

## STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Trustee Report and Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Registered Charity No. 1147230

#### Legal and Administrative Information for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

##### The Committee is currently constituted as follows:

Trustees:	President	Lynne Edwards OSNU
	Vice President	Geoff Jones LSSNU
	Treasurer	Robert Dangerfield
	Secretary	Kath Garrad LSSNU

	Committee Member	Norman Bowen
	Membership Secretary	Jean Jones LSSNU
	Speakers Secretary	Roberta Harris
	Booking Sitting Secretary	Rebecca Harris
	Almoner	Annmarie Maybury
	Committee Member	Dana Yardley

**Church Address:** 49 Union Street  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 1PJ  
Telephone: 01384 825060  
Website: [www.stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com](http://www.stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com)  
Email: [hello@stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com](mailto:hello@stourbridgespiritualistchurch.com)

**Bankers:** NatWest Bank  
141 High Street  
Stourbridge  
DY8 1BF

##### Independent Examiners:

Neil Westwood Chartered Accountant  
101 Dixons Green Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY2 7DJ

## STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

The trustees present their annual report, along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. The trustees have again adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in this paper and comply with the charities constitution and applicable accounting standards.

Stourbridge National Spiritualist Church was registered as a charity on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012, under the number 1147230, and became affiliated to the Spiritualists' National Union in June 1926.

#### Charitable objectives

The charitable objectives are to advance the religion and the religious philosophy of Spiritualism on the basis of the Seven Principles of the Spiritualist National Union.

#### Financial Achievements and Performance

The statement of financial activities for the year is set out in the following financial statement. In summary, the incoming resources for the year amount to £92,419.17, which compares to £56,679.78 received in 2021, with the major portions coming from collections, donations, a legacy and investments. The expenditure for 2022 was £51,542.22, compared to the expenditure of £19,963.86 in 2021, with the main expense being the upkeep and improvement of the premises – internal and external - together with utilities and general running costs. The excess income over expenditure for the year amounted to £40,876.95.

#### Risk management

The trustees conduct its own review of major risks to which the charity is exposed. These procedures will be periodically reviewed to ensure that they meet the needs of the charity and are as follows:

- An annual review of the risks which the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statement

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which shows a true and fair view of the charities financial activities during the year and to its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing the financial statement the trustees must follow best practice and:

## STOURBRIDGE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (continued)

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply consistently;
- Make judgement and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statement on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the project will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable charity rulings and other accounting standards. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### Overview

We look back at 2022 as a year that has been a success, in many ways, for the church.

After the devastating period of the pandemic, we are slowly coming back to some semblance of normality, with numbers of the congregation rising slowly.

We understand that some people have still found difficulty in resuming normal life and, regrettably, have got out of the habit of traveling around, especially in the winter with darker days and cold weather. We are hopeful that, as the conditions improve, the numbers will increase. With the introduction of an earlier start on Monday afternoon, this has also provided a more favourable finish time to return home or collect children from school.

In the current financial climate, with all its challenges, we have continued to thrive when many other churches have struggled to stay afloat, and for that we are truly grateful. This would not have been possible without the continued support of the members and we would encourage any ideas that they may have to improve that experience for them. We have, as a committee, tried to ensure that the quality of the mediums and speakers is of a high standard, to promote the very essence of Spiritualism, and through that, it will stimulate a longing for a greater understanding of this movement and all it can offer.

We have found that the numbers for the Saturday specials have exceeded expectations so would like to take the opportunity to thank Robert Dangerfield for his dedication and hard work to make this happen with the posters, tickets, advertising, and to all who have supported these events. This revenue has made the difference to us making a loss or breaking even, enabling us to maintain the church without debt.

Our aim is to continue to promote Spiritualism and its philosophy and where better than the Sunday Divine Service, so your continued support is vital in this endeavour.

Our various groups are also such a platform to experience the fundamental aspects of this religion and philosophy. A very well done to all and let us strive to do even better to make this church a place which is a caring sanctuary, providing not only Spiritual enlightenment, but a place of education and a place for friends and like-minded people to meet and share thoughts and experiences, where everyone is welcome in a positive and harmonious environment, where people feel welcome and part of our church.

We have continued to support the local food bank and wish to thank everyone for their continued generosity in what we know are challenging times, as well as a substantial donation to Help for Heroes with the collection at the Remembrance Service which is very much appreciated.

Through the great generosity of the late Margaret Hackett, we have been able to make improvements to the church which we hope will benefit all the members, as well as keeping the church in good repair.

As we move into 2023, let us all take time to reflect on what we have done right and how, as a committee, we can see where and how we can do things better, to be more proactive to move forward, as one team, to promote this wonderful church and to ensure it continues successfully into the future, all pulling in the right direction for the best outcome for the church, the members and for Spirit.

We are recipients of the greatest legacy of the people who have gone before us, and we owe it to all those who gave their time and resolve, without question, to make Stourbridge Spiritualist Church the success it is and continue to do so. So we look forward to keeping this momentum and to raising our commitment for the survival of this church and its values as we continue to move with the times. Youth is our future, so we need to reach out into the community in any way that we can to find those who will carry on the tradition, but with fresh, new ideas and to use technology to improve the way we can communicate with that community, bringing the knowledge of Spirit to all who wish to know and discover.

We are proud to be part of this incredible journey, as servants to God and to Spirit.

#### Independent Examiner

Neil Westwood Chartered Account has expressed their willingness to continue as examiners and a resolution for their re-appointment will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Date: 21/02/2023

Chairperson:



Print Name: Lynn Edwards OSNU

## STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of Stourbridge Spiritualist Church In respect of the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

I report on the account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 which are set out on the following pages.

#### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

*N. Westwood*

N A Westwood  
Neil Westwood & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
101 Dixons Green Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY2 7DJ

Date: *21 February 2023*

## STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	
	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>		
Church Collections	14728	8333
Charity Collections	612	507
Private Interviews	2575	859
Membership Fees	928	944
Groups	1986	1360
Naming, Wedding & Funerals	0	50
Workshops	1109	642
Church Shop	97	25
Healing Sessions	1768	898
Sales of Books	17	24
Donations & Legacies	56661	1440
Butterfly Fellowship	30	145
Amazon Smile	21	15
Raffles	1245	604
Investment Income	8098	7343
Polling & Room Hire	325	0
NHS England Vaccination Centre	0	21000
Insurance Claim	1787	12000
Interest	382	491
Sundry income	<u>50</u>	
Total receipts	92419	56680
<b>Expenditure</b>	<u>51542</u>	<u>19964</u>
<b>Excess /(Deficit) of Income over expenditure</b>	<b>40877</b>	<b>36716</b>
<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>	<u>(22408)</u>	<u>19733</u>
<b>Net income/expenditure</b>	<b>18469</b>	<b>56449</b>
<b>Gains on revaluation of fixed assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Funds brought forward</b>	<u>1103705</u>	<u>1047256</u>
<b>Funds carried forward</b>	<b>1122174</b>	<u><b>1103705</b></u>
<i>There are no restricted or endowment funds.</i>		

# STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	
	2022	2021
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Speakers' Expenses	5727	3071
Private Interviews	1350	225
Hospitality	2057	763
Cleaner	1950	1800
Gardener	195	-
Cleaning Materials/ Supplies	333	131
Stationery, Printing & Postage	437	451
Advertising	1213	463
Flowers	195	42
Repairs, Renewals & Testing	25972	3858
Copier	39	155
Charity Donations	612	507
Gas & Electric	4214	2181
Water Rates	47	40
Committee Expenses	865	749
Organist	910	520
Insurance	1015	1727
Fire & PAT Testing	240	0
SNU Healers fees	265	265
SNU Capitation fees	665	525
Delegates Expenses	41	50
SNU Diary	62	-
Healing Expenses	28	-
National Panel Warden Expenses	60	30
Members' Welfare	328	265
Telephone/ Wifi	360	411
Refreshments	135	27
Raffle Expenses	314	127
General Expenses	62	-
Card Machine Fees	7	9
Group Leaders' Expenses	78	70
Garden Maintenance/ Materials	60	163
Website & Hosting	1116	984
Workshops	410	175
Independent examiners fee	180	180
	<u>51542</u>	<u>19964</u>

# STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Land & Buildings	850000	850000
Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings	<u>5000</u>	<u>5000</u>
	855000	855000
<b>Investments</b>		
Charities Property Fund	232359	214767
<b>Current assets</b>		
NatWest Current account	3265	2271
SNU Trust Deposit account	251	250
SNU Trust Investment account	299	20417
SNU Trust 1-4-1 account	-	1000
SNU Trust 1-5-1 account	1000	
SNU Trust Regular Saver Plus	-	10000
SNU Trust 1 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account (1)	10000	-
SNU Trust 1 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account (2)	10000	-
SNU Trust 2 Year Fixed Rate Deposit account	<u>10000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>34815</u>	<u>33938</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>1122174</u>	<u>1103705</u>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>		
Unrestricted funds	990036	971567
Revaluation reserve	<u>132138</u>	<u>132138</u>
	<u>1122174</u>	<u>1103705</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Church Treasurer 

Church President 

Date: 21/02/23

## STOURBRIDGE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH

### Notes to the Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

#### 1) Accounting Policies

##### a) Accounting Standard

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective from 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

##### b) Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and the Trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

##### c) Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 December 2021, the Trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

##### d) Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Church becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain that they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

##### e) Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

##### f) Depreciation

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1000. The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2019 values following a revaluation of the property. No depreciation is provided on the buildings because the trustees consider the current residual value of the property in its present condition to be not less than its current value, and in the absence of any evidence of impairment, any depreciation provision would not be material.

#### 2) Taxation

As a charity Stourbridge Spiritualist Church is exempt from Corporation Tax on the income and gains falling within the Taxation and Chargeable Gains' Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.