

River Church

Report and Accounts
Year ended 31 December 2024

Stewardship 
Active generosity

1 Lamb's Passage, London EC1Y 8AB
www.stewardship.org.uk

RIVER CHURCH
CHARITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees	Michael John Holt Graham Leslie Burgess Caroline Grace Read Mary Kathleen Porter Alistair John Handford Ruth Abigail Parry Ian Linton (resigned January 2024) Chris May (resigned April 2024)	
Treasurer	Nigel Rivers	
Church Leaders	Adam Chisnall Paul Wratten & Anthea Wratten Julie Ioakeim Rachael Pymm, Catherine France, Joel Clarke (until Apr '24), Luke Saunders (from Jun '24)	River Maidenhead River Marlow River Slough The Journey (Englefield Green)
Governing Document	Constitution dated 15 December 2022	
Charity Registration Number	1146525	
Principal Address & Registered Office	From 1 August 2024: 1 Meadlake Place Egham Surrey TW20 8HE	<i>Until 1 August 2024:</i> <i>Bank House</i> <i>81 St Judes Road</i> <i>Englefield Green</i> <i>Surrey</i> <i>TW20 0DF</i>
Independent Examiner	Sarah Crispin ACA Stewardship 1 Lamb's Passage London EC1Y 8AB	
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ	Metro Bank 1 Southampton Row London WC1B 5HQ

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RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of **Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice** applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The charitable aims of River Church are to:

- Advance the Christian faith in the Thames Valley, the United Kingdom and the wider world;
- Bring relief to persons who are in need, financial hardship or suffering from illness or deprivation;
- Further Christian or secular education in the Thames Valley, the United Kingdom and wider world as appropriate;
- Benefit the lives of people in the communities where River churches reside; by improving or providing local facilities and activities.

The vision of River Church is to serve our communities and to see transformation through the love and power of God.

River Church employed 10 staff on either a full-time or part-time basis as at 31 December 2024 (2023: 10), including the church leaders and other administration staff and youth workers.

In addition to the employed staff there are many teams of volunteers and helpers across our four churches who together seek to be "salt and light" within our communities to achieve the charity's aims.

Public benefit

In planning the activities of River Church, the trustees have given regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance (Reg 40 (2) (c) (ii)) and particularly the guidance for charities whose objects include the advancement of religion.

River Church provides public benefit in numerous ways across our four churches as follows:

The Journey Church - Englefield Green, Surrey

Our church in Englefield Green has a strong community focus at its heart and runs a community hub in association with Runnymede Council.

During 2024, five community lunches were hosted, serving a total of 270 hot meals. Each lunch is free to attend to help those in financial need.

RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

We see many elderly attendees from the home next door to the Hub. Our lunch in June had an eco-focus as part of The Great Big Green Week and in partnership with Runnymede Borough Council and featured a chicken and vegetable barbeque. The Christmas community lunch also included a free raffle, quiz and Christmas presents given to all attendees.

Other activities held at the Hub include:

- An after-school children's club hosted every Thursday during school term, attended by 28 children ages 7-11 years. Each child received an Easter egg and Christmas present.
- Weekly dance club in partnership with Royal Holloway Dance Society.
- Weekly gardening club incorporating special family gardening day events during school holidays, promoting home-grown food and care for the environment. The gardening club earned the Royal Horticultural Society's "It's Your Neighbourhood" Award at Level 5 – Outstanding for the third year in a row.
- Weekly Community Cafe, providing a communal space for those in the local vicinity with coffee, tea and entertainment including quizzes, bingo and other games

We attended the Englefield Green Village Fair in June 2024 to promote the work of the Journey Church at the Hub, including:

- Prayer verses and encouragement
- Free refreshments
- Information about activities and volunteering opportunities at the Hub
- Free plant giveaway

During 2024 a party was held in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Journey Church in the Englefield Green community. This was attended by past and current members and friends of the church.

Two food hampers were donated to the Besom charity based in Egham as part of their Christmas appeal. These were funded by the church and put together as part of our small groups.

Our Christmas carol service was attended by 40 people, many not usual attendees of the church. The event featured dance performances by children of the Hub's dance club and a musical play telling the Christmas story.

We ran a free and well-attended Summer Fair, Carol Singing at Christmas and Easter events for residents at Aldwyn Place, an elderly rented housing centre with extra care situated adjacent to the Hub.

Three free, quiz events, open to the community were held as fun events with numerous fun prizes.

RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

River Church, Maidenhead

Our church in Maidenhead has blossomed in 2024, adding a third to our weekly gatherings and doubling our River family. These individuals came from our community outreach work, through our congregations' own personal witness, and through our social media and website efforts. We ran 2 Alpha courses in 2024 and baptised 4 individuals.

Our CAP debt centre celebrated its eighth year of operation, and we approach a major milestone with over £950,000 of debt repaid or written off in that period across 64 families by the end of 2024. We anticipate crossing the £1m line in 2025.

We ran monthly community lunches, creating a community around the meal table in a fresh expression of church.

Our Youth Work doubled in size and our youth are now inviting their friends along as they practice mission and witness.

The young people attended a Christian summer camp where we saw a new depth to their relationship with Jesus.

Our Children's Work doubled in size, and we began running regular River Kid's meetups outside of a Sunday gathering, increasing their community with each other.

We ran a packed-out Easter event for children, with 75% of those attending from the community, giving us an opportunity to reach out to the community in a different way with the gospel message.

We continued to run our toddler group every week and again have watched this double in size, and a 'River Tots' program has been formed to teach the basics of the bible in an engaging way while sharing the importance of Prayer and Worship.

Our Larchfield Ladybirds toddler group has been growing and we're delighted to begin to see fresh fruit from those family attending, also coming along to community lunches and events at church, exploring what we believe.

We meet in rented accommodation (as indeed we have in our 50 year history). However, we pursued God as he is leading us ever close to our 'Miracle Building', with an emphasis on raising awareness, deepening faith and fundraising for this big project on the horizon.

River Church, Slough

In our Slough church, we have seen a good level of growth in the size of our congregation in 2024 and an increase in our influence across the borough.

We operate a weekly toddler group.

RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

We have recently gone into a care home on several occasions to deliver a church service and communion, we then pray privately with those that are unable to gather in the main living area.

We offer midweek small groups to support our congregation in building relationships and learning the truth of the Word of God.

We have been excited to have seen a number of physical healings in 2024 following prayer including;

- Feet painfully swollen with gout, healed
- Feet painful and red, healed
- Knees, healed
- Painful back where the person was unable to walk properly, healed
- Woman who had a stroke and family told would be brain dead, healed

In 2024 we held both a Christmas and an Easter outreach in a large temporary housing building that houses up to 800 individuals and families. We had Santa giving Christmas presents, carol singing with the occupants joining in with song sheets. There was facepainting, games, colouring, chocolates, glowsticks and balloons.

At Easter, we had the Easter Bunny giving Easter eggs and children listened to the Easter story. There was also facepainting, games, colouring, chocolates, glowsticks and balloons. Both events offered prayer to the people and many now receive lifts and join us on Sundays for Church.

At the end of 2023 we started the Giving Hope Furniture project which collects donated furniture and household items, and through referrals from different organisations such as DASH (domestic abuse), the Council, 1st for Children, NHS, Community connectors and many others, we give those items to people in crisis in the SL postcode area. This covers Slough, Langley, Colnbrook, Cippenham, Britwell, Windsor, Maidenhead, Taplow, Burnham and Dorney.

The project is run by volunteers who give up their Saturday to help collect and deliver to those in need and financial hardship resulting from many different reasons, such as escaping domestic abuse, those who have been homeless, refugees, and anyone who has found themselves in crisis, regardless of their religion, race, nationality, age, gender or disability.

This project also offers a placement midweek to a 17-year-old autistic person from BCA college who found it difficult to communicate with those around him. He is learning to clean, sand, paint and varnish, and fix furniture. He loves his placement and is communicating well with us.

The project is funded by generous donors without which we cannot continue. We have been truly blessed by several companies such as SEGRO who offer a building on six monthly contracts, Dulux paints who supply paints for the restoration of furniture, and ASDA who donate bedding.

RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

River Church, Marlow

Our church in Marlow continued to grow and flourish during 2024.

We were active in meeting the needs of those in our community experiencing financial hardship through regular use of our hardship fund and referrals to our CAP Debt Centre.

We run a weekly lunch group to over 60's supported housing which continues to grow. Now with up to 20 attendees each week.

Our parents, carers and toddlers' group has grown with the addition of singing and craft activities, with more older, single people popping in for coffee and chat.

Church members volunteer at a busy monthly lunch for the homeless in High Wycombe.

We have partnered with World Vision and many of us are now part of their 'Chosen' program.

A mission trip partnering with Links International to Malawi is planned for September 2025.

We join with churches together in Marlow to provide joint services at Easter and a praise service as part of Marlow Regatta.

We run regular Christian teaching series on Sunday mornings at our gatherings and nearly all church members are part of small groups that meet during the week.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

General Funds

During the year total incoming resources to General Funds were £391,334 (2023: £1,026,049) and total resources used from General Funds were £359,188 (2023: £341,480), resulting in a General Fund surplus for the year of £32,146 (2023: £684,569). Included in this income is a legacy gift of £59,220 (2023: £679,750) from a church member who died in the year. Good general regularity of giving continues across the four churches, combined with the continued budgetary spending controls.

Designated Funds

Donations to Designated Funds totalled £37,100 (2023: £11,076) with designated expenditure totalling £6,870 (2023: £20,184). The surplus of £40,463 (2023: deficit of £9,108) was added to the surpluses brought forward, after some agreed specific transfers between funds.

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds income totalled £101,067 (2023: £53,407) for the year with restricted expenditure totalling £93,972 (2023: £78,043). The surplus of £7,095 (2023: deficit £24,636) was added to Restricted Funds surpluses brought forward with some agreed transfers from other funds.

RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

At the end of the year, 31st December 2024, the Charity held £909,492 (2023: £879,713) in General Funds, £48,091 (2023: £6,802) in Designated Funds and £183,522 (2023: £174,885) in Restricted Funds.

General Funds continue to exceed the trustees' minimum reserve policy of £75,000 (2023: £75,000) by a good margin.

Bank Balances

River Church bank balances at 31st December 2024 stood at £970,245 (2023: £862,874) which the trustees consider sufficient to meet all foreseeable and future risks now that the 2025 General Fund income and expenditure budget has been approved.

Investment policy and objectives

The trustees of River Church acknowledge they have a key responsibility for good stewardship of church funds. In decision-making in these areas the following investment principles and guidelines are considered.

River Church will:

- Invest funds in a manner that is consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ and in line with its charitable objectives;
- Handle all funds with integrity, transparency and with good governance;
- Invest funds in a way that is both compliant with prevailing charitable law and that balance both the medium- and longer-term needs foreseen;
- Invest funds in a manner that seeks to maximise the return or to achieve other agreed aims in line with its charitable objectives;
- Formally review the investment policy annually as to its adequacy.

Reserves policy

The trustees have established a policy of maintaining reserves at a level they feel would enable them to continue the current activities of the church in the event of a short-term significant drop in income.

The largest regular operating costs of the charity are staff salaries and church building leases and meeting hall hire. Consequently, the trustees' policy is to maintain sufficient reserves to cover three months of such expenditure (£75K). Unrestricted funds exceeded this level throughout the year.

The governing body review the level of reserves annually to confirm their adequacy and the potential risk. On the 31st of December 2024 this General Fund "risk reserve" stood at £75,000 (2023: £75,000).

The current total level of reserves remains relatively high mainly due to substantial giving to River Maidenhead's 'Miracle Building Project', CAP debt management designated funds and Englefield Green Community Hub. The church also benefitted from a legacy gift in 2023 & 2024 of which £ 59,220 (2023: £679,750) was received at the balance sheet date.

RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

FUTURE PLANS

The key strategies for the charity during 2025 are both to build and to expand on the local community focus work and initiatives where the individual churches reside, ie., to continue to build churches that develop strong healthy followers of Jesus who bless and serve the community within which they operate.

We aim to capitalise on the online opportunity that the pandemic created by continuing to build online capability and integrate this as a complement to other approaches to church outreach. For example, by using online capability to host mid-week meetings for prayer and Bible study thus avoiding the need for additional hall rental costs. We also use online capability to 'broadcast' Sunday services to those who are unable to attend in person.

Our goals for 2025 are to;

- invest in and train up a new generation of leaders;
- continue to encourage the four churches to remain financially independent so that the central cost overhead is reduced and shared among them;
- to support the development of the four independent churches within a common set of shared values;
- continue the search for a suitable property for the Maidenhead Miracle Building project and to find a suitable location for the continuation of our Giving Hope Furniture project in Slough.
- continue to build and invest in the work of the CAP Debt Centre supporting Maidenhead and Marlow
- further develop our online church capability and community: reaching, connecting and sharing in the digital space

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

In December 2022 River Church converted to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a new written constitution duly received and accepted by the Charities Commission on 15th December 2022.

This constitution replaced the 2012 Memorandum and Articles. The limited company therefore closed in December 2022.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The powers of appointment and removal of trustees rests with the 'members' of River Church. Trustees are selected from committed attendees of the churches that make up River Church. This aims to ensure that the trustee body as a whole is involved practically in working out the church's mission and the trustees have also subscribed to a statement of faith. No trustees are remunerated for their services to River Church.

During 2024 the trustees of River Church met on seven occasions. Each meeting of the trustees during the year was led by the Chair of trustees, who is not a member of the spiritual leadership of River Church. The Chair is elected annually by the other non-leadership trustees.

RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Each trustee meeting had a full and balanced agenda covering the spiritual, strategic, performance, financial, legal and risk issues facing the church.

Organisational structure

Local Management

Directions relating to the charity for 2024 were made by the trustees, in consultation with the church leaders, who were responsible for governing the activities and teaching of the church. Day-to-day decisions on the use of resources remained the responsibility of the staff and volunteers in charge of the different departments within the churches.

Expenditure is controlled by budgets set and expense approval monitored by the trustees. The establishment of a new Restricted or Designated Fund is at the joint discretion of the trustees in consultation with the leader of each Church.

Network Structure

River Church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and has a long-standing relationship with Pioneer; a Christian organisation that pursues similar objectives in the United Kingdom and overseas. The church works with Pioneer in assisting other churches and receives help itself where needed.

Responsibilities of trustees under charity law

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. 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.

**RIVER CHURCH REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

Approval

Approved by order of the board of trustees on Sep 15, 2025
behalf by:

MJHolt

MJHolt (Sep 15, 2025 15:58:13 GMT+1)

M J Holt - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
RIVER CHURCH
('the Charity')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 on pages 12 to 23 following, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 15 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Sarah Crispin
Sarah Crispin (Oct 2, 2025 11:37:06 GMT+1)

Sarah Crispin ACA
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
London
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Oct 2, 2025

RIVER CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	414,552	94,257	508,809	1,079,223
Charitable activities	4	135	5,343	5,477	5,586
Investments	5	23,981	1,468	25,449	5,722
Total income and endowments		438,667	101,067	539,734	1,090,531
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	6	366,058	93,972	460,030	439,706
Total expenditure		366,058	93,972	460,030	439,706
Net income/(expenditure)		72,609	7,095	79,704	650,825
Transfers between funds	14	(1,542)	1,542	-	-
Net movement in funds		71,067	8,637	79,704	650,825
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		886,515	174,885	1,061,401	410,576
Total funds carried forward	14	957,583	183,522	1,141,105	1,061,401

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing operations.

The notes on page 15 - 22 form part of these accounts.

RIVER CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	25,190	-	25,190	-
		<u>25,190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,190</u>	<u>-</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	15,480	-	15,480	216,727
Investments	10	151,883	-	151,883	-
Cash at bank and in hand	11	786,723	183,522	970,245	862,874
		<u>954,086</u>	<u>183,522</u>	<u>1,137,608</u>	<u>1,079,601</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(21,694)	-	(21,694)	(18,200)
		<u>932,393</u>	<u>183,522</u>	<u>1,115,915</u>	<u>1,061,401</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)					
		<u>932,393</u>	<u>183,522</u>	<u>1,115,915</u>	<u>1,061,401</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>957,583</u>	<u>183,522</u>	<u>1,141,105</u>	<u>1,061,401</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>957,583</u>	<u>183,522</u>	<u>1,141,105</u>	<u>1,061,401</u>
FUND BALANCES					
Unrestricted Funds	14				
General funds		909,492	-	909,492	879,713
Designated funds		48,091	-	48,091	6,802
		<u>957,583</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>957,583</u>	<u>886,515</u>
Restricted Funds		<u>-</u>	<u>183,522</u>	<u>183,522</u>	<u>174,885</u>
		<u>957,583</u>	<u>183,522</u>	<u>1,141,105</u>	<u>1,061,401</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and were signed on its behalf by:


M J Holt (Sep 15, 2025 15:58:13 GMT+1)

M J Holt

Date: Sep 15, 2025

Charity number: 1146525

The notes on page 15 - 22 form part of these accounts.

RIVER CHURCH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	a	<u>263,504</u>	<u>482,915</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		25,449	5,722
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(29,698)	-
Purchase of investments		(151,883)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(156,133)</u>	<u>5,722</u>
Change in cash and equivalents in the reporting period		<u>107,371</u>	<u>488,637</u>
Cash and equivalents at the beginning of the year	b	<u>862,874</u>	<u>374,237</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	b	<u>970,245</u>	<u>862,874</u>

Analysis of changes in net debt:

	At start of year £	Cash-flows £	At end of year £
Cash	862,874	107,371	970,245
Total net funds / (debt)	<u>862,874</u>	<u>107,371</u>	<u>970,245</u>

Note a: Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	79,704	650,825
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges and provisions for impairment	4,508	-
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(25,449)	(5,722)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	201,247	(166,149)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	3,494	3,961
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>263,504</u>	<u>482,915</u>

Note b: Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank with immediate access	817,796	716,203
Notice deposits	152,449	146,671
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>970,245</u>	<u>862,874</u>

RIVER CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Statutory Information

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the "Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) ("the Charities SORP"), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The trustees (who are the charitable company's directors for the purposes of company law) have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

b) Income

Income including investment income is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part, income is generally recognised when it is received. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes:

- i) Recoverable gift aid. This is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.
- ii) Legacies. Income from legacies is recognised when a distribution is received from the estate or, if earlier, when the charity has been notified that a distribution will be made and the amount receivable can be measured reliably. During the year, the charity received a single legacy which comprised cash & a property. Part of the cash legacy was received during 2024 and included as accrued income in these accounts. The property was sold and the proceeds recognised on sale. The associated costs are shown as 'Legacy costs' in expenditure.

The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

Income from charitable activities represents income receivable from goods, services and facilities supplied in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects. It includes income from facilities hire which represents contributions to services from other community groups using the Forest Estate Community Hub.

Investment income represents income generated by the charity's assets and includes income from bank interest.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity makes grants to other institutions and individuals to further its charitable objectives. Grants payable are recognised as constructive obligations arise, which is generally when the charity expresses a commitment to the recipient that can be measured reliably and then only to the extent that any conditions associated with the grant are outside of the control of the charity.

RIVER CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 Accounting Policies (cont.)

The cost of raising funds is not significant and has not been separately disclosed.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £10,000 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Computers & Sound Equipment	Over 3 years
Vehicles	Over 5 years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

f) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employees. Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

g) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

h) Financial instruments

The charity's financial assets and financial liabilities all qualify as basic financial instruments, as defined by FRS102. Except for loans, creditors and debtors are measured at their expected settlement value (normally the amount of cash that the charity expects to pay or receive). The charity recognises liabilities for the principal of those loans that remains outstanding at the year end (i.e. the liabilities exclude any interest chargeable on the loans in future years).

i) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The trustees do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3 Donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations of cash and similar	339,505	321,127
Donations in kind (note 3a)	3,750	-
Other grants receivable	45,200	10,211
Legacies receivable	59,220	679,750
Income tax recoverable	61,134	68,136
	<u>508,809</u>	<u>1,079,223</u>

a Donations in kind comprise:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donated services	3,750	-
	<u>3,750</u>	<u>-</u>

Donated services comprise pro bono services of a fundraising specialist for CAP Debt Centre.

RIVER CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4 Income from charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Forest Hub - Facilities Hire	5,477	5,586
	<u>5,477</u>	<u>5,586</u>

5 Investment income

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank interest	25,449	5,722
	<u>25,449</u>	<u>5,722</u>

6 Charitable expenditure

	Church Activities	CAP Debt Centre	Forest Hub	Total Charitable Expenditure 2024
a Incurred directly on activities				
Salaries, travel & training	178,209	36,601	22,942	237,752
Church ministry costs	16,870	-	474	15,636
Outreach & events	18,258	6	5,996	24,260
CAP Debt centre running costs	-	1,708	-	1,708
Equipment	10,365	-	270	10,635
Premises expenses including venue hire	44,050	-	3,622	47,672
Building costs	4,193	-	4,751	8,944
Communications	4,094	-	654	4,748
Legacy costs	645	-	-	645
Grants payable (note 6c)	60,367	7,200	-	67,567
b Support costs				
Professional fees	14,253	3,750	500	18,503
Office costs & insurance	12,203	249	202	12,653
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	4,508	-	-	4,508
Governance	4,048	419	334	4,800
	<u>372,063</u>	<u>49,932</u>	<u>39,743</u>	<u>460,030</u>

	Church Activities	CAP Debt Centre	Forest Hub	Total Charitable Expenditure 2023
Incurred directly on activities				
Salaries, travel & training	152,325	33,512	19,348	205,185
Church ministry costs	12,936	-	-	12,936
Outreach & events	20,152	-	3,719	23,871
CAP Debt centre running costs	-	1,323	-	1,323
Equipment	17,824	538	985	19,347
Premises expenses including venue hire	46,281	278	4,923	51,483
Communications	4,185	46	135	4,366
Legacy costs	29,901	-	-	29,901
Grants payable (note 6c)	56,862	7,200	33	64,096
Support costs				
Professional fees	11,608	253	256	12,118
Office costs & insurance	10,089	12	419	10,520
Governance	4,368	95	96	4,560
	<u>366,533</u>	<u>43,258</u>	<u>29,916</u>	<u>439,706</u>

RIVER CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6 Charitable expenditure (cont.)

As the charity's income is over £500,000 in the current year, expenditure is disclosed by charitable activity.

Professional fees and Governance costs are allocated to the CAP Debt Centre and the Forest Hub based on the proportion of total income restricted to these projects.

The fee payable to the independent examiner for preparing and examining the accounts was £4,560 (2023: £4,560); in addition the charity paid £350 (2023: £210) to Stewardship for consultancy services.

c Grants payable

	Institutions £	Individuals £	2024 £
Grants for UK and overseas mission	41,448	16,750	58,198
Grants for the relief of poverty	7,674	1,695	9,369
	<u>49,122</u>	<u>18,445</u>	<u>67,567</u>

The comparatives for the previous year are as follows:

	Institutions £	Individuals £	2023 £
Grants for UK and overseas mission	23,542	17,519	41,061
Grants for the relief of poverty	7,240	15,794	23,034
	<u>30,782</u>	<u>33,314</u>	<u>64,096</u>

The charity's principal grants to institutions comprised:

	2024 £	2023 £
Pioneer	7,748	9,292
Frontiers	8,700	3,000
Light International	10,000	7,333
Friends of Asha	-	3,000
Englefield Green Community Hub	15,000	-
Christians Against Poverty	7,674	7,200
Grants to institutions for less than £1,000 each	-	957
	<u>49,122</u>	<u>30,782</u>

7 Analysis of staff costs, the cost of key management personnel and trustee remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross wages and salaries	207,717	172,241
Social security	12,059	2,655
Pension costs	5,766	5,005
	<u>225,542</u>	<u>179,901</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 10 (2023: 9). Most of the charity's activities are carried out by volunteers.

No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum.

The charity's key management comprise the trustees and the church leaders on the Charity Information page. During the year key management received employment benefits totalling £89,801 (2023: £87,157).

Payroll costs included redundancy and termination payments totalling £nil (2023: £10,062) and comprise statutory payments and ex-gratia payments where this was considered appropriate. Redundancy and termination payments are charged when the liability or obligation arises.

No trustees received employment benefits in either the current or preceding year.

RIVER CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Vehicles	Computers & Sound Equipment £	Total 2024 £
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	-	25,656	25,656
Additions	17,500	12,198	29,698
At 31 December 2024	<u>17,500</u>	<u>37,854</u>	<u>55,354</u>
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	-	25,656	25,656
Charge for the year	1,458	3,050	4,508
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,458</u>	<u>28,706</u>	<u>30,164</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2024	<u>16,042</u>	<u>9,149</u>	<u>25,190</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

9 Debtors: falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Falling due within one year:		
Tax recoverable	6,599	11,063
Other debtors	118	503
Prepayments and accrued income	8,763	205,161
	<u>15,480</u>	<u>216,727</u>

10 Current asset investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash equivalent deposits	151,883	-
	<u>151,883</u>	<u>-</u>

11 Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank with immediate access	817,796	716,203
Notice deposits	152,449	146,671
	<u>970,245</u>	<u>862,874</u>

12 Creditors: liabilities falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	6,229	185
Taxation and social security	3,744	3,520
Other creditors	80	3,794
Accruals	9,360	10,701
Deferred income	2,281	-
	<u>21,694</u>	<u>18,200</u>

13 Pension commitments

During the year employer's pension contributions totalling £5,766 (2023: £5,005) were payable to defined contribution personal pension schemes. Pension contributions of £nil were owing at the balance sheet date (2023: £3,364).

RIVER CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14 Funds

During the year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2024 £	Incoming resources 2024 £	Outgoing resources 2024 £	Transfers in the year 2024 £	Gains and losses 2024 £	Closing balance 2024 £
<i>Designated Funds</i>						
Congregational Funds	111	-	-	(111)	-	-
Community Support Funds	6,691	625	(2,169)	-	-	5,147
Miracle Building Fund	-	46,708	(4,701)	938	-	42,945
	6,802	47,333	(6,870)	826	-	48,091
<i>General Unrestricted Funds</i>	879,714	391,334	(359,188)	(2,368)	-	909,492
Total Unrestricted Funds	886,517	438,667	(366,058)	(1,542)	-	957,583
<i>Restricted Funds</i>						
International Support Funds	3,626	3,225	(1,725)	-	-	5,126
CAP Debt Centre	3,463	47,066	(49,932)	-	-	597
Miracle Building	148,219	11,833	-	-	-	160,052
Forest Hub	19,692	37,536	(39,743)	-	-	17,484
Other Community Support Funds	(129)	698	(956)	650 a)	-	262
Other Congregational Support	14	710	(1,615)	892 b)	-	-
	174,885	101,067	(93,972)	1,542	-	183,522
Aggregate of funds	1,061,402	539,734	(460,030)	-	-	1,141,105

The transfers referred to above were made for the following reasons:

- a) Transfer from the Charity's Christmas offering to the Whycombe project's Christmas event.
- b) Transfer from General Unrestricted Funds to Other Congregational Support to cover excess outgoing resources.

Analysis of net assets by fund

The assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>
	General funds £	Designated funds £	funds £	£
Tangible fixed assets	25,190	-	-	25,190
Debtors	15,480	-	-	15,480
Cash at bank and in hand	738,632	48,091	183,522	970,245
Creditors falling due within one year	(21,694)	-	-	(21,694)
	909,492	48,091	183,522	1,141,105

RIVER CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

14 Funds (cont.)

In the previous year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2023 £	Incoming resources 2023 £	Outgoing resources 2023 £	Transfers in the year 2023 £	Gains and losses 2023 £	Closing balance 2023 £
<i>Designated Funds</i>						
Congregational Funds	8,309	1,165	(4,470)	(4,893)	-	111
Community Support Funds	12,494	9,911	(15,714)	-	-	6,691
	<u>20,803</u>	<u>11,076</u>	<u>(20,184)</u>	<u>(4,893)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,802</u>
<i>General Unrestricted Funds</i>	195,252	1,026,049	(341,480)	(107)	-	879,714
	<u>195,252</u>	<u>1,026,049</u>	<u>(341,480)</u>	<u>(107)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>879,714</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	216,055	1,037,125	(361,664)	(5,000)	-	886,516
	<u>216,055</u>	<u>1,037,125</u>	<u>(361,664)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>886,516</u>
<i>Restricted Funds</i>						
International Support Funds	1,944	4,793	(3,111)	-	-	3,626
CAP Debt Centre	18,569	22,803	(42,910)	5,000	-	3,463
Miracle Building	146,982	1,238	-	-	-	148,219
Forest Hub	26,196	23,059	(29,563)	-	-	19,692
Other Community Support Funds	829	588	(1,545)	-	-	(129)
Other Congregational Support	-	927	(914)	-	-	14
	<u>194,521</u>	<u>53,407</u>	<u>(78,043)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,885</u>
	<u>194,521</u>	<u>53,407</u>	<u>(78,043)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,885</u>
Aggregate of funds	410,576	1,090,531	(439,706)	-	-	1,061,401
	<u>410,576</u>	<u>1,090,531</u>	<u>(439,706)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,061,401</u>

Analysis of net assets by fund

In the previous year, the assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>
	General funds £	Designated funds £	funds £	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Debtors	216,727	-	-	216,727
Cash at bank and in hand	681,187	6,802	174,885	862,874
Creditors falling due within one year	(18,200)	-	-	(18,200)
	<u>879,713</u>	<u>6,802</u>	<u>174,885</u>	<u>1,061,401</u>

Designated funds

Community Support Funds represent funds set aside for local charitable giving.

Miracle Building Fund represent funds set aside for the purchase of a new building.

Restricted funds

International Support Funds relate to money received for various international ministries and the support of church missionaries abroad.

CAP Debt centre funds are restricted to this project.

Miracle Building fund relates to money donated for the purchase of a building.

Forest Hub funds are restricted to activities at the Forest Hub.

Other Congregational Support funds are restricted to support the individual congregations.

Other Community Support Funds represent funds set aside for local charitable giving.

RIVER CHURCH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

15 Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity:

- a) received donations totalling £35,448 (2023: £66,041) from related parties (which includes trustees, any other members of key management and anyone closely connected to them).
- b) No expenses (2023: £nil) were paid to, or for, the trustees.

During the year the charity also made the following payments to, or for, related parties:

- a) Bethani Chisnall, who is closely related to Adam Chisnall, who is a member of key management, received employment benefits totalling £22,385 (2023: £17,598) for her work as Head of Childrens & Families work.
- b) Alex Ioakeim, who is closely related to Julie Ioakeim, who is a member of key management, received employment benefits totalling £19,693 (2023: £2,296) as site manager for the Giving Hope Furniture project.

16 Members

Each member of the charity commits to contribute if the charity is wound up an amount of £10.

RIVER CHURCH
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH COMPARATIVES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds				Unrestricted funds			
		General	Designated	Restricted	Total	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:									
Donations and legacies	3	377,452	37,100	94,257	508,809	1,020,264	11,076	47,883	1,079,223
Charitable activities	4	135	-	5,343	5,477	63	-	5,523	5,586
Investments	5	13,748	10,233	1,468	25,449	5,722	-	-	5,722
Total income and endowments		391,334	47,333	101,067	539,734	1,026,049	11,076	53,407	1,090,531
EXPENDITURE ON:									
Charitable activities:	6	359,188	6,870	93,972	460,030	341,480	20,184	78,043	439,706
Total Expenditure		359,188	6,870	93,972	460,030	341,480	20,184	78,043	439,706
Net income/(expenditure)		32,146	40,463	7,095	79,704	684,569	(9,108)	(24,636)	650,825
Transfers between funds	14	(2,368)	826	1,542	-	(107)	(4,893)	5,000	-
Net movement in funds		29,778	41,289	8,637	79,704	684,461	(14,000)	(19,636)	650,825
Reconciliation of funds:									
Total funds brought forward		879,713	6,802	174,885	1,061,401	195,252	20,803	194,521	410,576
Total funds carried forward	14	909,492	48,091	183,522	1,141,105	879,713	6,802	174,885	1,061,401