786		19,045
Current assets					
Debtors	7	22,354		11,109	
Cash at bank and in hand		181,877		164,717	
		204,231		175,826	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(10,200)		(12,726)	
Net current assets			194,031		163,100
Total net assets			204,817		182,145
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	9/11		3,867		-
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	10		229		-
Undesignated funds	10		200,721		182,145
Total unrestricted funds			200,950		182,145
Total charity funds			204,817		182,145

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act') relating to small companies.
No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for 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 on pages 11 to 17 were approved by the Trustees on 15/12/2022



Alex Steed
Acting Chairman

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, on a going concern basis, as the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP FRS 102.

1.2 Income

Income represents funds received by the Charity for the support of its objectives and activities. Incoming resources, including income tax recoverable, are accounted for on a receivable basis.

The Charity benefits from the services of volunteers in most areas of the church's activities. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in the financial statements because that value cannot be reasonably quantified in financial terms.

1.3 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources, inclusive of VAT which is not recoverable.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Church equipment	Between 3 and 5 years
Leasehold improvements	The lease term

Individual items of equipment are capitalised when the purchase price is £1,000 or above.

1.5 Pensions

The Charity provides contributions to the personal pension funds of staff working two days per week or more. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the charity during the year.

1.6 Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity at the discretion of the Trustees;
- Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future projects or purposes; and
- Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Gift aid related to restricted donations is treated as restricted income.

1.7 Taxation

The Church is not subject to Income Tax. It is entitled to claim from H M Revenue & Customs the tax associated with income received under gift aid.

1.8 Leases

The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains, a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement at the inception date.

Leases where the lessor retains a significant portion of the risks and benefits of ownership of the asset are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2 Church activities

	Staff costs (note 4)	Depreciation	Other costs	Total	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants payable - see note 3	-	-	17,853	17,853	27,874
Church Ministry - see note below	61,882	-	2,066	63,948	61,128
Church activities - direct	-	-	7,157	7,157	2,656
Church activities - Afghan ministry	-	-	40,048	40,048	-
Administration:					
Church maintenance/operating costs	-	8,259	30,031	38,290	27,187
Church administration	-	-	6,316	6,316	6,288
Governance costs - accountancy and review fees	-	-	1,196	1,196	932
	61,882	8,259	104,667	174,808	126,065

Church Ministry includes the cost of full-time and part-time staff salary, pension and expenses and the cost of visiting speakers.

Expenditure on church activities was £174,808 (2021: £126,065), of which £130,503 (2021: £108,072) was unrestricted and £44,305 (2021: £17,993) was restricted.

Operating lease rentals of £5,854 (2021 - £5,854) have been recognised as an expense during the year.

3 Grants payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:				
New Ground (including Newday)	5,496	-	5,496	6,461
Discipling Nations - Zimbabwe	-	2,015	2,015	7,000
Rope - Kenya Sunshine home	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
New Hope	-	-	-	4,098
Wycliffe	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Other	783	253	1,036	2,379
	10,779	2,268	13,047	24,438
Grants to individuals (6 grants; 2021: 13 grants)	2,817	1,989	4,806	3,436
	13,596	4,257	17,853	27,874

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

4 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was two (2021: two), which comprised one (2021: one) full-time and one (2021: one) part-time employees.

Employment costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	57,510	55,262
Social security costs	1,496	1,201
Other pension costs	2,876	2,763
	<u>61,882</u>	<u>59,226</u>

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

5 Trustees and Related party transactions

No Trustee or any persons connected with them received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.

Andy Smith, one of the Trustees, is also one of the church Elders and incurs expenses in this role which are reimbursed by the Charity. The expenses are mainly for travel and accommodation in carrying out his duties as an Elder and amounted to £736 (2021: £115).

No other expenses were claimed by Trustees.

The aggregate amount of donations to the Charity by Trustees and Related Parties amounted to £59,900 (2021: £46,500).

There were no other Related Party Transactions during the year (2021: nil).

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Church equipment	Leasehold improvements	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	11,983	22,100	34,083
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	11,983	22,100	34,083
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	9,106	5,932	15,038
Charge for the year	1,569	6,690	8,259
At 31 March 2022	10,675	12,622	23,297
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2021	2,877	16,168	19,045
At 31 March 2022	1,308	9,478	10,786

7 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	4,643	3,885
Other debtors	4,395	4,060
Prepayments and accrued income	13,316	3,164
	22,354	11,109

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Taxes & social security costs	1,438	1,295
Accruals and deferred income	8,762	11,431
	10,200	12,726

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the Charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Specific donations	-	6,931	(4,257)	2,674
Afghan ministry fund	-	41,241	(40,048)	1,193
	-	48,172	(44,305)	3,867

Specific donations have been received and are paid out to those organisations and individuals for whom they were given. These items are included in the analysis of grants in note 3.

The Afghan ministry fund facilitates the support and provision of aid for the Afghan refugees who are located in the Watford area. These activities are accounted for as Church activities, in note 2.

10 Unrestricted funds

	Undesignated funds	Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	Total
	£	£	£
Balances at 1 April 2021	182,145	-	182,145
Net surplus for the year	18,805	-	18,805
Transfer to Mercy & Mission reserve	(229)	229	-
Balances at 31 March 2022	200,721	229	200,950

The Designated fund – Mercy & Mission reserve represents funds held for activities of mercy and mission within Watford and beyond. Ten per cent of donations and gifts to the church are allocated to Mercy & Mission ministry and to the extent the funds are not spent in the year; they are carried forward for future expenditure and designated as such in these accounts.

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

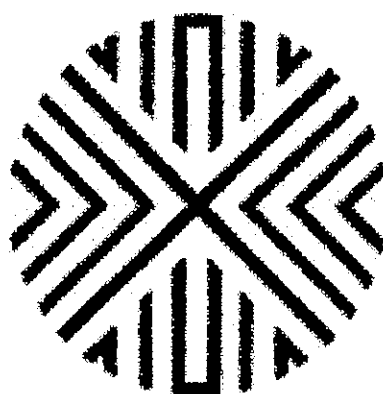
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	10,786	-	10,786
Current assets	200,364	3,867	204,231
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(10,200)	-	(10,200)
	200,950	3,867	204,817

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

England & Wales - Charity number 1142678

Accounts

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity Registration No 1142678

Company Registration No 7659090 (England & Wales)

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees	Jerry Abraham Jade De-Crescenzo Lorraine Duff Andy Smith Alex Steed Peter Wiles – resigned 13 July 2021
Secretary	Lorraine Duff
Charity Registration number	1142678
Company Registration number	7659090
Registered office	The Hub Fuller Way Croxley Green Rickmansworth Herts WD3 3PJ
Independent Examiner	Mr Hayden Watson ACCA The MHH Partnership Ltd Elstree House Watson's Yard, High Street Cottenham Cambs CB24 8RX
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 72-74 High Street Watford Herts WD17 2GZ

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

CONTENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Page
Directors' & Trustees' report	4 – 8
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	9
Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the financial statements	13 – 17

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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Building a culture of Honour, we put Christ first, honouring Him above all else through prayer & a life lived as worship. We aim to outdo one another in showing honour, this means we esteem others more highly than ourselves, always seeking to encourage and bless;
- **SERVICE**
Building a culture of Service, we imitate Jesus who took on the nature of a servant; choosing to surrender our lives as instruments to God for Him to use as He sees fit; placing His will above our own & building community by serving others;
- **DEVELOPMENT**
Building a culture of Development, we will encourage & challenge one another to grow in our faith and relationship with God. As a church we will provide opportunities to train and improve both abilities and character;
- **GENEROSITY**
Building a culture of Generosity, we recognise that everything we have is from God, so led by the Holy Spirit we give generously & joyfully of our time, lives & money. This is an act of worship to Jesus & comes before our own comfort or financial security;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- **FAMILY**

Building a culture of Family, we enjoy a friendly and loving atmosphere where everyone is welcome. We will laugh, cry, eat and journey together, supporting those in need & celebrating the diversity represented; and

- **COMPASSION**

Building a culture of Compassion, we recognise the value of every human life. We put the needs, dignity and freedom of others ahead of our own wants, convenience & comfort. We look to care for the communities we live in and the world we inhabit.

Each aspect of these values and our ministry is supported by financial commitment from the church's resources.

Review of activities

The Church is based in Watford and typically holds its regular Sunday morning meetings at Westfield Academy in West Watford, however since the outbreak of COVID-19 Sunday morning meetings have instead taken place online and more recently at The Hub in Croxley Green.

The church has a full programme of events to meet the varying needs of church members and others in the community. During the year, the church has welcomed new members and others who have joined in the various activities summarised below.

Children and young peoples' activities on Sunday are arranged with the support of many gifted helpers and volunteers who are all DBS checked. The key meetings during the week, which are open to all church members and guests, are our Explore groups where there is opportunity for everyone to be involved. There are other activities during the week and special events, with all the details available on the Charity's website at www.x1church.com.

All of our activities are open to members of the public and we are actively involved with other churches in Watford through the 'Christians across Watford' link.

In planning the Charity's activities, the Trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The ways in which the Charity works for the public benefit include:

- Holding regular meetings for worship and prayer;
- Providing biblical teaching at Sunday and mid-week meetings and through social network links;
- Visiting those who are sick or in need and providing practical help where required; and
- Providing financial help for those in need, in the UK and abroad.

Achievements and performance

During the past year, we have seen a number of encouraging developments, the main ones being:

- The increased use of new church facilities, with work continuing in the year to refurbish the premises, notably with a new heating system being installed during the year. During the past year the church facilities have been used as a base for broadcasting online services and church staff have continued to use the premises as an office;

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- Despite the outbreak of COVID-19, the charity was able to continue to offer a range of services and activities, primarily through the use of online media. Participation in church events has remained encouraging, and new individuals not from the local area have been able to participate owing to the use of online media. Additionally, the use of online media has facilitated new gatherings to take place, including bi-weekly prayer meetings and monthly quiz evenings;
- The past year has again seen new leaders emerging and them given opportunity to serve the church fellowship and develop their personal gifting;
- For our Explore Groups, the cyclical three phase programme of Campaign, Course and Connect continued in part, with the Course phase being postponed. However, we continued to see high levels of participation in midweek groups, and the Campaign phase was particularly well received, with the church producing their own material, with the book and sermon series deepening the theological knowledge of the church;
- The charity has continued to provide financial help for those in need, both in the UK and abroad.

Financial review

During the year ended 31 March 2021, tithes and offerings amounted to £117,000 (2020: £126,000); and including other income and interest received, total income amounted to £125,000 (2020: £145,000).

Total expenses amounted to £126,000 (2020: £142,000), primarily for the church's activities in Watford but also including grants to missions and individuals, with the decrease mainly due to lower property rental and renovation costs and lower conference related costs, as detailed in note 2 to the financial statements. Grants amounted to £28,000 (2020: £21,000) as detailed in note 3 to the financial statements.

The church's Active ministry serves and helps those in our area and beyond who are in need. In addition, the church supports a number of mission activities in the UK and abroad, either helping those in need or developing the work of the Christian church. A minimum of ten per cent of income is allocated to these ministries and, if not spent during the year, any balance is carried forward in the Mercy & Mission fund which at 31 March 2021 amounted to £nil (2020: £nil).

At 31 March 2021, the charity had total funds of £182,145 (2020: £183,420) comprising restricted funds of £nil (2020: £12,237) and unrestricted funds of £182,145 (2020: £171,183).

Investment & reserves policy

The Trustees have a general power to invest and disinvest the Charity's funds in furtherance of the Charity's objects.

The Reserves Policy is established to protect Christ First Watford's activities as a church from risk of disruption at short notice due to lack of funds. It determines an appropriate level for general reserves, taking into account:

- Possible unplanned shortfalls in voluntary giving to the Charity;
- The need to invest in a suitable building for the Charity's use; and
- Regular operating costs being reasonably predictable given the budget approved by the Trustees.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The target level of general reserves is approximately six months operating expenses for the ongoing church activities, which equates to approximately £70,000, plus additional funds to invest in our building. The basis for determining the target level of reserves is kept under review by the Trustees.

Designated funds

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds that have been allocated by the Trustees for particular purposes. The Designated fund for Mercy & Mission has been established to provide funds for specific acts of mercy and mission to support others in need in the UK and abroad. To the extent that ten per cent of the charity's income is not spent on such mercy and mission, the balance is carried forward to future years. The amount carried forward is kept under review by the Trustees and is taken into account in finalising the operating budget for the coming year.

Risk management

The Trustees keep the principal risks of the Charity under review, have re-assessed the risks during the past year and appropriate preventative actions are developed and monitored.

The principal risks for the charity are:

- Loss of key personnel, especially the Eldership team;
- COVID-19 issues traced to a church event;
- Loss of a significant number of the church's congregation; and
- Safeguarding of children.

The Church's major source of income is from member donations; the number of separate donors who contributed to the activities of the Church during the year was approximately 50. As a result of the wide sources of income, the Trustees consider that there is a low risk to the ongoing work of the Charity should it lose income from some donors.

Plans for the future

During the summer of 2021 the charity recommenced physical gatherings on Sundays, whilst continuing to offer online media as an alternative. Sunday meetings have temporarily been held at The Hub in Croxley Green, but from November 2021 the charity intends to return to holding its regular Sunday morning meetings at Westfield Academy in West Watford.

Structure, governance and management

Christ First Watford is a Christian charity which was established as a company limited by guarantee on 6 June 2011. It was formed to take over and progress the activities of a previous charity, Christ First, which was founded under trust in 1992 and consequently the new company has objects and aims which are similar to those of the previous Trust. The Charity is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and is working in partnership with New Ground, part of the Newfrontiers family of churches.

The Trustees who served during the year ended 31 March 2021, who are also directors for the purpose of Company law, are listed in the Information section on page 2. No Trustee has any beneficial interest in the Company. There are two members of the Company and each one guarantees to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 in the event of a winding up. The Trustees met on four occasions to discuss the progress of the Charity and to pray for its continued development.

New Trustees are appointed either by a resolution of the existing Trustees or by the Charity in General meeting. A Trustee appointed by a resolution of existing Trustees and a third of all Trustees are required to retire by rotation at each Annual General Meeting.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

DIRECTORS' & TRUSTEES' REPORT (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

New Trustees are provided with details of the Charity's governing documents, Trustees reports and financial statements and a full background on the Charity's activities. They are also encouraged to access the Charity Commission website for details of Trustee responsibilities, governance guidelines, etc.

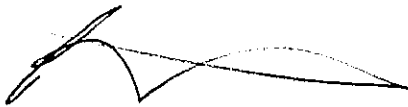
Management

The charity is managed on a day-to-day basis by two Elders, Aaron McGovern and Andy Smith, who have responsibility for leading and directing activities. The Elders report on the charity's progress and future plans at each Trustees' meeting where the strategic direction and financial budgets are discussed and approved.

Reference and administrative details

The Charity is called Christ First Watford and operates as X1 or X1 Church with its website at www.x1church.com. Details of the Charity's registration numbers, its registered address, Trustees serving during the year and other administrative details are shown on page 2 of this report.

On behalf of the Directors/Trustees



Alex Steed
Acting Chairman

Dated: 15 November 2021

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period.

In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that this Annual Report and the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements and the charity's governing documents.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees on the accounts of Christ First Watford

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 11 - 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's 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 period under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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:

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

Basis of the 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:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - b. 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.


Mr Hayden Watson ACCA
The MHH Partnership Ltd
Elstree House
Watson's Yard, High Street
Cottenham
Cambs
CB24 8RX

30 November 2021

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
Notes		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and gifts		116,595	5,752	122,347	126,176	1,495	127,671
Towards church activities		-	-	-	5,976	-	5,976
Other activities		2,371	-	2,371	11,419	-	11,419
Investments - interest receivable		68	4	72	262	94	356
Total income		119,034	5,756	124,790	143,833	1,589	145,422
Expenditure on:							
Charitable (church) activities	2	108,072	17,993	126,065	105,973	36,189	142,162
Total expenditure		108,072	17,993	126,065	105,973	36,189	142,162
Net income/(expenditure)/ movement in funds		10,962	(12,237)	(1,275)	37,860	(34,600)	3,260
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2020		171,183	12,237	183,420	133,323	46,837	180,160
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2021	9/10	182,145	-	182,145	171,183	12,237	183,420

There are no other gains or losses other than the result for the year.

All of the activities of the Charity are classed as continuing.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		19,045		8,371
Current assets					
Debtors	7	11,109		15,392	
Cash at bank and in hand		164,717		172,318	
		<u>175,826</u>		<u>187,710</u>	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(12,726)		(12,661)	
Net current assets			163,100		175,049
Total net assets			<u>182,145</u>		<u>183,420</u>
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	9/11		-		12,237
Unrestricted funds					
Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	10		-		-
Undesignated funds	10		182,145		171,183
Total unrestricted funds			<u>182,145</u>		<u>171,183</u>
Total charity funds			<u>182,145</u>		<u>183,420</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ('the Act') relating to small companies.
No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for 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 on pages 11 to 17 were approved by the Trustees on 15 November 2021



Alex Steed
Acting Chairman

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

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

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, on a going concern basis, as the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP FRS 102.

1.2 Income

Income represents funds received by the Charity for the support of its objectives and activities. Incoming resources, including income tax recoverable, are accounted for on a receivable basis.

The Charity benefits from the services of volunteers in most areas of the church's activities. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in the financial statements because that value cannot be reasonably quantified in financial terms.

1.3 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources, inclusive of VAT which is not recoverable.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Church equipment	Between 3 and 5 years
Leasehold improvements	The lease term

Individual items of equipment are capitalised when the purchase price is £1,000 or above.

1.5 Pensions

The Charity provides contributions to the personal pension funds of staff working two days per week or more. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the charity during the year.

1.6 Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are:

- Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity at the discretion of the Trustees;
- Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future projects or purposes; and
- Restricted funds - these are funds which can only be used for particular purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Gift aid related to restricted donations is treated as restricted income.

1.7 Taxation

The Church is not subject to Income Tax. It is entitled to claim from H M Revenue & Customs the tax associated with income received under gift aid.

1.8 Leases

The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains, a lease is based on the substance of the arrangement at the inception date.

Leases where the lessor retains a significant portion of the risks and benefits of ownership of the asset are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2 Church activities

	Staff costs (note 4)	Depreciation	Other costs	Total	Total
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants payable - see note 3	-	-	27,874	27,874	20,752
Church Ministry - see note below	59,226	-	1,902	61,128	50,118
Church activities - direct	-	-	2,656	2,656	15,609
Administration:					
Church maintenance/operating costs	-	5,293	21,894	27,187	44,262
Church administration	-	-	6,288	6,288	10,491
Governance costs - accountancy and review fees	-	-	932	932	930
	<u>59,226</u>	<u>5,293</u>	<u>61,546</u>	<u>126,065</u>	<u>142,162</u>

Church Ministry includes the cost of full-time and part-time staff salary, pension and expenses and the cost of visiting speakers.

Operating lease rentals of £5,854 (2020 - £6,000) have been recognised as an expense during the year.

3 Grants payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:				
New Ground (including Newday)	6,461	-	6,461	5,996
Discipling Nations - Zimbabwe	1,473	5,527	7,000	-
Overseas visits and support - Egypt	-	-	-	3,149
Rope - Kenya Sunshine home	3,000	-	3,000	3,100
New Hope	4,098	-	4,098	-
Wycliffe	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Other	2,154	225	2,379	2,152
	<u>18,686</u>	<u>5,752</u>	<u>24,438</u>	<u>15,897</u>
Grants to individuals (13 grants; 2020: 16 grants)	3,436	-	3,436	4,855
	<u>22,122</u>	<u>5,752</u>	<u>27,874</u>	<u>20,752</u>

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was two (2020: one), which comprised one (2020: one) full-time and one (2020: none) part-time employees.

Employment costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	55,262	43,270
Social security costs	1,201	1,063
Other pension costs	2,763	2,084
	<u>59,226</u>	<u>46,417</u>

Included in Wages and salaries is an amount of £nil (2020: £1,600) relating to an ex-gratia payment made towards an employee whose contract of employment has terminated.

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more.

5 Trustees and Related party transactions

No Trustee or any persons connected with them received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.

Andy Smith, one of the Trustees, is also one of the church Elders and incurs expenses in this role which are reimbursed by the Charity. The expenses are mainly for travel and accommodation in carrying out his duties as an Elder and amounted to £115 (2020: £1,789).

Alex Steed, one of the Trustees, also acts as a volunteer in support of the church and occasionally attends conferences in respect of this. The conference expenses reimbursed by the Charity amounted to £nil (2020: £338).

No other expenses were claimed by Trustees.

The aggregate amount of donations to the Charity by Trustees and Related Parties amounted to £46,500 (2020: £44,800).

There were no other Related Party Transactions during the year (2020: nil).

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Church equipment	Leasehold improvements	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	9,384	8,732	18,116
Additions	2,599	13,368	15,967
At 31 March 2021	11,983	22,100	34,083
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	7,643	2,102	9,745
Charge for the year	1,463	3,830	5,293
At 31 March 2021	9,106	5,932	15,038
Net book value:			
At 31 March 2020	1,741	6,630	8,371
At 31 March 2021	2,877	16,168	19,045

7 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	3,885	4,468
Other debtors	4,060	-
Prepayments and accrued income	3,164	10,924
	11,109	15,392

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Taxes & social security costs	1,295	1,474
Accruals and deferred income	11,431	11,187
	12,726	12,661

CHRIST FIRST WATFORD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

9 Restricted funds

The income funds of the Charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Church Premises Fund	12,237	4	(12,241)	-
Specific donations	-	5,752	(5,752)	-
	<u>12,237</u>	<u>5,756</u>	<u>(17,993)</u>	<u>-</u>

The Church Premises Fund provides resources for suitable church premises and the rental costs for the new Sunday meeting location at Westfield Academy and costs for the leased premises acquired in September 2018 are now charged to this reserve.

Specific donations have been received and are paid out to those organisations and individuals for whom they were given. These items are included in the analysis of grants in note 3.

10 Unrestricted funds

	Undesignated funds	Designated fund – Mercy & Mission	Total
	£	£	£
Balances at 1 April 2020	171,183	-	171,183
Net surplus for the year	10,962	-	10,962
Transfer to Mercy & Mission reserve	-	-	-
Balances at 31 March 2021	<u>182,145</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>182,145</u>

The Designated fund – Mercy & Mission reserve represents funds held for activities of mercy and mission within Watford and beyond. Ten per cent of donations and gifts to the church are allocated to Mercy & Mission ministry and to the extent the funds are not spent in the year, they are carried forward for future expenditure and designated as such in these accounts.

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	19,045	-	19,045
Current assets	175,826	-	175,826
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(12,726)	-	(12,726)
	<u>182,145</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>182,145</u>